

Honolulu Star-Bulletin

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EDITOR

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Suffer if you must . . . Only try, if you are to suffer, to do it splendidly. That's the only way to take up a pleasure or a pain.—Phillips Brooks.

WHAT ABOUT PEARL HARBOR?

The Chamber of Commerce is acting with commendable promptness in starting an inquiry to determine whether a movement is on foot to abandon the Pearl Harbor drydock project. Some time ago public attention was called to the effort on the part of California congressmen to secure a great naval drydock for San Francisco. Then followed the decision of Secretary Daniels to put the matter of rebuilding the collapsed Pearl Harbor structure up to Congress. Close upon the heels of this decision comes Mr. Daniels' recommendation that the government enter into a contract with the Union Iron Works of San Francisco for the construction of a \$2,500,000 drydock to be used by navy vessels on the basis of tonnage handled.

These successive developments may well cause some inquiry as to the future of the Pearl Harbor project, even though every engineering report as well as naval strategy calls for the completion of the Pearl Harbor drydock as a necessary feature of the Hawaiian naval base.

At any rate, the people of Honolulu ought to know exactly what is going on. The Chamber of Commerce proposes, with the aid of the Merchants' Association, to find out. Even if the inquiry only confirms local expectations that the Pearl Harbor project is to be finished it will be well worth making.

THE COCOA DOORMAT INDUSTRY

In view of the recent visit here of a mainland-looking into cocoanut growing, it is interesting to note that one of Honolulu's large business-houses is already scenting the possibilities for manufacturing cocoa doormats.

The manager of another large business-house, a handler of household goods, sees in the doormat industry unrivaled opportunities for the small farmer or for the man with little or no capital. Such an industry would put Hawaii in the manufacturing business on a developing scale and with a practically limitless market. The cocoa doormat demand in the United States exceeds the normal supply, and there is an immense and growing market in Europe. For the Hawaiian, this industry offers exceptional chances for good wages or for profits from his own plant.

Those who have investigated the possibilities are the most enthusiastic. The fact that one of the big agencies here is making a detailed inquiry with the object of starting a manufacturing plant to turn out these doormats on a large scale shows that local capitalists see merit in the proposition.

VOLCANO RESEARCH

The Hawaiian Volcano Research Association, in spite of its somewhat formidable name, is a simple organization to promote interest in and assist investigation of the volcanoes of Hawaii and to make Hawaii, through this scientific medium, better known at home and abroad.

A meeting of the association will be held at the Library of Hawaii at 8 o'clock tonight, at which Professor T. A. Jaggar will make an informal address. The executive committee of the association will present plans for broadening the scope of the body and increasing its membership.

A cordial invitation to the public has been extended and should be taken advantage of generally. Professor Jaggar is a forceful and interesting speaker and the plans for broadening the membership of the association should receive wide approval. So far, outside of the eminent scientists who have come thousands of miles to study Kilauea and other Hawaiian volcanoes, little attention has been paid to the craters of these islands from any but a spectacular standpoint. A few men such as Mr. Lorin Thurston have recognized the importance of careful and continuous study and investigation of the Hawaiian volcanoes and have devoted time, money and energy toward establishing the present observatory and making its operation possible.

Professor Jaggar's enthusiasm over the scientific phases of volcano research has been a stimulus to the efforts of local members of the association and although the membership of the society is small, the society is an extremely valuable asset for Hawaii.

It is to be hoped that tonight's meeting will bring forth plans for increased membership that can be carried out in a truly popular manner.

GETTING AT THE FACTS

"We do not agree with opinion No. 11 in regard to the powers of this commission, and we maintain that the act by implication goes give to this commission the control of and the supervision over the conduct of the employees of both departments, the purpose of civil service reform being, as stated above, the promotion of efficiency, which purpose would be frustrated by any successful attempt to curtail the powers of this commission."

"As it is no doubt also the desire of your board to determine the powers of this commission at an early date, we would suggest that the questions involved be submitted to the supreme court for adjudication."—Civil Service Commission report.

This report paves the way for determining the status of the civil service commission along the line suggested by this paper some time ago. It also shows that the commission believes itself fully justified in its past and present activities and will stand by its policy until convinced otherwise. In this attitude nine out of ten of Honolulu's citizens will agree with the commission. There is not the slightest question that when the commission was created by act of the legislature, it was designed to have supervision over and to a large extent control the police and fire departments. Honolulu was tired of seeing the police department a hotbed of politics and afraid that the fire department might suffer a like fate, particularly because of the attacks on Chief Thurston by certain members of the Democratic board of supervisors.

The commission was created by law to be a real commission, with broad powers and wide discretion. If the law is at fault, if it restricts the commission to the status of an examining body, the fact should be definitely determined by the highest legal authority in the territory, and the next legislature should remedy the fault.

GOOD!

Chairman Lester Petrie of the roads committee and the other members of the supervisors have taken an advanced and appreciated stand in appropriating \$5000 for the expenses of a special engineering bureau for "city-planning." At the end of six months they will appropriate another like sum. This is certain progress along modern lines of local improvement and smooths the way for the general application of the frontage-tax law.

Miss Margaret Wilson is active in the "spug" campaign in Washington and has been named chairman of the committee endeavoring to prevent the useless giving of holiday gifts. It is noted, however, that she did not become active along this line until her sister had become Mrs. Francis Bowes Sayre and received so many presents that it has been related in press dispatches it was necessary to store a number of them.

Ladies of the Outdoor Circle think Honolulu should have an official tree-trimmer. As an effective trimmer, the man who cut down most of the great trees in front of the new library and then substituted a few insignificant shrubs is not to be recommended for Honolulu Beautiful.

Read the advertising columns of the Star-Bulletin during the holiday season and you will receive straight tips that will expedite your shopping.

"Soap-box" Barron was asked this morning if Jeff McCarn would be welcomed with *celat* and said no, the Democratic county committee hadn't had time to get any from the Coast.

Senator Root has been awarded the Nobel Peace prize, but it was not upon his work at the last Republican national convention.

Mrs. Pankhurst started to America for the Almighty Dollar, got it and has now started for Paris and the Latin Quarter.

McBryde stockholders generally don't seem to have a grievance to voice against the plantation agents.

That cackle heard from Cape Horn is merely an itinerant reading the suffragette news from Washington.

District Attorney McCarn is at least getting plenty of water on his trip to Hawaii.

Shriners seem to be preparing for revision of their neophytes downwards.

The frontage-tax system is a topic always to the front now.

And Governor Pinkham is on his way.

Letters OF THE MONTH

[The Star-Bulletin invites free and frank discussion in this column on all legitimate subjects of current interest. Communications are constantly received to which no signature is attached. This paper will treat as confidential signatures to letters if the writers so desire, but cannot give space to anonymous communications.]

THE MERCANTILE SOCIAL CLUB.

Editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin, Sir: In an article yesterday you refer to the Mercantile Social Club as a "fraternity of colored soldiers of the 25th infantry." This is not correct. This social club is formed for all persons in the United States service. The following is taken from the constitution of the club:

"Any person in the service of the United States shall be eligible to membership in this club who is of good moral character and who shall sign this constitution . . ."

"Every person who becomes a member of this club shall subscribe to the following oath: 'I, . . . do hereby solemnly swear or affirm that as a member of the . . . club, I will conduct myself as a gentleman, and will not do anything directly or indirectly to bring discredit or odium upon the club.'"

I claim that Treasurer Conkling in not accepting the tax money from the club, as is provided in act 25 of the Session Laws of 1905, he shall do, is violating the law. That act does not provide for a license, but a tax, pure and simple. He has no more right to refuse this form of tax than he has any other form. If the club is foolish enough to wish to pay taxes where it could not be compelled to pay them, it does not lie in his mouth to say to the club you are foolish in paying these taxes. He has no right to act for the government and act as a protector of the club at the same time. The law provides:

"Any social club . . . furnishing intoxicating liquors . . . to its members, shall pay an annual tax to the treasurer in the sum of two hundred dollars (\$200.00)."

"The payment of said tax shall be held to entitle any genuine, bona fide social club, in which the furnishing of intoxicating liquors is incidental to its main object and purpose, and not its main object of purpose, and which is not formed directly or indirectly for evading or defeating the purpose of the general license laws of the territory, to distribute meals and intoxicating liquors amongst its members without the payment of any other tax or license fee."

There is not a word in this law which gives to the treasurer the power to decide whether a club is a bona fide social club or not. He is not a censor of public morals, although in this instance, he is acting gratuitously to assume this tremendous responsibility, and what is worse, he arrogates to himself this power without any right of appeal. He is the supreme arbiter. His nod of approval or frown settles the fate of a social club. To this I do not for a moment acquiesce. As soon as a social club comes into existence, if it wishes the privileges conferred by the law relating to social clubs, it must pay the tax provided for in that law and the treasurer must accept it. His finding that such a club is bona fide would not make it so, neither would the payment of the tax. If in fact it should not be a bona fide club, although it had paid the tax with the treasurer's sanction, it could be prosecuted in the same manner as though it had not paid the tax.

In your article you insinuate that the headquarters of the club is not in a proper place for such a club. This is a mere matter of opinion, but probably no more appropriate quarters could be found in the city. It is in the second story of the building, back from King street, and cut off from observation from all schools and the vicinity of any school or that home. In case anyone should be so unfortunate to conduct himself in an unseemly manner in the club, it could not be observed by anyone outside of the building. Though the district is quite thickly populated, there is nothing like the population that there is in other parts of the city where saloons and clubs abound. So long as intoxicating liquors can be legally sold in social clubs, it is rank injustice to make flesh of one and fowl of another.

The people in the service who will belong to this club will probably, for

the most part, be stationed at Schofield Barracks, and they should have some headquarters in the city that they can go to as a sort of home instead of being obliged to wander about the streets. Clubs of this nature, I believe, should be encouraged.

J. ALFRED MAGOON,
Dec. 11, 1913.

MEETING SUGAR CONDITIONS.

Editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin, Sir: If the sugar industry of these islands is to be carried on, under present conditions, there will need to be a great change in almost all of the various departments of the mills and plantations.

In the first place the construction work will have to be studied out as never before; for none but those that have had a long experience in plantation work can form any idea of the large amount of money that has been lost on works of this kind, and which might have been avoided if more consideration had been given to the subject, or more expert men had been employed to calculate, figure out, and do the work. Mistakes have been made in locating and digging of ditches and tunnels and in laying flumes, and railroad tracks, also in building camps, and various other things.

In sugar mills also money has been wasted through improperly designing and erecting the machinery and in the improper placing of it in the mills, and in making costly changes that were absolutely unnecessary.

More labor saving devices will have to be used in both mills and on plantations and more attention given to the waste products.

More attention will have to be given to entrapment, combustion and the general efficiency of the whole plant.

More attention will have to be given to the sugar boiling, for it takes but a very little inattention to make a false grain and to cause no end of trouble and waste of sugar. Very few have any idea how much sugar may be wasted by this cause alone.

More attention will have to be given to the ripening of the sugar cane. Billions of dollars have been lost through inattention to this subject.

The writer once saw a large field of sugar cane cut in one of our wet districts that had never been stripped, and which polarized but 15 and the loss was immense. But with the best of care there is always waste in the beginning and at the end of a crop, because it is impossible to wait until all of the cane is mature. For this reason many of the mills would make more money if less cane were planted so that it could all be cut when it is ripe or mature.

Many mills are cramped with a lack of evaporating capacity, and in consequence the work of the milling is delayed.

Fields that have such poor soil, that no amount of fertilizers can improve them sufficiently to produce a good crop will have to be cut out, also those that are so difficult and costly to cultivate will have to be dropped.

New method of irrigation is badly needed that will prevent the waste of so much water; also new methods of cutting and loading cane.

The agents will have to be contented with less commission and managers and others with less salaries. To pay a manager \$10,000 to \$15,000 a year while owners and stockholders get nothing seems a little peculiar to say the least and calls for some attention. In our last experience with free sugar, some of the managers cut their own salaries as well as others under them.

The wages of the laborers, will, it is said, regulate itself, by the supply and demand, but whether this will work in time to save many plantations from ruin is a question, and it seems a little unfortunate that by this method many plantations must fall before enough laborers will be liberated to give the survivors a chance to get men at a lower cost. But it is said that much can be done to help along by cutting out the contract system.

Very truly yours,
X. Y. Z.

Little Virginia, aged three, was greatly interested in the setting of duck eggs. She was visiting her aunt shortly after, and her aunt asked her if she had any little ducks yet. "No, Aunt Mollie," seriously, "but we have got lots of them planted."—Delineator.

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