

DR. R. TAIT MACKENZIE TELLS OF MEDICAL WORK IN WAR ZONE

Has Relatives in Honolulu Who Hear of Horrors of "Gas Cases"

An interesting letter has been received at McGill University from Dr. R. Tait MacKenzie, the eminent physical educationist and surgeon, whose works are known all over Canada, and in many lands beyond. Dr. MacKenzie is an old McGill boy of whom students and faculty have every reason to be proud. He graduated in arts at McGill in 1889, and in medicine in 1892, and holds the position of director of physical education at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. MacKenzie went overseas last June and tried to secure a commission in the Canadian Army Medical Service. Not succeeding in having his appointment confirmed, he took out a commission in the Royal Army Medical Corps. After his probation he started as a Lieutenant at Aldershot; later he received promotion to the rank of major, and is now in charge of the medical depot at Manchester, where he has under him eight doctors, 48 masseurs, 40 Royal Army Medical Corps and 4000 wounded soldiers.



Dr. R. Tait MacKenzie.

Major MacKenzie in his letter tells how, in his work of canvassing the London hospitals to look up the facilities for massage and exercise, and in collecting the wounded Canadians in France and England for removal to special convalescent homes, he became familiar with the surgery of the war, and saw a great number of men who had been "gassed," as well as wounded with shrapnel, and the results of the wet trenches—the so-called "trench-foot."

"The gas cases are the most distressing," says Major MacKenzie, "and go all the way from sudden death from filling up of the lungs with mucous due to the intense irritation of the gas through violent bronchitis and strangulation to a low chronic bronchitis complicated with heart weakness and inflammation of the kidneys. In some the mental effect is also profound and lasting."

"Trench-foot runs all the way from a slight frost bite to gangrene and the cases I saw were mostly neuritis following the injury of four or five months before. One man told me that his foot felt all right when he began to march, but by the time he had gone three miles he fell as if he was marching on his bones."

A place of peculiar interest is the Institute for blinded soldiers and sailors, under C. Arthur Pearson, president of the National Institute for the Blind. He has himself lost his sight and has started the teaching of massage to some of the poor fellows blinded by the foul gases or who have

otherwise lost their sight. Major MacKenzie also tells of the wealthy people who have given up their houses as nursing homes, and says so many have been offered that the war office has had to refuse a large number of good places. He specially mentions Cliveden, the home of Waldorf Astor, in whose magnificent grounds is a Canadian hospital. He says it was touching to go through these beautiful rooms and halls with the groups of blue-coated patients under the guidance of Mrs. Astor, whose kindness and hospitality are both spontaneous and genuine.

The statue in bronze of "The Young Franklin," which was unveiled and formally dedicated on Commencement day at the University of Pennsylvania in June, 1914, is one of the many works of Dr. MacKenzie. He is a son of the late Rev. Wm. MacKenzie, Almonte, Canada, and a grandson of the late Patrick Buchanan MacKenzie, Scotland. His cousins are W. C. Shields of Davies & Co., and Miss Shields, of Kewalo street.



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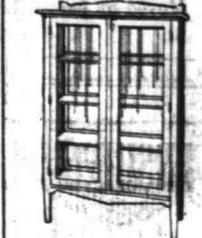
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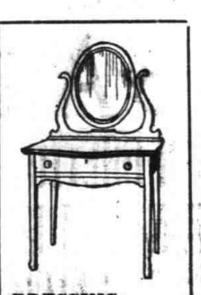
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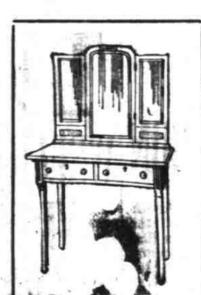
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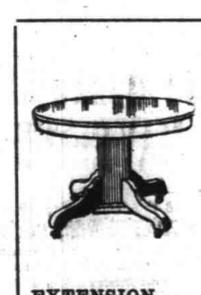
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LETTERS OF THE WEEK

MUNICIPAL FINANCES.

Editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin:

Sir—Referring to Mr. Shingle in connection with his supervisory work in Saturday's issue of your paper, you said:

"His principal duties were with the road committee and not with municipal finances."

From the context this would appear to be in the way of clearing Mr. Shingle of any responsibility for the present financial conditions. How this can be done, in view of the fact that Mr. Shingle was a member of the finance committee, is hard to see—especially as Mr. Shingle had no hesitation in turning over many important road matters to myself, although I am not a member of the road committee.

Mr. Shingle apparently tried to do the same thing in his farewell speech on Thursday night, but he "took it back" quickly when I related the facts of last year's financing to the board. Neither of the daily papers thought worth while reporting my remarks, or I do not think you would join in any plan to make me, as chairman of the finance committee, the scapegoat of the administration.

One thing I put up to Mr. Shingle was the fact that, not merely once but many times, in answer to his questions on the floor, I informed him and

the board that the limit had been reached for "extras" to the road committee, if the board was not going to pinch itself badly for this year's operations. Up to a certain stage, however, I did say that the revenue for 1916 would certainly be a good deal larger than for 1915, and I therefore submitted that it would be good policy to make 1916 bear a portion of the burden of the various large permanent improvements that the board at the outset decided to make.

Another fact that is well known to the board is that I meant to have the \$2,000 odd for new fire department plant taken out of the permanent improvement fund, but was overruled on the strength of some old legal opinion on file to the effect that "equipment" could not lawfully be charged to that fund. This question I took up with City and County Attorney Cathers, who seemed to be favorably impressed with my argument that the new fire engines, having a probable effective life of 10 to 20 years, might be classed as "permanent improvement" rather than "equipment." He asked me to put my argument in writing and he would render an opinion on the subject. This I promptly did, but the opinion was never rendered. In a report of the finance committee on the Pauloa road, submitted on Thursday evening last, which neither of the daily papers noticed, I showed

by figures from the auditor's office that there is available this year, after all appropriations to date are deducted, something like \$118,000 of the permanent improvement fund.

Now as to the fearful "financial hole" about which there has been such a furor, the fact is that, including \$45,000.00 paid into cash basis fund in balance of all funds, the city had in hand December 31 last \$19,504.62 in excess of the revenue it received during the year 1915. This is exclusive of \$60,000-odd found in cash basis fund on January 1, 1915. These figures are from the auditor's statement.

The actual net over-expenditures for 1915, counting the payment into cash basis funds as expenditure, amounted to only \$25,496.48. This is not any more than the outlay made last year upon permanent improvements for which the territory should justly be charged—Allen street paving and sidewalks on territorial frontages. Moreover, it is nearly equalled by expenditures practically forced upon the supervisors by the legislature after the estimates for the year had been made.

There are solid assets to show for this board's expenditures to date, and what difference does it really make if some of the improvements planned last year are paid for, in whole or in part, this year? Besides the rehabilitation of the fire department, the doubling of the street lighting plant's capacity, including erection of new power house, the establishment of the emergency hospital, with up-to-date ambulance, the installation of a new police and fire alarm system, a material increase in the dispensary service and additions and repairs to police station, many miles of belt road have been reconstructed in permanent manner, numerous suburban roads resurfaced, a large amount of maintenance work performed on old streets and roads, and about a dozen district and frontage tax improvement schemes put well on the way to fulfillment.

In new equipment for all departments, exclusive of \$61,571.84 for new school buildings, \$194,719.73 has been expended and, regarding the portion debited to the road department, Mr. Shingle said the other night that it was not more than 75 per cent of what was needed to place the department upon an economically working basis.

Then take the water works department, which made \$30,000 worth of improvements and extensions and had a balance in hand at the end of the year. Certainly the territory never made a better record there.

As a matter of fact, the financial condition of the city is not any worse than it has been at various times in the past. Some time ago the Star-Bulletin, in its news columns, contrasted the administration of finances by the Democratic board with that of the present board, to the disparagement of the latter, but had the reporter consulted the files of the Star-Bul-

letin first I think he would not have done so. In your issue of August 14, 1915, is officially advertised the auditor's report of receipts and disbursements for the quarter ending June 30, 1915. Under the head of balances, general fund, are the following entries:

"Overdraft at last report, \$85,259.09; disbursed during quarter, \$381,577.49—\$386,936.58. Receipts for the quarter, \$357,768.42; overdraft for the quarter, \$33,168.16."

An overdraft at the end of the first quarter of \$85,000-odd was "going some," particularly when that board had a balance of \$74,000 left by the preceding board.

While I agree with Mr. Shingle and the majority of the board that the city and county ought to have more revenue provided for it, I am strongly opposed to the movement for an extra session of the legislature, and on the morning after the board took action to that end I called on Governor Pinkham to enter my individual protest against the proposition. I believe that the board is perfectly able to bring things out right before the end of the year. With some of the street improvement schemes probably under way before June 30, the road question will be partly solved. The only other matter at present troublesome is that of the circuit courts. There will be a balance to their credit available on July 1, and when that is exhausted, if the municipal treasury is too low to afford an extra appropriation, the territorial authorities may very well see the courts through until the regular session of the legislature. Indeed, considering what the city has done for the territory already, as above mentioned, the governor should be expected to carry the courts now until the municipal balance is available.

DANIEL LOGAN.

HELPFUL DISCUSSION

Honolulu, March 18, 1916.

Editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin.

Sir: In regard to this comment going on in the papers about bettering the condition of the soldier, would you say that no matter what material benefit is attained either directly or indirectly the mere discussion itself is edifying and of far reaching value. Because it prompts and fosters cool and deliberate reasoning, without which even the human being is a brute. This is what differentiates right from wrong in every sense. The only caste in this country, if it might be called caste, is the regularity in such procedures as this theme. Without which it were impossible to reach a feasible conclusion in any practicable problem.

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