

Honolulu Star-Bulletin

RILEY H. ALLEN

EDITOR

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1917.

Proceeding Against German Property

Congress passed the Trading with the Enemy act not only to handle, under civilized laws, the property in the United States of alien enemies, but to prevent such property from being used for purposes hostile to the United States.

It is important to remember this in the discussion frequently heard in Honolulu, as to whether recent disclosures of German plotting here justifies the United States government in proceeding against the business or property of those alleged to be guilty involved.

A. Mitchell Palmer, appointed by the president as alien property custodian, has set forth in an official statement the scope and limit of his activities. He said:

The principal test of enemy character under the act of Congress is one of residence or place of business or business connections, rather than nationality or citizenship. A subject of Germany or of any of Germany's allies residing in this country, even though he has made no declaration to continue in trade and citizenship, is in the possession and control of his property while he remains in the United States and obeys its laws, and he is not regarded as an enemy nor placed in that category by the trading with the enemy act.

The broad purpose of Congress, as expressed in the trading with the enemy act, is, first, to preserve enemy-owned property situated in the United States from loss, and, secondly, to prevent every use of it which may be hostile or detrimental to the United States.

Commerce can not, of course, be carried on between residents of countries that are at war. In the absence of a general law for the protection of money and property in the United States belonging to those who are under legal disability, there might without the special action of Congress have been very considerable property loss and deterioration. The property of every person under legal disability is in every civilized country protected by the appointment of trustees or conservators whose duty it is to administer and care for the property while the disability exists.

This is the duty of the alien-property custodian. He is charged by law with the duty of protecting the property of all owners who are under legal disability to act for themselves while a state of war continues.

There is, of course, no thought of the confiscation or dissipation of the property thus held in trust.

If the alien enemy custodian decides that German property or business is being used for purposes hostile to the United States, he is empowered to take such measures as will end the hostile acts.

The evident purpose of the national administration is to proceed slowly and with caution in its activities against Germans and German sympathizers in the United States. Whether there has been any use of a local business as support and "camouflage" for hostile acts would probably be determined only after considerable investigation. It must be remembered, also, that the act was but recently passed. The whole subject of dealing with German property and business-houses in the United States is intricate and scarcely to be passed upon by the layman, though it is but common sense to call a sharp halt on every hint of enemy activity in this or any other American community.

The Truth Will Be Told

Public inquiry, which often is more direct than investigation by tribunal because it works through moral certainties and not legal technicalities, will expose the third party in the Dr. Hayes case.

There are enough known circumstances in the case to point the finger of justifiable suspicion, and sooner or later the truth will be known.

Then the coward who dare not today face the situation like a man will reap not only the disgrace for his reckless act and his licentious disregard for the decencies of society, but the added ignominy of slinking away into the dark when the girl he had betrayed was under the most terrible of strains, suffering alone.

The truth will some day be told and that day may be not far distant.

THE CASE OF UNITED STATES VS. GEORGE RODIEK.

Before passing judgment on George Rodiek, the former head of the great old firm of H. Hackfeld & Co., who has entered a plea of guilty of the charge of complicity in a conspiracy to foment rebellion in India against the British government, it is well to remember that what he did was done months before the United States severed diplomatic relations with Germany and became an active ally of the Entente Powers, and while Rodiek was still German consul at Honolulu and as such had to comply with instructions from the German government.

Despite his plea of guilty, we find it difficult to believe that Rodiek has intentionally committed a dishonorable act or wittingly lent himself to aid in fomenting a rebellion in India. We have known him personally for a score or more years and always respected him as a man of honor, integrity and high principles and possessing the sterling qualities of a perfect gentleman.

If the president delivered his address to Congress without coming to a previous understanding with our Allies in Europe, he performed the boldest act of his career, since he virtually made claim to the leadership of the combination against Germany. If there had been an understanding reached, it is clear that Mr. Wilson's world leadership in the struggle against Germany's apotheosis of autocratic insolence and brutality is already conceded. In either case the address bids fair to be memorable in the world's history.—Springfield Republican.

The slogan for a lot of American lads this year seems to be: "Into the trenches by Christmas!"—Spokane Spokesman-Review.

"Petrograd Is Not Russia"

Frederick McCormick, noted war correspondent and for many years a recognized authority on Far Eastern and Russian affairs, said during his recent visit to Honolulu: "Always remember, when you hear reports of Russian disintegration, that Petrograd is not Russia."

This is worth recalling when one reads of the successes of General Kaledines, the grand hetman of the Cossacks, in building up a separate Cossack state out of the falling ruins of Pan-Slavism. The despatches this morning may thus be accepted with some optimism.

The Bolsheviks for the moment control Petrograd. But outside of Petrograd, which is a city quite remote from the great trade arteries and mineral and agricultural resources of Russia, the power of the Bolsheviks is very scant. They are unable to develop any great military following because they have no ideas of discipline or submission to authority.

Moscow, which is quite as important as Petrograd, is not under the domination of the Bolsheviks. They have something of a hold there, but not a secure one.

While the second revolution put Russia out of the war, it has by no means assured peace all along the eastern front. The Cossacks are not likely to yield, and they can carry on guerilla warfare on a tremendous scale. Germany of course profits greatly by the defection of Russia, but Germany is unable to capitalize this defection at its face value because the very chaos of the Slavs makes certain that scattered armies will continue on the offensive.

Kaiser Wilhelm is in a class by himself when it comes to playing both ends against the middle. For the benefit of the Turks he posed as a Mohammedan, the Turkish papers even telling of his conversion to that faith and printing pictures showing him in Ottoman costume. But when the Turks—offered by Germans—were retreating from Palestine, it was the Kaiser's men who robbed the tomb of Christ, looting the most sacred sepulcher in all the world and assisting in the defiling of its scarcely less sacred surroundings. The loot will be taken to Berlin and the Kaiser will try to pose as the savior of the precious relics. And remember, too, that it was this bloated monarch who tried to launch the "holy war" against the Allies. Were it not that the whole German doctrine is the essence of stung hypocrisy, one might call the Kaiser the greatest hypocrite in all history. But hypocrisy denotes some initiative of policy, and the Kaiser is merely the natural product of Prussianism fermenting in a vain, pompous, essentially weak character unfortunately clothed with power by the silly tradition of "divine right."

Inasmuch as the average Austrian is merely a German with another national name, it seems difficult to make distinctions sufficient to absolve Austria from participation in our declaration of war. Germany dominates Austria absolutely at home, and no one doubts that the domination is just as absolute abroad. The inconvenience of our present technical situation is that it makes Austrians out to be other than enemy aliens, and thus enables them to remain in spots no longer open to Germans. It is necessary in our view of it that Austrians be made just as surely enemy aliens as Germans are. And that can only be done by a technical inclusion of Austria-Hungary in the list of powers against whom the United States is now at war. Congress should do that at once when it convenes.—Lowell, Mass., Courier-Citizen.

To tell strangers about our ability to pick cotton without mentioning our ability to practise medicine is unjust. In the same states where the writer saw "darkies" picking cotton, are 57 banks owned and controlled by "darkies." Schools, churches, stores, hospitals, and anything else that anybody else has we have, too. These banks that I speak of do an annual business of \$20,000,000. Again, in the same states are white children whose parents are poor, moored behind the walls of the great cotton factories, spinning and weaving from 8 a. m. to 7 p. m., learning to chew tobacco and dip snuff before they are ten years of age. Ask your delegate about the child labor law that stares Congress in the face.

In Washington where the slave block was conspicuous, is Howard university, sending out men and women yearly, who are competing successfully with men from Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Colgate, etc. This, my own Alma Mater, is as important as the slave house. Besides this, there are negroes living in Washington holding positions all the way from diplomatic and consular service to unskilled labor in the patent office.

We have fought in every war since '76, and stand ready with our money and boys, to carry "Old Glory over the top" in France, and bring her home victorious or report to God the reason why.

We love the whole U. S. from Boston, Mass. to Frisco's golden gates. This has been our home since 1819, and we cannot see why foreigners threaten our gates with an open razor.

To sign a food pledge does not necessarily indicate loyalty; not to sign it indicates either disloyalty or plain daftness.

Possibly those Seeadler raiders who referred to "Consul Hackfeld" weren't so far wrong after all.

Some people want to know if more of the Grasshof diary is to be published; others hope not.

Some Americans are known by the company they keep; others by the company they quit.

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The man whose loyalty is above question usually is never questioned about it.

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LETTERS ON TIMELY TOPICS

BETTERING TENEMENT CONDITIONS

Honolulu, T. H. Dec. 20, 1917. Editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin: Sir: In reference to tenement conditions in Honolulu, I am sure of the fact that the only sane and sane program should be mapped out for public opinion must be aroused as to the appalling conditions that exist in the tenements. I could enumerate many tragedies and describe conditions that I have personally seen in one day's visit to this district that would convince any intelligent and fair-minded American citizen of the tenements of Honolulu are a disgrace to the community and the better they are tolerated so long will the moral conditions be at a low ebb.

We must not merely write a few articles on the subject and have a few people comment favorably or unfavorably on the situation, but we must hold fast to our purpose until the tenements of Honolulu are wiped out and particularly until this overcrowding of tenements is stopped.

In visiting the Ah Leong block tenements on Lihua, in Camp Ten, and the large tenement on the waterfront, I found men prowling around and through these buildings. I do not know what their reasons are for doing in this sort of place nor did I compare. I found a large number of Filipinos, and in the majority of cases they were living five or six in a room with one or two women. A large number of young and healthy girls were crowded into these tenements, amidst these appalling conditions. They are pushed from the plantations and no about clean and pure. Their ideals of health and cleanliness must be shocked. We must protect them, for they are utterly helpless, for they have come here in the hopes of good labor or because some foolish step has been taken by their parents.

Any who in any way are profiting by these tenements and the immoral living which is the direct result of the tenement conditions, whether they be high officials or men only intent on making money, should be exposed. It is time we brought about moral cleanliness in Honolulu.

The principles of Christianity and all the purity it stands for that our faithful missionaries tried to impress in the early days should again be forced to the front.

What you can do for this good cause will be appreciated and you can count on me to do anything in my power to help in this direction. "My hat is in the ring" and I am determined to stand by until I see some of these appalling conditions changed, and shall appreciate your fullest cooperation. Yours sincerely, W. E. PIETSCHE.

PROGRESS OF THE NEGRO RACE.

Editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin: Sir: Having read "A Trip Through the States," by a member of the Lewis party, in your paper for two Saturdays in succession, I take the liberty to correct the impression given in this story concerning the negro. Special mention was made of the slave house and darkies picking cotton. We as a people do not consider it fair on anybody's part to write stories about us unless our virtues as well as our faults get publicity.

To tell strangers about our ability to pick cotton without mentioning our ability to practise medicine is unjust. In the same states where the writer saw "darkies" picking cotton, are 57 banks owned and controlled by "darkies." Schools, churches, stores, hospitals, and anything else that anybody else has we have, too. These banks that I speak of do an annual business of \$20,000,000. Again, in the same states are white children whose parents are poor, moored behind the walls of the great cotton factories, spinning and weaving from 8 a. m. to 7 p. m., learning to chew tobacco and dip snuff before they are ten years of age. Ask your delegate about the child labor law that stares Congress in the face.

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RUINING NEW STREETS.

Editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin: Sir: I wonder if other citizens of Honolulu cherish a position in any manner similar to mine on what I consider as an abuse of our city streets and on what is to be an all parent disregard for the possibility that with a continuation of the heavy traffic which is now being Beretania street, for instance, would be a good road and a great one. The city may sooner or later, again be in a deplorable condition.

There is hardly a morning in the week but that heavily laden wagons, hauling possibly from three to five tons of rock, come onto Beretania street by Lualaba street after leaving the beautiful pavement on the extension of King street. Apparently, these wagons have loaded in the vicinity of Honolulu and the drivers seek out their loads into town. It occurs to me that if these drivers, in their operations, employ the drivers, one or both, were compelled by ordinance to keep off of certain streets with heavy draying, that we will have advanced a step towards efficiency and economy in government. It may possibly be said that government money, derived from taxation, contributed to the building of Beretania street and that it would be unconstitutional to attempt to deprive any resident of its use. Some may contend that it would be unfair to attempt to deprive any traffic of the use of any street. Beretania street was constructed under the district improvement plan and was paid for largely by property owners within that district, in addition to county money; which paid the county's share, but irrespective of technical or legal rights, it seems there might be suggested to those who insist on sending a heavy load of stone over the pavement, that if the traffic is allowed to continue, the pavement will not only be spoiled to the future use of the public generally, but spoiled in some measure to the use of even their wagons and all would suffer alike. The issue may have its legal side, no doubt it has, but there is no question in my mind but that there should be recognized a moral side to suggest pride in a good street and in keeping it a good street.

I take the position in all kindness, appreciating that the hauling of stone is a legitimate business and must be performed, but I cannot see why it is necessary that it should be performed over the best streets in town. Many of the drivers are, by action, insolent. They plant their wagons plumb in the middle of the pavement and will not move an inch for anything, but even that can be overlooked if it were not for the fact that the heavy hauling, a tractor with three or four heavily laden trailers each tracking the other, may sooner or later destroy the pavement which we have finally secured for Beretania street after a wait of many years.

Ala Moana is a dirt road and is available and cannot be hurt by any traffic. King street cannot be hurt much for goodness knows it is bad and has been brought to its present condition, very largely, by the same traffic that would now ruin Beretania street. Now that King street is laid, the drivers are bent on shifting to Beretania street, so that that street may be made equally as bad. I consider the situation almost criminal and am informed by the city attorney's department that there is no ordinance which will make it possible to change the situation.

There is reason to feel that the supervisors will appreciate the necessity of some action which will at least attempt to forbid the use of Beretania street, and similarly constructed streets, to traffic of a nature which will injure the pavement. If an ordinance carrying such provision will not stand a constitutional test, then let something else be tried. My only object is to protect the streets. How that may be accomplished is uncertain. Only protect them.

RAYMOND C. BROWN.

APPOINTEES FROM THE MAINLAND.

Editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin: Sir: I read and enjoyed the leading editorial in the Star-Bulletin last Monday. I enjoyed it because I am going to hug to my soul the pleasing notion that I was included in those of a "blotable personality" who are tolerated by the older residents.

The charge brought against the Democratic president of the United States is that he is making federal offices with Democratic appointees from the mainland. I am at a loss to understand why our great president has made this awful error except that he is only following "track in track" on precedent long established and followed by all of our Republican presidents.

President Roosevelt sent over a mainlander and a Republican—a son-in-law of a Republican member of Congress. Mr. Chamberlain was from the good old state of Iowa, and Iowa has the unfortunate habit of regularly casting its votes for a Republican president.

Mr. Taft, following that line, not only sent over a mainlander a Republican, but—over the violent protests of Honolulu—a negro. This negro was from the state of Ohio; and in passing I hope I may be pardoned for saying that the negro vote in Ohio is enormous, in fact they hold the balance of power between the two political parties.

I think I am safe in saying that since annexation every collector of internal revenue has been appointed from the mainland, a Democratic president appointing Democrats, a Republican president appointing Republicans.

The only exception to the above rule was when a Democratic president appointed the late "Jim" Haley, who was for years a resident of Honolulu.

All this I have said in no sense of casting criticism of the editorial, but simply to "keep the records straight."

MALCOLM A. FRANKLIN.

Go to Thrum's for constructive toy games.—Adv.

This Year We Fight

At Christmas we fight fear, we fight cowardice, we fight hate.

We fight to dispense happiness to the down-trodden and distressed and carry Good Will to all mankind.

We fight for the Folks at Home and to widen the circle of thoughtful Good Cheer.

THREE more shopping days before Christmas.

Paid Publicity Serves Shoppers. The general circulation of the Star-Bulletin for Dec. 15 was 8271

BUSINESS INQUIRIES COME TO CHAMBER

A mainland business man writes to the chamber of commerce, asking what chances there are in Honolulu of purchasing a small but first class stationery, library, and art work business.

Inquiry comes also of the possibility of purchasing a first rate boarding house or up-to-date tea room. If there are those in Honolulu who may be interested, additional information can be secured from the secretary of the chamber of commerce.

DIED.

BAILEY—In Honolulu, Hawaii, Dec. 20, 1917, at her late residence 1148 South King street, Mrs. Ella Bailey, sister of Mrs. Col. W. H. Boyle, U. S. Army, retired, and aunt of C. J. Webster, Q. M. Corps, Honolulu, deceased was born in New York City, April 22, 1832. She arrived in Honolulu Nov. 15, 1898. Funeral services will be held at 3 o'clock tomorrow (Friday) afternoon at the undertaking parlors of H. H. Williams, Nuuanu avenue, after which the remains will be cremated and the ashes sent to San Francisco. The cremation will be private. San Francisco papers please copy.

George Cool, business manager of the Hilo Tribune, has left for the Crescent City after a flying trip here on matters connected with improvements in his paper. He says the outlook for the newspaper business on the Big Island is excellent.

HONOLULU REAL ESTATE.

NEIGHBORHOOD OFFERINGS

Look over this list of home offerings. Perhaps you'll find in it some of your own close neighbors whose property values you are thoroughly familiar with.

\$4500—Hayselden Property, Kinau St. 6 rooms; 100x90-ft. lot. Enjoyable home. No. 337

\$4500—Edgcomb Property, Waikiki. 6 rooms, about 50x114 ft. lot. Close to Y. W. C. A. Beach. No. 343

\$2250—Recently Built—Puunui. 6 rooms, 50x100-ft. lot. Near carline. No. 344

\$3500—Noyes Home—Kaimuki Hill. 6 rooms; 150x150-ft. lot. Corner property. No. 132

\$3900—WINSLEY HOME in Puunui. 5 rooms; lot 75x150 feet. Garage. No. 318

\$2800—PANGELINA HOME, Kalihi. 6 rooms; 50x100 lot; near car. No. 319

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