

# Honolulu Star-Bulletin

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EDITOR

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1917.

## An Explanation and a Pledge

Their responsibility to the American community in which they reside has been recognized by the two Honoluluans on trial in San Francisco—George Rodiek and H. A. Schroeder. The statement which they made to the court yesterday is published in full by the Star-Bulletin today, having been cabled here at the instance of the two defendants.

The community has no wish to pre-judge them nor unduly to hold against them actions investigated by the district attorney at San Francisco and by him evidently believed to have extenuating circumstances. In fact, long after German consuls and consular offices elsewhere had been directly implicated in gross violations of neutrality; after the trail of intrigue, corruption and plotting had led directly up to the highest German office in the United States—that of the German ambassador—the disposition in Hawaii was to hope and perhaps in most cases to believe that the German consulate here had kept clear of any such pernicious activities. The two defendants, Mr. Rodiek particularly, had been valued members of the business community, with wide acquaintances and friendships. When, therefore, news was made public of their indictment for connection with the Hindu plot, the reaction of resentment was the more severe.

That the district attorney accepts a plea of guilty—emphasized as a plea of guilty to a technical violation of the neutrality law alone—and that this is accompanied by the statement published elsewhere today, is a development which will be viewed not only for its own importance, but in the light of the defendant's closing statement:

*"They intend by the future conduct and future residence in their Hawaiian home to confirm the respect and confidence of their neighbors and their right to fellowship with American citizens."*

Denying in detail any connection with the India conspiracy, and offering a lengthy written statement in defense of their actions, Messrs. Georg Rodiek and H. A. Schroeder have made explanation of dealings with the mystery ship Maverick. The explanation is that their relations with the Maverick were purely commercial transactions.

There is one incident of more recent date which still awaits explanation. That is the disabling of the cruiser Geier and of German refugee vessels in the harbor of Honolulu.

In the records of the department of public works of this territory there is the stenographic report of a conversation of March 6, 1917, between Superintendent Forbes, J. F. C. Hagens and F. W. Klebahn, the latter being the manager of the shipping department of Hackfeld & Company. The conference was upon the proposed moving of German vessels lying at Honolulu docks, whose presence was felt to be a menace because they might be blown up or sunk at their moorings by the Germans.

Superintendent Forbes inquired the cause of the damage (then already done) to the ships Pommer and Setos. The following conversation then ensued, according to this stenographic report:

Mr. Klebahn (answering inquiry as to cause of damage): "I do not know. I simply know the damage is done and there will be no further damage to the vessels. I can only repeat this and give you the same assurance as I gave the governor over the telephone at 7 p. m. last Monday, that whatever damage there was to the vessels had been done and nothing further would happen to these vessels."

Mr. Forbes: "Do you guarantee that?"  
Mr. Klebahn: "That is my personal assurance."

Mr. Klebahn's statement that he could give his personal assurance that there would be no further damage to the vessels raises the question as to how he could give this assurance. From what sources did his information come that there would be no further damage? From what sources and by what medium were the orders for crippling the vessels transmitted to the German ship officers?

In his statement to the court at San Francisco yesterday, Mr. Rodiek declared that his patriotism, and affirmed that he expects to enjoy the confidence of his neighbors and the rights of fellowship with Americans in Hawaii. He said also that the statement was made in fairness to themselves and to Americans in Hawaii.

Americans in Hawaii cannot help but feel that in fairness to the citizens here resident, there be explained the exact circumstances under which the officers of the German ships here received their orders to disable the vessels. That would clear the atmosphere of one cloud as the San Francisco trial is clearing it of another.

It will not do to be too optimistic of the future on the Italian front. The beating which Gen. Cadorna's army received on the Isonzo front has greatly disorganized the troops, and though they are making a gallant stand on the Piave-Brenta line, there is no assurance they can hold out against the terrific hammering to which they are subjected. If they could not defend the natural mountain barrier above the plain, their chance is none too good of standing fast on the plateau. America must be prepared for the worst that can happen to both France and Italy.

Berlin is now intriguing for a separate peace with Rumania. Whether or not the Rumanians will fall prey to the wiles and false promises of the kaiser's corruptions, the political maneuvers must be reckoned with, just as are the military maneuvers.

It is said that Congress will tackle nothing but war legislation this session. In the line of making the country safe for democracy, a prohibition amendment certainly has legitimate place. Congress ought to get to this, and probably will.

## The Four-Minute Men

The success of the Four Minute Men is assured here, and their opportunities for usefulness are not restricted to patriotic speeches in the motion-picture houses of the city. They have a far wider field where their utterances should be valuable.

A Four Minute speaker appears before the public as an authorized representative of the government. He adheres to the subjects and to the manner of approach of these subjects as outlined in the "Budget of Material." He selects from the budget that material which is backed by his strongest convictions; his presentation is all the more forceful. Extraneous comments, however, and personal viewpoints of speakers supplementary to those given, are not expressed on an occasion when the speaker is publicly announced as a government representative.

The attitude of the speaker toward his audience is that he is privileged, as one of the community, to present a message of national importance upon which the government deems it wise that the public should be informed. By their direct contact in Washington with all branches of the government the Four Minute Men are in a position to obtain correct information on war plans and policies which the public is entitled to know. The speakers volunteer to render a national service by conveying this information to the public.

The speaker has a right to assume that the people in his audience are eagerly interested in the message which he brings them, and are loyal Americans ready to respond to the needs of the nation so far as they may be able. He never takes the attitude that he is intruding upon an evening's pleasure at the theater and must beg their indulgence. He has a supreme right to be there and feels this to the utmost. Under the definite agreement with the motion-picture industry, that right expires in exactly four minutes.

The topics spoken upon by Four Minute Men are matters of national importance connected with the war plans of the government. They are assigned to the speakers by the director in Washington for a given period of time usually from one to four weeks. The topic to be used at any given time is determined by a consideration of what is uppermost at the time, and represents an agreement between the director of the Four Minute Men and the various government authorities who may be concerned.

At the beginning of each new topic a bulletin of instructions is issued and sent to the chairmen in quantities to cover the list of speakers. These bulletins are immediately distributed to the speakers in ample time to allow for thorough preparation. Accompanying the bulletin of instructions is a budget of material containing the facts necessary to the preparation of an effective speech upon the topic, and an outline of the essential points which the speaker is expected to establish in the minds of his audience.

## Y. W. C. A. In a War Year

In asking for a budget of \$45,000 to be raised by local campaign, the Y. W. C. A. of Honolulu directs public attention once again to the fact that the United States is on a war basis.

The Y. W. C. A., like every other American institution animated by a patriotic desire to serve, is also a war basis.

Last year the budget needed was much less—in fact, it was well under \$20,000. The hope of the association had been that it would not be necessary to ask for more this year than last.

The fact of a world at war—a war in which the United States has a signal part; and the further fact that the Y. W. C. A. has grown and is growing even faster than expected, make the hope futile. After weeks of cutting, pruning and revising, the association can get no lower on the budget than \$45,000.

By the middle of December, the Young Women's Christian Association will need four million dollars for special work among the women of Europe and the United States. The local Y. W. C. A. will contribute its share to that fund, and in addition must secure its own finances for next year.

During the next few days the association here will, through organized publicity, place its case in the hands of the public—explain the reasons for its appeal. The facts to be presented will be the best arguments that the need be promptly met.

The size of the budget is unexpectedly large, but so is the field which the Y. W. C. A. is now filling. Not a businessman but would say that if the Y. W. C. A. needs \$45,000 to continue its splendid work, the money should be promptly provided.

This is a year when generous contributions to public causes constitute one method of proving patriotism.

A system that removes the last possible excuse for failure to comply with the law regarding automobile headlights is a headlight-testing station it is proposed to establish in large cities of the mainland. Such a station will give every machine owner an opportunity to ascertain if his lights are within the law, and if so, a certificate to that effect will be furnished him. If they are not, he can correct them. With such an institution here, there would be no excuse for glaring headlights to be flashed with impunity.

President Wilson is wiping out the memory of that phrase, "peace without victory." His war message to Congress means peace to be won through victory—complete victory for the Allies.

## LITTLE TALES ABOUT TOWN



**ENGLISH AS SHE IS SPOKE**  
ESSUE HAYAKAWA, the Japanese film star who is now in Hawaii, made up his mind at one time in his life that the English and American languages were two different tongues. Hayakawa came here to appear in "Hidden Pearls," a Lasky production, which is to be screened entirely on Oahu and Hawaii.

When Sessue tells about his first puzzlement over the difference between the English and American speech, he does so with a sly grin, but whether at his own expense, or the English or American accent, he conceals. He recites his experience like this:  
"It was very funny when I first came to America. I thought I understood English very well, because I had studied it very hard, and we have in our classes English teachers from England. But when I listened in America I understood nothing at all."  
"I listen, and I say, 'I beg your pardon.' And I listen again, very carefully, and I say to myself, 'It is not English this one speaks. It is another language.' It was a joke on me. For a long time I did not understand anyone at all."

Around his Oriental eyes crinkles of amusement deepened.  
"I was three years in this country before I understood words like your 'bucks.' Only last spring someone explained to me that when you play poker it is not dollars you lose but 'bucks.'"

"But I could read and write very well from the first. That was my reason for coming to America. I wanted to study the plays of Shakespeare here, so that I could translate them properly into Japanese and take them back to my country."  
Instead of studying Shakespeare, however, he went into the movies and became a star.

## SONG REVIVES MEMORIES

HERE were nine or ten of them lounging about the little station at Pawa Junction one afternoon waiting for an Ala Park street car. They were members of the corps of American engineers and they looked rather lonely. Impatiently they waited for the car to appear, passing technical opinions on its delay.

## LETTERS

### TO RED CROSS SEAL WORKERS

Editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin.  
Sir: The executive committee of the Anti-Tuberculosis League of Hawaii has asked me to extend to you their thanks for your press notices in connection with the sale of the Red Cross Christmas seals on Nov. 24.

The committee also takes this opportunity to thank Mrs. G. P. Wilder and her able assistants, as well as the scoutmasters and scouts of Honolulu for the help given on that day.

The amount realized to date is \$4104.72, which is \$400 more than was received in 1914, which up to the present year was our "high water" mark in the sale of Red Cross Christmas seals. Of the amount received Leah Home will get \$2000 and Pa Oia Day Camp \$1600. The balance will go toward paying the expenses of the campaign and remitting to the American Red Cross their share of the proceeds of the sale.

Personally thanking you for your kind assistance in this connection, I am, yours sincerely,  
JAMES A. RATH,  
Secretary-Treasurer.

## NO COERCION NEEDED

Honolulu, T. H., Dec. 6, 1917.  
Editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin.

Sir: In reply to the unprovoked attack of the editor of the Advertiser this morning upon the loyal women of the community in regard to the signing of food pledge cards, I desire to invite his attention to the principle which our forefathers fought for, to-wit: "Millions for defense, but not a dollar for tribute."

President Wilson fully recognized and vigorously proclaimed that principle as the underlying principle of his administration when he declared that in the matter of the food conservation in the home there would be no threats and no coercion, but that by a campaign of education the people would be brought to see and assist in the efforts of his administration.

Unquestionably President Wilson meant what he said in his reaffirmation of that principle to the extent of even summarily removing from office any one who through ignorance or otherwise should attempt to threaten, intimidate or coerce the American housewives.

Our local food administrators and their loyal committees have not attempted any intimidation or coercion nor made any threat; that role has

Meanwhile one or two of the number looked about for diversion and then they located the slot-machine organ in the store at the junction. Unconcernedly one of them dropped a ten-cent piece into the yawning mouth of the machine and after considerable growling and burring the organ blared forth its tune.

And then what a change on the faces of these strangers in a strange town. The looks of loneliness disappeared like magic. Everyone of them smiled and then they broke into laughter and applauded the squeaking old organ. And it was not long before they were dancing about the platform and cheering like an Elks convention for out of the list of its tunes that organ could not have selected a more appropriate one. They played it and played it. They decrepit old music machine blare its tune. For that song took them home, back to their desks and their instruments in the middle states. It was not the national anthem, it was not a love song but a ribald song that once popular had passed from the lips of all but railroad men. And that song that stirred their hearts was none other than "Casey Jones mounted to his cabin, etc., etc."

## WILLS AND WILFUL

THERE was a number of "the boys" of the various staffs of the city and county offices in the Melville building standing in the corridor at noon the other day discussing the question of which was the legal will of her late Majesty Queen Liliuokalani. Finally after everyone had had his little "say" about the wills and about the queen's personality and her authoritative presence, Eugene Buffandeau, clerk to the board of supervisors, came brushing past the group on his way to his office. He just caught the last of the talk about the wills made by the late queen but the fact that he hadn't heard it all didn't stop him from "horning in" on the conversational meal with:

"Oh, yes! The queen was a very wilful woman. A very wilful woman," he remarked. (Clerk, please call the roll. E. B. has been missing since.)

been gratuitously assumed by the editor of the Advertiser.

There is an excellent reason why our local food administrators should have cards showing not only those who have signed, but those who do not sign. For with such data the commission will be able to correctly tabulate and report to Washington the percentage of saving which may be effected in this territory, while without such data a correct report would be impossible. Without such data a report would be at best a guess.

I am not connected with the food administration in this territory in any way, but I am thoroughly convinced that it is merely trying to carry out the directions of the Washington administration without thought or suggestion of any threat or coercion. It would surprise the writer in no way were he to learn that some one with authority had visited the editorial office and requested the discontinuance of editorials and articles tending to obstruct and hinder our local officials in carrying out their instructions from Washington.

Yours for strengthening the hands of the Washington administration.  
AN AMERICAN  
Who has in his home a National Food Pledge Card.

## LITTLE INTERVIEWS

—DAVID FORBES, manager of Waiakes plantation, Hawaii: President E. D. Tenney's address Monday certainly hit the nail on the head. The planters are working today as one and we all realize that it is up to us to help the government in every way possible and when we leave this meeting our plans for the work will be along those lines.

—F. M. ANDERSON, manager Paauhau plantation: We've got to cut according to the cloth, and when I say that I mean everything must be on a war basis. The planters will cooperate with the government in every way, and all our future plans will be made with that end in view. And when they take the national guard away, which they will, though our labor problem will be more complicated than ever, we will move to maintain our production even if it is necessary to purchase more machinery and change about our systems of raising cane to meet the shortage of labor.

—GEORGE W. PATY: Many people have commented upon the Thanksgiving sermon delivered by Rev. L. L. Loohourou at Central Union church last Thursday. Some people were very much surprised at the statements made, and I have been ques-



## Wichman Gifts

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tioned many times with regard to their authenticity. Many of the facts that were stated in this sermon were derived from the little pamphlet called "Defeat or Victory." This pamphlet was forced to cease its publication in England because of the strong opposition of those representing the liquor traffic, but copies were sent to America and are being printed by the American Issue Publishing Co. The local Anti-Saloon League has a few copies and will supply any who wish to read this very interesting book.

## BARGAINS IN McINERNEY TRACT

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