Honolulu Star-Bulletin

RILEY H. ALLEN - - - - - - - - - - EDITOR

MONDAY FEBRUARY 9, 1914

Resolve to perform what you ought; perform without fail what you resolve.—Franklin.

THE ROAD DEPARTMENT SCANDAL

The road department scandal uncovered by the Star-Bulletin last Friday and Saturday places the board of supervisors in a serious position.

An ugly mess of department politics has been revealed. Whether or not the charge of a ring of loan-sharks operating in the department is true, whether or not the charge of a "blind-pig" run by employes of the department is true, the situation is sufficiently offensive to the tax payer.

If the charges above are not true, then the wholesale dismissals of road officials must be due to petty politics. If the charges are true the situation could only have arisen through the workings of politics and political favoritism.

What are the supervisors going to do about it?

Will they continue to deny the laziness and inefficiency of the road department? Possibly. That is a favorite method of some of the supervisors when faults in the city administration are called to their attention.

In the light of these revelations of politics, insubordination and disorganization of the road department, is it any wonder that the road laborers have been giving, during the last twelve months, such a splendid exhibition of how to loaf for eight hours a day? Is it any wonder that road-work is costing the city such immense sums with such comparatively insignificant results?

The truth is that under the present board of supervisors the road department been run largely on a spoils basis. J. J. Smiddy, former road overseer, found this out when he attempted to hire and fire men according to their efficiency. His successor, Thomas F. Kennedy, makes the same allegation.

The last board of supervisors was blamed for many things, but certainly there was never such a subordination of road department efficiency to politics as there has been under the present board. J. W. Caldwell, now superintendent of public works, was then road overseer. Once and only once did any of the supervisors try to take advantage of political power to play favorites in the department. That was in the case of an employe discharged for laziness. Caldwell took a determined stand and the supervisors respected him for it and backed him up. From that time on there was no attempt to meddle with his department.

The two road overseers under the present board tell an entirely different tale. They declare that favoritism has held sway in the department and to this lay the obviously ineffective and costly results. Mayor Fern is also blamed for much of the peanut politics permeating the department.

What will the supervisors do?

They have acted promptly in calling for the resignations of several officials and employes held responsible for the condition of near-graft just uncovered. It remains to be seen whether this action is sincere—whether they are getting rid of incompetent men or merely playing more politics. The Star-Bulletin believes that the supervisors are trying to clean up this ugly blot on their record, and their efforts deserve support. A clean sweep of the incompetents is needed. But the blot can only be permanently cleaned up if the road-department is forever raised above the level of a political feed-trough.

ONE WAY TO ECONOMIZE

Boston the Home of Culture may also be upon occasion the Home of Economy.

A keen-witted Boston retail merchant recently assaulted the high cost of living successfully, applying the resultant saving to the benefit of his patrons. Here is how he did it, according to a trade journal:

He cut the number of wagons to four by solving his problem in this way:

A card was prepared and sent out to all customers explaining to them that by systematizing his delivery he had cut the expense of selling goods. A cut in the expense meant smaller prices, a saving of money, to customers. The delivery territory was divided into four districts and the number of deliveries cut to two a day. Each customer received a card with her name written in, giving the hours of delivery for that district. Several customers resented systematized delivery and threatened to quit if they could not get groceries at any hour of the day. The grocery men stood pat. A few customers did quit, but when they came square up against the facts and found that systematized delivery did mean better prices, they forgot their desire for every-hour service. In a month they had all come back with many additional ones. They found that they, not the grocer, paid the delivery bills.

The hurry-up order delivered separately costs a great deal more. An unscientific delivery system may cost as high as 3 per cent or 4 per cent of the gross sales. Any grocer who now maintains one delivery wagon can double or triple his delivery service by systematizing the delivery. Any grocer who now has use for three delivery wagons can save the cost of two with scientific methods—he can save the expense of two delivery outfits—$30 to $60 a week. System saves money. Systematizing any work reduces the expense of doing that work.

JAPANESE DIPLOMACY

Washington correspondents of mainland papers and the papers editorially are paying a good deal of attention to a statement issued by Ambassador Chinda, dealing with the visit to Mexican waters of the warship Idzumo, which made a brief stop at this port. According to critics apparently none too friendly to the Wilson administration, Japan is determined to show the United States that she will not abide by President Wilson's Mexican policy.

The particular part of the statement which has aroused comment says:

"In February last revolution broke out in the capital of Mexico and General Huerta became provisional president. The country remained in disturbance, and since the fall of Torreon in October the condition of affairs became even more serious.

"At present the number of the Japanese subjects in Mexico is close upon three thousand. It need hardly be said that it became necessary to make appropriate measures for protection, foreseeing the possibility of the lives and properties of these subjects being endangered. With this view the imperial government dispatched the warship Idzumo to Mexico on the 20th of November last.

"She is now in communication with our minister in Mexico, so that every care is being taken that there should be nothing omitted towards the protection of the Japanese residents in that country. Further, the Japanese subjects in the City of Mexico, have, in cooperation with other nationals, organized volunteer corps, and our minister is, in concert with the representatives of other powers, taking measures for self-defense and, as some Japanese subjects are in great distress, the minister is, in conjunction with the commander of the Idzumo, taking steps for their relief. The imperial government most earnestly hopes that peace and tranquility will be restored in Mexico at the earliest possible date and that its inhabitants, native and foreign, will be enabled to live free from anxiety."

In another part of the statement the ambassador refers with considerable emphasis to the Japan-Britain alliance. This emphasis leads some observers to believe that Japan is "putting the brake" upon the repeated attempts of the Democratic Congress to pass an act excluding Japanese immigrants from American soil.

Whatever the effect of the ambassador's attitude, the good sense of Congress was recently shown when all Asiatic exclusion amendments to the immigration bill were rejected by the House. The hit-or-miss manner in which the immigration bill had been loaded with these amendments, together with the many evidences that American opinion on the subject is in an incohoate stage, makes the House action a wise one.

It does seem that not enough support is received from Honolulu in Kauai's fight for a harbor. This matter interests the capital city greatly. Let the Honolulu Chamber of Commerce, the Merchants' Association and the Honolulu Ad Club get busy and help us out. Resolutions urging the appropriation by Congress would carry weight just now, inasmuch as the matter is to be seriously considered by the committee in a short time.—Garden Island.

"Road department to lose head." This is the first time anybody suspected the road department of having a head. It must be scantily furnished with brains.

Lincoln Beachey can fly here if he pays the Carnival management for the privilege. Even the air is no longer free.

And don't forget to decorate in green and gold for the 1914 Carnival.

Roads built out of loans can't be expected to stand the test.

Mexican federal army aviators are now flying for their lives.

Letters on Timely Topics

[The Star-Bulletin invites free and frank discussion in this column on all legitimate subjects of current interest. Communications are constantly received in which the signature is attached. This paper will treat as confidential signatures to letters if the writers so desire, but cannot give space to anonymous communications.]

NEEDED ATTRACTIONS FOR THE TOURIST

Honolulu, Feb. 8, 1914.

Editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin:

Sir: For some considerable time it has been an overall comment, tion: Why do not more tourists come here and when they do come why they not stay longer?

I intend trying to ventilate an answer to this question, at the risk of those who are responsible for these conditions, which the tourist bureau is vainly and, to date, in practice, illustrates of one that would not exist in attraction to the Hawaiian islands, but also the envy of the world.

At Waikiki beach, near the site of the present Aquarium, I would suggest a series of zoological marine gardens. The water would be securely hemmed in and subdivided. In the area thus enclosed I would propose to keep fish and sea monsters large and small ones. Of course it would not be possible to keep whales but other animals and sea lions, sharks and other sea fauna could be kept in the respective sections. I do not know of any other city in the world that could offer similar attractions. In the case of Honolulu gardens, this departure is made possible by utilizing the lagoon, thus simplifying the project, and the adaptibility and ready access to Kapiolani Park makes it possible to have a zoological garden placed there in conjunction with the zoological marine gardens—making one of the most beautiful gardens in the world.

We have to awaken to the fact that the tourist cannot be kept here unless we cater to his pleasure and an attraction such as this one I have outlined would not only be a tourist attraction but an educational feature as well. If we are to maintain Honolulu's reputation as a live center we undoubtedly must prove that we are alive by catering to the tourist on his journey of sightseeing.

It is indeed a pleasure to me to note the great progressive ideal of your Ad Club, also the great work of the Promotion Committee but there must still be a greater awakening in order to keep pace with the world's progress.

We are fast approaching the greatest year in our history—I refer to the opening of the Panama canal. What are we doing to prepare for the great rush of tourist trade that is bound to reach us? Are we just to serve them the same old dish or have we something else to offer them? The recent suggestion in the press of an amusement park and pier is very fine but needs a zoological marine gardens as a permanent addition to the island's attractions. How many of the thousands that visit us have ever seen a grass hut? Then there surely ought to be a section of Kapiolani Park formed into an Hawaiian village, where the natives could live and follow the work of their fathers, selling their work as produced to the thousands who would visit them. How often is the question asked where are the Hawaiians and how are we to understand their habits and customs from postals? Give us a glimpse of native life and I venture to say that by so doing we shall not only get the tourist but do something tangible towards keeping him.

Yours respectfully,
E. J. McCANDLESS

"NERVE" WANTS TO KNOW.

Honolulu, T. H., Feb. 8, 1914.

Editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin:

Sir: May I ask the Governor if he justifies the following:

J. W. Caldwell's incessant use of the department's machine after office hours, as if it were his own, leaving the taxpayers to foot the bills for wear and tear, gasoline, tires, etc.

Thomas Treadway in the Treasurer's office is paid a salary of $1[illegible] a month to perform a specific work; why should he be a member of the Marriage License office? Is the Island the emoluments from which go in his own pocket and the work done during the hours for which he is paid a salary of $1[illegible] [illegible] marriage certificates issued for the last three months is [illegible] at the rate of 200 per month, [illegible] makes to Mr. Treadway a considerable emolument in addition to what it makes his position a lucrative one for the Treasurer. Appointment [illegible] cannot but help an already rotten and demoralized spoils system.

Thank you.

[illegible]

[illegible] Fern.

FILIPINESE

Papaaloa, Hawaii, Feb. 2, 1914.

"The Director of the Star-Bulletin.

Dear Sir: Will kindly please give me a small space for my few words for my dear readers to read.

I one of the nationality of the Filipinos am now daring to write in this S. W. S. B. to let my dear readers to read about my "Starting Testimonial."

Since I arrived here in the Hawaiian Islands about two years more from now I never yet saw any certain nation of a Filipino working in a better job, but always in fields. I cannot examine why we the Filipinos have these difficulties in the Hawaiian Islands. I don't think all Filipinos of this nation are all defaulters. I don't think managers of cane fields, stores and different kinds of factories have little enough for their on laborers. However, I can say this so far because we the Filipinos are taken here in the islands of Hawaii to work and not to die, and yet whenever some Filipinos come and present themselves to the managers of the plantations, the managers will say "I get no job." Is this the way, my dear readers, to manage laborers from other place? I believe manager or managers of the Hawaiian Planters' Association have forgotten what they have said in their written contract.

Yes, my dear readers, what manager of this kind want to do to Filipinos they could do so, because even though we have our rights, we cannot fight, because we have no protections. No one can stand for us to fight for our rights. It is here in Hawaiian Islands. But only in the Philippines never, oh never.

With your transcedent minds, my readers, I wish you would think about the disgraceful of the Filipinos. Filipinos when in the Philippines are told that if they should come in Hawaiian Islands, they shall be free in everythings in the house and free in every jobs. Where are these things written in the contract? Why are we Filipinos, most of us have no works? Why do managers of the plantations do not want any more laborers, but still getting and getting more men in the Philippines? What do they mean?

Do you think that if a man is very hungry and no body gives him food to eat, he would not struggle for his live? Even though you my dear readers. Do you know why some Filipinos are take to jails? Because of struggling for human life. However, you can say my readers, that he must go to work. Of course he goes to work but the difficulties is that lunas are too incent to command. Even though animals will stop, when they are tired.

Once it happened at the Papaaloa plantations, I went to its manager and ask him if he could give me a job that fits my body. He told me to give his note to the sugar boiler. I took his letter and handed it to the sugar boiler. The sugar boiler read it and after reading it, he asked me, with a loud voice, seemed to talk to a deaf man, and with very sharp eyes, like the eyes of a cat, where I took the letter, I answered: from the manager, and without a word I left him, because I was frightened to him. I knew myself that even he would give me job, I would not stay any longer with him. So without stating anything about my note, I left him. I believe that he thought he was the greatest man of the world. He was like the King of England long time ago. He commanded the ocean to stop its rolling, but yet the water dashed up higher and higher till he was drowned.

I am going to cut my testimonial, and that I wish every readers of this S. W. S. B. will try to help me to correct my English.

I respectfully remain,
RUFUS C. MOON,
Filipino.

LITTLE INTERVIEWS

COL. J. W. JONES: The National Guard ought to make a good showing in the parade of the 23rd. All the companies will have new uniforms, and should make a smart appearance.

MANUEL PARESA: The Portuguese team was badly crippled when it played at Schofield Sunday. Wolfing to see Sousa behind the bat and a bunch of youngsters at second and third. You'll hear from the P. A. Cs. later in the season though.

H. P. WOOD: I understand that a number of round-the-world excursion steamers will visit Hawaii during this coming year. The Promotion Committee intends taking steps to have these steamers stop at Hilo instead of Honolulu.

L. B. REEVES: The fellow who found a quart bottle of Honolulu waterfronters believe that a whisky bottle sent out on its wanderings from a Puget Sound port has been picked up by the skipper of a small sailing craft not far from San Diego, was sure some re-

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mance. The container could never have gotten by San Francisco.

J. W. CALDWELL: I miss Soapbox Barron's clarion voice at the baseball games these days. Can it be that the fluctuating fortunes of the Democratic county committee keep him working overtime?

L. M. FISHER (speed-king): In getting back to Honolulu from Kauai I have made the painful discovery that the average man may have music in his soul, but usually his voice spoils it all. I have no aspirations along the musical comedy line.

THOMAS TREADWAY: While it is true that actors and ba-seball players may have something in common in the matter of artistic temperament, still I hardly think Joe Cohen's experience with the former qualifies him as a baseball impresario.

INSPECTOR GEO. RAYMOND: The school department may well be enthusiastic over the splendid work which the schools of Kauai are doing. Libue wants a high school, and if that city will supply the building I will see to it that the school is established and maintained.

Jack Young, chairman of the water carnival committe, has called a meeting of his committee for 5 o'clock this evening at room 45 of the Young Hotel building. This is a large committee and as the time is getting short, Chairman Young is anxious that all members be on hand. The water pageant which is being worked out gives promise of being one of the biggest attractions of the carnival week.

PUBLIC UTILITIES AND WAHIAWA WATER CO. IN INITIAL CONFERENCE

The initial step to determine whether or not the Wahiawa Water Company is an utilities corporation was taken Saturday afternoon when the members of the Public Utilities Commission and representatives of the water company met at the Wahiawa school house for the first hearing of the investigation. Present at the hearing were E. A. Mott-Smith, chairman; Henry O'Sullivan, secretary, and A. J. Gignoux of the commission, and W. W. Goodale vice-president; William M. Templeton, manager; Henry Davis and T. H. Gibson for the water company.

As a result of the initial conference, Henry O'Sullivan now is preparing a transcript covering some 35 pages and when this is completed and placed on file, announcement will be made as to the next hearing. The Wahiawa Company has presented the claim that it is not an utilities corporation, but a municipal water company from the fact that its supplies its product only to the stockholders in the company. It is this point that the commission will endeavor to determine. The testimony given by those representing the water company, brought forth through questions asked by Mr. Mott-Smith and Mr. Gignoux, tended to show to some degree that the water comapny may be upheld in its assertion that it is not a utilities corporation, it is said.

Because of the continued illness of U. S. District Attorney McCarn argument in the matter of the Breakwater Company receivership has been continued to next Tuesday morning at 9 o'clock.

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