

THE MAUI NEWS

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WILL J. COOPER, : : : EDITOR AND MANAGER

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A PLATFORM UP TO DATE.

The Republican Party of Maui is nothing if not up to date. It is safe to say that no other County will be able to boast a more radical platform on which to place its candidates. Of course, the platform framed by the convention on Thursday cannot become effective unless the legislature frames laws to make it so, but it indicates clearly the progressive attitude of the party on Maui. And there is no doubt that a strong effort will be made to get the various recommendations through the legislature. The so-called short ballot, or commission form of county government, which the platform demands, is along lines of legislation that has been adopted in recent years by some of the most progressive of American cities. Applied to Maui's county government it would put the county's affairs in the hands of a board of supervisors consisting of seven members. These seven would be the only elective offices in the county. The board would appoint all other officials, and the most important of these would be a manager, upon whom the executive duties would largely rest. Provision would be made for removing any of these board members by a vote of the people, in case they proved unsatisfactory.

The idea is new in Hawaii, but it has passed its trial stage on the mainland, and is being adopted by more and more communities. It spells for efficiency by simplifying the machinery of local government. It concentrates the responsibility so that it is easy to detect any shortcomings on the part of the public servants. And it makes it easy to correct errors which may have been made, by the removal, if necessary, of the offending official. By the power of recall the people have constantly a most effective check at their command.

It should be noted, however, that the platform does not call for all these changes to take effect at once. The "short ballot" feature, with the initiative, referendum and recall, and the change in the number of supervisors, and their manner of election, is not to come into effect until 1917. But the discontinuance of an elective chairman and executive officer of the board of supervisors, is urged for application in the coming campaign, as well as the county manager idea.

OVERLOOKING THE MAIN FACTOR.

The Chamber of Commerce devoted an entire meeting this week to discussing ways and means of getting tourists to visit Maui and of taking care of them when they get here. Evidently there is a pretty general agreement that this is an important matter. But not a word was said about the biggest and most vital factor in getting tourists to come to this island. Haleakala is the one thing that the tourist associates in his mind with Maui. But your average globe trotter for pleasure is not an athlete. More often he is a semi-invalid on the shady side of life. He will not straddle a mule for several hours in order to see a sunrise, and he will not come at all if he can't see the only distinctive thing he knows about Maui. How many visitors would Hawaii county have if Kilauea could not be seen except at the cost of severe physical effort?

The only thing that will actually put Maui on the tourist's map is an automobile road to the top of the mountain. This fact might as well be faced. It is a big proposition, but it is pretty much a waste of time to talk tourist business without it. The rest house is a good proposition, as are also better trails, and other things, but they are the details. The big essential is the road. The cost of making the trip to Haleakala's summit is a secondary matter. If it cost but a dollar a head it wouldn't get a big excursion steamer, like the one that will visit Honolulu and Hilo next week, to stop here, because we couldn't handle the crowd.

Hilo got her crater road in a few years time at practically no cost to her. It was made a territorial proposition and territorial prison labor did the work. The Haleakala road can be built the same way if we simply ask for it.

JUSTICE TO THE CANDIDATES.

If a deputy sheriff or a district road overseer chooses to run for county supervisor it is his own business. To call him "insubordinate" or "disloyal" to the present board for doing so is poppycock. Under a policy established by a former board, such candidates were expected to resign their jobs. This doesn't seem fair. The supervisors themselves, do not resign when they begin their campaigns for re-election, and the fact that they are elected and not appointed, does not change the facts. They are responsible to the people just as much as are the county overseers and police officers. But the people of Maui have a right to demand that the county's business shall not suffer while the candidates are out hustling for votes, and this applies to all county officials alike. To force an official to resign when he runs for office, is not right. To stop his pay, while he is away from his post of duty, is right. It is but just to the people who have a right to demand value received for every dollar spent.

Hilo is out to get the big naval squadron, which will visit the Islands this summer, to include the Big Island in its itinerary. She will probably succeed. Maui isn't likely to get in on this big wind-fall, however. The only thing Maui is known by to the outside world, is Haleakala, but without an auto road to the summit, the bluejackets will get a better view of our wonder-mountain from their own decks as they pass by on their way to Kilauea, than the could if they landed.

Kauai now proposes to give the county bonding act a try-out. It will be interesting to see whether the Garden Island has any better results with a plebiscite on this subject than did Maui which tried it twice—and failed.

Some one, who carefully conceals his identity, is trying to wish the job of official movie censor upon Superintendent of Schools Kinney. It is the first inkling we have had that Kinney has any real enemies.

This is the second year of the Maui Junior Baseball League; but the seniors will certainly have to hump themselves if they play any better ball than the kids have shown in the past two Sundays.

Tomorrow is St. Valentine's Day.

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