

Honolulu Star-Bulletin

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EDITOR

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If I had a son whom I wanted to bring up in the business world, I should put him, if I could, in a small factory, where he would have to learn the intimate details of the shop and office at first hand.—Secretary of Commerce Redfield.

A SURVEY OF AMERICAN BUSINESS

According to mainland advices on finance and trade, the weather conditions throughout the East act to some extent to cause price fluctuations in the open market, and especially has this been true of the past few weeks of "climate," ranging from zero to any place below, accompanied by storms that have impeded railway traffic and the distribution of merchandise. During the cold snaps there has been a notable increase in the movement of footwear and heavy apparel, and fuel has also climbed a few notches. But throughout it all there has prevailed a tone of optimism.

The demand for wool is on the increase with a corresponding boost in prices. The iron and steel interests report booking more business during February than in January. Railway earnings for February fell 3.3 per cent below the receipts of the same month last year.

There has been enough new business to enable the mills and furnaces in the manufacturing towns of the East to increase operating schedules.

The movement of general farm staples shows a decidedly firm undertone. There has been a general upward tendency for all grains, especially corn and wheat. As far west as the Middle States they have felt the effect of the recent storms on the general trade movement, but withal there is a buoyant feeling that not even storms can stop the coming good times.

In the Southern States there has been a continual growth of confidence in all lines of trade, both wholesale and retail. A series of clearance and bargain sales have successfully reduced some of the overstocked shelves and warehouses. The hotels are reported full and trade brisk.

Chicago reports a gratifying progress of trade notwithstanding that outdoor activities have been somewhat impeded by recent cold weather. St. Paul reports that business is good, there is a general feeling of optimism, and the general trade is such as to indicate a coming favorable situation throughout the Northwest.

From Portland, Oregon, comes the word that although there has been no great increase in the volume of business for the first two months of the year there is a very confident feeling that a gradual improvement of conditions will materialize as the season advances.

San Francisco shows a slight decrease in her exports as compared with the same month last year. The trade for January was valued at \$7,808,000, a decrease of \$1,230,000 from the same month last year and \$1,040,000 less than in 1912. Of the total last month, \$54,570,000 represented the foreign trade, the remainder going to domestic Atlantic ports and the Hawaiian islands.

Taken altogether there seems to be a feeling from coast to coast, and including these islands, that if businessmen rub hard enough on the cloud, the silver lining will show through.

NEITHER NECESSARY NOR ADVISABLE

A liquor license for the Pleasanton Hotel may properly be opposed for at least three reasons that are entirely non-personal:

First, the location of the hotel is practically at the entrance to Oahu College and the sale of liquor so near the college, even under the most rigid of safeguards, cannot but be dangerous to the boys and young men of the college. The authoritative report that the hotel intends to erect a sort of club-house in the hotel grounds, thus tending doubly to attract the collegians, adds weight to the objections based on the location of the proposed licensed buffet.

Second, the hotel is in one of the best residence districts of the city, noted for cleanliness and order. It is certain that there is serious objection toward the invasion of residence districts by liquor licenses, even if under the form of hotel permits.

The quick protests forthcoming within the last few days show that the people of Honolulu do not want licensed buffets or bars in the residential sections.

Third, if the Pleasanton Hotel permit is issued, the license commissioners must either take the attitude of discriminating between certain hotels or else of throwing down the barrier and allowing every hotel and boarding-house in Ho-

nolulu to run a bar not only for the convenience of its guests but for the profits from public sale. If the hotel in question is given a liquor license, there are half a dozen others, several not far away, which are entitled to the same privileges. They pay the same hotel license fee to the county; they may wish the same treatment. Can the license commissioners refuse them? Not without discrimination. And if they are not refused, bars can be opened throughout the city.

The commissioners have already taken the attitude that in good public policy the number of licenses to sell liquor in Honolulu should not be increased. There are plenty now. The hotel enjoys a good business, justly deserved by its reputation. The manager is held in good esteem. We do not believe, and the community does not believe, that liquor-selling privileges are either necessary or advisable.

THE "BLACK EYE"

President Kennedy of the Inter-Island company, not long ago drew attention to the "black eye" that commercial Honolulu has received because of its high port-charges and he paid particular attention to the excessive cost of water to shipping. He stated that these high charges are becoming widely known in the shipping world and cannot but tend to give Honolulu a bad name.

The board of harbor commissioners and the superintendent of public works have made various plans to reduce the cost of water to shipping but much larger reductions are still to be made. That Mr. Kennedy did not overdraw the picture is shown by the fact that in one city at least whose overseas relations with Honolulu are important there has recently been severe criticism of the local charges. Harry G. Stone, a Seattle businessman, after a visit to Honolulu, returned to the Northwest port and is quoted by a Seattle paper as saying:

"Honolulu is looking forward to closer commercial relations with Seattle. I heard a good deal of comment on the matter of watering vessels at Seattle. There when a vessel is supplied with 50,000 cubic feet of water the bill presented is \$724; to the same amount in Seattle a steamer has to pay \$26.20. For 100,000 cubic feet of water, which some vessels take, the bill in Honolulu is \$1460, compared with the Seattle price of \$44.20. They have a private company supplying ships for 50 per cent of the government price, and, if necessary to help bring ships there, this price will be cut to one-quarter that charged by the government. When the city takes over the waterworks next July the price will likely be cut to a reasonable one.

"Seattle's fame with respect to the economy and superiority of its water supply can be said to be world-wide."

The attitude of some of the supervisors, already almost fainting at the thought of the "lemon" to be handed them with the transfer of the waterworks, does not give much assurance that the charges will be greatly lowered!

PA OLA CAMP

Elsewhere today is printed the appeal sent out to the people of Honolulu on behalf of Pa Ola Day Camp by the Men's League, which for several years has carried on this effective agency in the campaign against the dread "white plague," or tuberculosis. The people of this city hardly need to be reminded of the terrific toll taken by tuberculosis. Every fifteen days there comes to the newspapers of Honolulu a statement from the board of health giving the mortality statistics for the previous half-month. Again and again the deaths from tuberculosis will outnumber deaths from all other causes ten to one, and it not infrequently happens that every death during the fifteen days has been caused by the ravages of this disease. It is a hard fight and a long fight that must be waged in Honolulu, and Pa Ola Day Camp is one of the outposts to hold which the resources of freely given money and energy must be marshalled. The appeal of the Men's League should be promptly answered.

Looks like Uncle Sam will have to stand the loss on the Pearl Harbor drydock collapse. Why not? Hasn't the government got plenty of money?

The Wilson family is getting ready to break another precedent — in the number of White House brides furnished by any one administration.

Among the popular diversions of the day is being a candidate for the postmastership.

Harry Lauder betrays a well-known characteristic even by wireless.

Beware the I O U's of March.

DIPHTHERIA WELL UNDER CONTROL, BUT ONE DEATH

Though there are 62 cases of diphtheria in Honolulu at the present time only one death from the malady has been recorded, according to the report of Dr. J. S. B. Pratt at the meeting of the territorial board of health yesterday afternoon. He stated that the difficulty in controlling the spread of the disease in the Kakaako district, where most of the cases exist, is due to the fact that it is in such a mild form that the patients acted as carriers for several days before they were found by the inspectors and placed under quarantine.

The board denied the application of Chang Tan for a permit to construct a cesspool for a home built by him in the McInerney tract. He will be required to wait until the new sewer now being laid in that district is completed, and to make use of it.

The matter of granting Libby, McNeill & Libby permission to lay a 12-inch sewer from its new cannery to Kailua bay was referred to a committee which will confer with the public works department concerning the proper location for the outlet. Dr. Sagamura, who had passed the necessary examination, was granted a license to practise medicine in the territory.

Dr. Pratt stated this morning that everything indicated the epidemic was well under control. So far, he says, he has found but two active "carriers." In the other cases he is able to show that the disease has been contracted from other diphtheria patients. More than 85 per cent of the cases are in a small district, mainly on Kawaiahao street, Second and South streets. There are five cases on and directly off Kawaiahao, seven off Philip, three off Hanalei, four off Queen and four off Hotel, and the same number off Smith and Beretania. Japanese and Portuguese make up the greatest number of the cases. At the Castle Kindergarten, a couple of cases were found, and the place shut down while fumigated. The fact that the diphtheria is coming in light forms and that there is a very surprising absence of "carriers" made Dr. Pratt conclude that a rigid quarantine was not necessary. His inspectors, however, have been doubly busy, examining the pupils of different schools, removing those who show signs of diphtheria, fumigating, etc.

"I hold the changes in the weather recently accountable for the epidemic," stated Dr. Pratt. "It has changed from warm to cool, with the result that many persons have caught cold, rendering them easily susceptible to the disease." Dr. Pratt added that he believed both the Castle Kindergarten and the Westley Home would be opened Monday. There were two cases found in the latter place, and tests are being made today to determine if the patients have recovered.

Personal Mention

G. S. CURRY returned from Hawaii this morning, having been called there on legal matters.

GEORGE PAUL, federal customs inspector, is back from a business trip to Hilo. He was a passenger in the steamer Mauna Kea.

E. A. DOUTHITT has returned from a business trip that called him to Hawaii. He joined the Mauna Kea at Mahukona.

A. M. BROWN, deputy city and county attorney, has returned from a business trip to Maui. He was a passenger in the Mauna Kea.

R. C. STACKABLE, deputy collector of customs, was numbered among the passengers returning from Hilo in the Mauna Kea this morning. He was called to the port with the arrival there of the Japanese liner Kiyo Maru with cargo from the Orient.

W. W. THAYER, attorney-general, intends leaving on the Claudine next Monday afternoon for Maui, to finish several fishery cases pending in the courts of that county. He probably will return the following Thursday.

MRS. BESSIE ABBOTT HOWLAND (known in operatic circles as "Bessie Abbott") and here to set old Hawaiian music to a light opera, for a New York syndicate, is a niece of Mrs. Derby, mother of Dr. A. J. Derby, and is with them at their home in College Hills, Manoa, corner of Kamehameha avenue and Manoa road.

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WARD'S SUIT FOR \$50,000 AGAINST I.-I. TO BE TRIED

(Continued from page one)

proximate cause of plaintiff's injury was the negligence of the defendant in failing to furnish a reasonably safe cable for use, is not a question of science or legal knowledge, but a question of fact for determination by a jury."

In his dissenting opinion Associate Justice Perry says: "While concurring in what is said in the foregoing opinion on the subject of the assumption by plaintiff of the risks incident to the lack of a guard rail and a platform at the head of the coal conveyor, I respectfully dissent from the view that the question of proximate cause should have been submitted to the jury and from the conclusion that a nonsuit was incorrectly ordered."

"There is no doubt that what is the proximate cause of an injury is ordinarily a question for a jury; but when the facts are all undisputed and the inferences necessary to sustain the plaintiff's case are not legally deducible from those facts, the question is solely one of law for the court. In the case at bar the question was, in my opinion, one of law for the court."

Concluding, he says: "In my opinion the plaintiff failed to show that the defendant was guilty of any negligence which could have been properly found by the jury to have been the proximate cause of the injuries complained of and the motion for a nonsuit was properly granted."

LITTLE INTELLIGENTS

—SUPERVISOR M. C. PACHECO: You may look to see the supervisors get very busy from now on.

—SIDNEY R. JORDAN: Me engaged to be married? Why, there's nothing to it. I just bought a share in a new automobile, though.

—ROBERT CATHCART: They are not fooling me any more with fake cable messages or telephone calls. They are trying; but not succeeding.

—GENERAL CARTER: I saw considerable of Honolulu when I was house-hunting yesterday, and the more I see of the town the better I like it.

—PURSER PHILLIPS: Old Kilauea is brightening up to a considerable degree and visitors to the crater are rewarded by witnessing an interesting spectacle.

—MAJOR COE: Fort Kamehameha is getting to be a more attractive post every day, and when I return from Guam in a couple of months I expect to see the place even more improved.

—TOM CHURCH: I don't know where the city and county gets the water which it uses on its streets, but it might be better if clean salt water from the harbor were used for that purpose.

—J. A. URICE: The first meeting of the salesmanship class at the "Y" last evening was a pronounced success. There were three live addresses and all the members have gone into the work with keen interest.

—SPENCER BOWEN: The office of the Associated Charities still continues to be besieged by persons seeking employment. The work is going slowly, but nevertheless we are able to secure a job or two now and then.

—E. A. MOTT-SMITH: The initial hearing of the public utility commission's investigation of the Inter-Island yesterday afternoon was in every way a success. A good start was made and, at the present rate, the commission is going to make progress.

—W. LILIENTHAL (master German steamer Menes): This is my first visit to Honolulu, though I have heard much of the islands and have often hoped for an opportunity of visiting the port. Incidentally, the Menes is making its initial visit to an American port.

—C. H. DICKEY: The Civic Federation has no complaint to make on the action taken by the Associated Charities on its plan to provide work for the unemployed. I think, however, that if the unemployed were put to work where the federation suggested, the present situation might somewhat be relieved.

The deeper a man is in debt the less he cares for expense.



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Pathetically asking for news of her son, Wilfred L. Johnston, Mrs. J. Johnston, Box 239, Ingersoll, Ontario, Canada, has written to the "United States Consul, Honolulu," seeking assistance. The mother says her boy left home to take up wireless telegraphy, her last letter from him being received last August. She received a little gift from him at Christmas time, but a number of letters recently sent to him have been returned to her marked "address unknown."

Many a girl pretends to be just as proud of her big brother!

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