

Honolulu Star-Bulletin

RILEY H. ALLEN - - - - - EDITOR

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War may be a school for certain virtues, but it is certainly not the school of all virtues. Even as regards bravery, only the opportunity for its display and use is in and by war increased and fortified, which is morally superior to bravery, is not unknown outside war nor unpractised by non-combatants. Moreover, even the basic moral virtues of prudence, justice, temperance, and fortitude are inferior to those of mercy, pity, peace, and love. But war certainly generates or increases certain mental and moral failings. Such atrocities as have actually occurred, and are not the unsubstantial progeny of fear and excitement, of suspicion and credulity, would probably have never been possible to their authors in times of peace.—Canon Horsley.

DR. WILBERT PERRY FERGUSON.

In the death of Dr. Wilbert Perry Ferguson, Honolulu and Hawaii lose an energetic, active, brilliant educator and Christian minister. Mills School, of which he had been the forceful, constructive and sympathetic principal for something more than a year, loses a leader of ability and insight.

Dr. Ferguson came to Hawaii at a financial sacrifice, to accept an educational post that appealed to his intelligent imagination as an opportunity for rare and effective work in this "melting-pot of races." In his comparatively short term of service here, he made a friend of every person he met and an admirer of everyone who watched his broad-gauge work. He had the virility and training to enter into many sides of the community's life; he took an active interest in religious and social work, apart from his duties as an educator; he was a public speaker of force and eloquence and a writer whose contributions were always welcomed by the island press. His addresses on public occasions were notable for patriotic fervor and strong devotion to lofty ideals.

Arriving in Honolulu in September, 1913, to take the principalship of Mills School, he soon made his presence felt throughout the city. Not only did he bring to the school many years of experience in educational work, but a genuine love for this work, and for those whom he came to lead.

His interest and belief in the Oriental students was deep and sincere. He left a more remunerative position in the East to come to Hawaii to take up the work at Mills, from a deep conviction that work here, in a Christian-Oriental boarding school, offered the greatest sphere of usefulness and influence that he could conceive of for a man of his training. He felt that Hawaii held a strategical point in the future of the nations bordering the Pacific, and that the students graduated from Mills School had opportunities for great leadership among the peoples of their own countries, as well as throughout these islands and upon the mainland.

In his last public address, a sermon at Central Union church, published in the Star-Bulletin on Friday, he said:

The greatest moral victory under our flag in 1914 was the adoption of prohibition by five more states, including the Old Dominion state; also the surprising vote last week in the house of representatives at Washington on the submission of a constitutional amendment providing for nation-wide prohibition when 192 voted aye and 189 voted nay. Thank God for the rising tide of indignation against the American saloon. Some Lincoln will soon arise to lead us to a national victory over our greatest curse and sorest disgrace.

Two great commercial events have marked the year in America—the Ter-Centenary of the opening of commerce on the Hudson river and the opening of the Panama canal. To use Gladstone's expression, "America has passed England on a center in the race for commercial supremacy." This is not a matter for pride and self-congratulation alone and need not necessarily beget materialism. Commerce is a friend of liberty, tends by exchange of commodities to bring nations into a neighborly spirit, and seeks ever to keep the peace. Commerce also spreads the gospel for charities, for education, and for every good work. These celebrations of commerce are therefore all-important and should specially stimulate our merchant marine and improve our trade relations with Central and South America and on the Pacific. The Anglo-Saxon captured the Mediterranean as the early theater of world movements, then the Atlantic, so that in the world's greatest war it keeps an open highway for commerce; and now bids fair to be supreme on the Pacific. This means liberty, schools, an open Bible, and the highest civilization. Concluding his address, he said:

In our individual lives we pause—pause to lament our mistakes, mourn our sins and strip ourselves of follies without number. We pause to express gratitude for our blessings and our hopes. We pause to look over our incomplete task and gird ourselves to resume it with better spirit, greater skill and more intense earnestness. Our brief years will see but few things completed. Most men, like David, like McKinley, like Lincoln, seem to pass away when most needed. David planned a temple which Solomon built. Did he therefore fail? God said, "Thou dost well that thou hast planned a house for me." His purpose, even unfulfilled, blessed his life and was its true measure. So are our lives valued by their purposes and motives and not by their achievements. On, then, with thy task. "At evening it shall be light." Dr. Ferguson, even as the men he spoke of,

passed away when he seemed most needed, but he did not therefore fail. His purpose and planning were and are a success.

VICTORY AS THE SUPREME OBJECT.

An exposition of the German military policy which illuminates this much-discussed subject is given by Major-general von Disfurth in an article recently contributed to the Hamburg Nachrichten. Inasmuch as this article has appeared since a strict censorship has been imposed, it is fair to assume that the German authorities gave at least tacit assent to its trend. The distinguished German soldier writes:

"No object whatever is served by taking any notice of the accusations of barbarity leveled against Germany by our foreign critics. Frankly, we are and must be barbarians, if by this we understand those who wage war relentlessly and to the uttermost degree.

"It is incompatible with the dignity of the German Empire and with the proud traditions of the Prussian army to defend our courageous soldiers from the accusations hurled against them in foreign and neutral countries. We owe no explanations to any one. There is nothing for us to justify and nothing for us to explain away. Every act of whatever nature committed by our troops for the purpose of discouraging, defeating and destroying our enemies is a brave act and a good deed, and is fully justified.

"There is no reason whatever why we should trouble ourselves about the notions concerning us in other countries. Certainly we should not worry about the opinions and feelings held in neutral countries. Germany stands as the supreme arbiter of her own methods, which in the time of war must be dictated to the world.

"It is of no consequence whatever if all the monuments ever created, all the pictures ever painted, and all the buildings ever erected by the great architects of the world be destroyed, if by their destruction we promote Germany's victory over her enemies, who vowed her complete annihilation. In times of peace we might, perhaps, regard the loss of such things, but at the present moment not a word of regret, not a thought should be squandered upon them. War is war, and must be waged with severity. The commonest, ugliest stone placed to mark the burial place of a German grenadier is a more glorious and venerable monument than all the cathedrals in Europe put together.

"They call us barbarians. What of it? We scorn them and their abuse. For my part, I hope that in this war we have merited the title of barbarians. Let neutral people and our enemies cease their empty chatter, which may well be compared to the twitter of birds. Let them cease their talk of the cathedral at Rheims and of all the churches and all the castles in France that have shared its fate. These things do not interest us. Our troops must achieve victory. What else matters?"

Senator Coke's declaration that he is not after any federal or territorial office is to be taken precisely as he means it. As the Star-Bulletin stated some time ago, the report was that Coke's trip to Washington was at the behest of certain congressmen who wished to talk over the district attorneyship of Hawaii. There is no particular reason to believe Coke a candidate for the office. Nevertheless, it would be very queer if his visit to the capitol should result in no discussion of a possible change.

The new city administration begins harmoniously. At the outset certain supervisors who might have made a very lively little rumpus resisted the temptation. They subordinated their personal feelings in order to start the new municipal year pulling all together. That is hopeful. More of it will be thankfully received by the public.

Evidence that the campaign in far Caucasus is getting like a real war comes in the fact that each side denies what the other claims.

Mayor Lane's message has been generally very well received. Now to carry it out.

Everyone of the new supervisors takes a picture like a statesman.

Too many political fences will be disastrous for Lane.

Letters OF TIMELY TOPICS

(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 for anonymous communications.)

JUSTICE FOR THE MISUNDERSTOOD COCKROACH.

Editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin. Sir: This world is being continually startled by new discoveries and wonderful results from scientific research, and anybody who thinks that Professor Jaggar, the volcanologist located on the edge of the pit at Kilauea, is the only one who is dragging forth to the light of day hidden secrets in the general run of things is mistaken. One of these hermit-like fellows that occupies a shack near the head of Nuuanu valley, has made a startling discovery along natural history lines, and it is destined to have far-reaching effects. He is of a very economical nature and cannot see anything go to waste, and apropos of this, no well regulated and cleanly cigar butt is ever left to its gutter bed to be trodden on by some unfeeling heel, but is gathered in and placed beside like cigar butts on a shelf. In the contemplation of the riches accumulated in "butts" he suddenly discovered that the cockroach is a lover of cigars. Heretofore the tobacco worm and man have been the only living beetles in tobacco, and their cause has not been of the strongest, but now comes the moral support of the cockroach. Of course it is a debatable question as to the "moral" part of the cockroach's fondness for tobacco, but it has been clearly demonstrated that to become moral in any sense one must first have been immoral, and our hermit friend says that he did not observe any reproach of conscience in the cockroach he saw coming out of one of those laid-by butts. There was never a sign of repentance, but rather an expression that usually follows a satisfied feeling. There were other cockroaches standing around expectantly, ready to have a "chaw" at the weed, and they were not backward when the old man cockroach had had his fill.

This story of the tobacco habit in the cockroach started us on an investigation of that household pet and it is found that the wise men of a few years ago state that the cockroach is the oldest air-breathing animal, and unlike the horse and many other animals, has not changed its size, form or habits through all the ages that have gone. We have no way of communicating with the cockroach understandingly, but if we could do so we would probably find that the cockroach owes its extreme age and activity to the continued use of tobacco. C. F. M.

RESPECT FOR THE AMERICAN FLAG.

Ft. Castner, T. H., Jan. 1, 1915. Editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin. Sir: Being a rather clear day and the view excellent I happened to be gazing at the distant hills to the east of Fort Castner when my eyes happened to encounter a flagpole with a Japanese flag flying from its lanyard, but upon the second look I also noticed our beloved flag right beneath it, and it was upside down. After getting a pair of field glasses to make sure, I quickly asked some of the boys from the company to accompany me and a patriotic squad responded.

We tried to persuade the owner of the flags to rearrange them, but he declined and would not listen until we threatened to use force. Seeing our earnest mission he consented to fix it, which he did as it should be.

Now, if you would be kind enough to print this and the rules on this subject such things would not happen. Hoping you will print this and said rules or laws, I remain, respectfully, PVVT, G. H. Co. B, 1st Inf.

FROM ONE OF THE "HIKERS."

Editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin. Sir: I wish to take this means of not only correcting a misleading statement in this morning's paper regarding some incidents of the recent Maui trip but also to express my heartfelt thanks to those who rendered me such kindly assistance on the trip. The morning paper states "From start to finish there was not an accident or any serious inconvenience to anyone, although several of those who had foolishly started out without breakfast broke down during the first day's hike and had to be assisted to camp," and again further on the paper says "Two of the soldiers who graced the expedition, Leland Roland and Benjamin J.

Long, walked back six miles to bring E. A. Cooper into camp, he having fallen by the wayside, being one of the breakfastless ones."

I wish to say I may be foolish but certainly neither myself nor anyone else on this expedition who went without breakfast did so of their own choice. The fact is we were given no choice at all in the matter. We were told that we would be landed at Kaupo (Ka) at about 8 o'clock Friday morning. We were all sleeping serenely on deck dreaming of a good breakfast ahead when we were suddenly awakened by a loud blast from the whistle and told to hustle and go ashore. This was at 6 a. m., two hours before the time we had anticipated doing so. There was no call for breakfast. The boats were immediately lowered and we had no time to eat if we had wanted to. As I passed from one side of the boat to the other I saw a few people at the breakfast table. Whether they had arisen early of their own volition and asked for breakfast I do not know, but I do know that dozens of people like myself had no chance to eat even if we had wanted to. I don't know who is to blame, but I believe the fault lies with the officers of the boat. Except for this one incident I have no complaint to make. It is true that my son carried my lunch and his own which was issued after we got ashore, but as he got an opportunity to ride a mule he soon left me. I was not concerned as to this believing that at noon we would all get together and eat lunch, but this was not so, there were no regular planned halts made; each party or group of parties halted as they felt like it.

I only had one cracker all day long to eat and that was given me by one of the group with whom I was hiking. I had no water and my mouth was so dry I could not masticate the cracker.

I owe my life to Pvt. Leland Rowland of Co. C, 2nd Infantry, who came back a distance of about five miles and assisted me for about three miles until the Hawaiian came with a mule after me on which I rode the remainder of the way. I have been told that when it was discovered that I was missing after getting into camp that a purse was raised among the members of the crowd to hire the Hawaiian to go back after me with his mule. I am told that the members of the expedition very quickly and cheerfully responded, raising very much more than was necessary for this purpose. I have tried in vain to learn who these good people were that I might either repay them or at least express my great appreciation of their kindness, but on every hand I was told that this kind deed had been done in the dark and those who did it preferred that it should remain in the dark. I hope that those who were so kind to me may not express my great appreciation of their kind act.

In closing I will say that on the second and third days of our trip I stood the strenuous exertions and hiking as well as any of the rest and believe had I been properly fed the first day I should have held my own with the rest of the crowd. I have nothing but kind words for Mr. Ford and his assistants and for the crowd as a whole, and I certainly, barring the first day, enjoyed the hike immensely.

Sincerely, EDW. A. COOPER.

ALSO PRESENT.

Editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin. Sir: Relative to the interesting description of "Communicated" touching upon the festivities attending the natal day celebration tendered Set. Lopez, engineers, by his intimates, may I be permitted to state that an unintentional omission of the names of those present requires that notice be accorded the presence of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin C. Pettit.

NIL DESPERANDUM.

LITTLE INTERVIEWS

—W. R. FARRINGTON: I notice that the carnival finance committee lacks the funds for securing tennis players. Why doesn't the Carnival Company call on the stockholders of its company, if the money is really needed to make the carnival feature a success? The stock was floated to meet just such demands. There will be absolutely no excuse for going about appealing for special contributions. Incidentally I think the chorus of a thousand or more voices will be the greatest carnival feature we have ever had.

"I'm selling a book on beauty, mum," he began, "but really I fear you do not need such an article." "Never mind," said the woman, with a pleased smile. "I'll take one, anyhow."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

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"What did you think of the automobile race, Pat?" "I didn't see it." "You didn't see it?" "Why, I saw you at the track!" "Yes, I was at the track; but I had to wink just at the wrong time, and when I got through near the railroad and it was not the race was over."—Judge.

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