

## THE MAUI NEWS

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WILL J. COOPER, : : : EDITOR AND MANAGER

FRIDAY : : : : DECEMBER 24, 1915.

### MERRY CHRISTMAS.

The Maui News wishes all its readers a very Merry Christmas.

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LET'S TAKE IT AS A LESSON AND GO AHEAD.

THE MAUI NEWS has no quarrel with County Auditor Wilcox. On the contrary it appreciates the fact that he has done good work in unraveling the tangle in the Makawao and Wailuku waterworks, and that he has not had any too enthusiastic support. Also it credits Mr. Wilcox with being honest and sincere in the discharge of the duties of his office as he understands these duties. Just what the law does require of a county auditor, isn't very clear. But it is clear that it ought to include the checking of the accounts of every official in the county oftener than once in three years. If it does not, that is not Mr. Wilcox's fault.

The point is that very important work that should have been done, has not been done. If Mr. Wilcox believes that this work was a part of his sworn duty, then he must in his own mind stand convicted of neglect. But the MAUI NEWS has not yet so condemned him.

But it is very certain that many persons do believe that the auditor has neglected his duty; and it is very likely that the courts may have to decide whether he is legally so guilty or not. County Attorney Bevins states that it will be his duty to proceed against the Auditor's bondsmen as well as against Edmund Hart's bondsmen, in order to recover the circuit court clerk's shortages.

If the county auditor is not responsible for the checking of county officials' accounts, who is? This is the question that the public demand an answer to. And if nobody can be held so responsible, it is certainly time to condemn the work of the legislature which has made such a situation possible. Mr. Wilcox was elected by the people. It is extremely doubtful whether or not the supervisors can compel him to do anything in the line of his duties; nor if it were his duty to check up the accounts of the county departments, that the supervisors could prevent his so doing. The courts would probably sustain the auditor in compelling the supervisors to pay for all reasonable work necessary in the performance of his duties. Did Mr. Wilcox ever call on the courts to help him?

The question that will have to be answered is simply whether it is up to the auditor to audit the county departments or whether it is not. Nothing else enters into the matter.

We do not believe that Mr. Wilcox was intentionally negligent of his duties, whether he actually was or not; but we do know, and everyone will agree, that any system that does not provide for auditing oftener than once in three or four years, is badly conceived, and sooner or later must come to grief. The thing we want right now is not so much the placing of the blame for something that has happened and cannot be undone but the making impossible of a repetition of such an occurrence. The MAUI NEWS will most cordially join with Mr. Wilcox, and with every other citizen of Maui in working to this end.

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### FINISH THE JOB, MESSRS. SUPERVISORS.

Everything points to the fact that the chloroform sponge is being liberally applied to the Makawao and Wailuku waterworks investigations. Both appear to be on the point of breathing their last. The grand jury of the October term passed the buck back to the supervisors. The county engineer tried to do his duty and collect some back rates from Makawao delinquents, and got sat upon—it was bad politics. The County Auditor submitted a comprehensive report at the last meeting, and the pigeon-hole is yawning for this.

It must not be inferred that absolutely nothing has been done. The supervisors have accomplished something in putting in charge new superintendents for both waterworks systems. In the Wailuku waterworks, at least, this has resulted in the collection of a good bit of money due to the county. But the evident disposition to go no further should be resisted. The fact that the Makawao system is costing the county \$1000 to \$1200 more per month than it returns in revenue; that it has been shown that but a small fraction of the water that enters the pipeline is paid for; that the system is in bad physical condition; and that nothing definite has been done to remedy these conditions, is evidence sufficient that the work so well started is in nowise finished. There is no valid reason why all money owing for water should not be collected, or else lose the use of the water until such debts are paid. There is no reason why every meter should not be registered properly. There is no reason why all the people of Maui should be paying for an inefficient and badly managed piece of property. There is a different of opinion as to whether or not the Makawao system can ever be made to pay its own way. But there is no difference of opinion that it should be operated on a strictly business-like basis as far as management and upkeep are concerned.

It isn't going to do much good to try to fix the blame for past mismanagement, but it is going to be a blot on the record of the present board of supervisors if it sidesteps its duty and permits things to continue to drift.

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### CHRISTMAS.

Another Christmas is at hand, and the struggle in blood-soaked Europe still goes on. Nor is the end in sight. Again on this birthday of the Prince of Peace will the self-styled Christian nations grapple in the deadly strife. Again will suffering wives and mothers, at home in their misery and despair, pray to the gentle Nazarene for peace—and for the victory of their men-folk at the front. Again will American churches be thronged with worshippers, who will on the morrow be again clamoring with tongue and pen for the agencies of war to slay their fellow men. Followers of Christ? Perhaps. But He who taught the love of enemies and the turning of the other cheek to him who smites, must near despair at the irony of such profession.

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Editor Luther D. Timmons, of the Garden Island, has been appointed postmaster at Lihue. Timmons is a good democrat from the land where democrats are the principal crop, which possibly accounts for the appointment in part. It doesn't account for the fact, however, that Mr. Timmons is a deputy tax assessor, secretary of the Kauai chamber of commerce, chairman of the industrial accident board, and a few more things we can't remember off hand. The secret of all this office holding is that Timmons is a hustler and never backs away from hard work.

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Auditor Wilcox might do worse, in spending that \$1000 appropriated by the supervisors for special auditing work, than to employ an expert to trace out the threads of the circuit court accounts tangle to their end. Because the court's work has been interwoven pretty closely with most of the other departments of the country such a checking up would at the same time be a check on the finances of practically the whole county. Now that the results of neglect are apparent, it is high time that we find out just where we do stand.

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Of course it isn't militarism—it's only preparedness. Militarism will take care of itself.

## KAHULUI RAILROAD CO'S Merchandise Department

**WE  
WISH  
YOU  
A  
MERRY  
CHRISTMAS**

Kahului Railroad Company's  
Merchandise Department  
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