

THE MAUI NEWS

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HAWAII AND THE LIQUOR PROBLEM.

Under the caption—"Hawaii should Solve Its Own Liquor Puzzle"—which caption he probably isn't responsible for, Dr. John W. Wadman, superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League of Hawaii, in a recent newspaper article indicates very clearly that this is just what he and his co-workers against the liquor traffic do not want. On the contrary they believe that Congress should legislate booze out of this territory, and indications are quite plain that a strong effort will be made towards this end during the present session.

There is excellent reason to believe that the time is not very far distant when the United States will be a saloonless nation. State after state is going into the dry column. Nineteen are already completely dry, and there is scarcely a commonwealth in the country which has not, under local option, a considerable portion of its territory from which liquor is barred. It seems most likely that very soon one or both of the great political parties will adopt a prohibition plank in its platform, and then the matter will be definitely a national issue, and then the end of King Booze's reign may be considered in sight.

Of course when this time comes, Hawaii will be included; but until that day, any attempt to force upon this territory a restriction that cannot be forced upon any state, is wrong and contrary to the principles of American government. Reformers of all kinds, in their zeal, are generally willing to invoke the old jesuitical axiom that the end justifies the means, and to make use of methods that they themselves would be the first to hold indefensible. The basic idea on which this nation was founded, is that its people should govern themselves. In spite of this underlying principle, it is clear that the founders of the republic themselves were not sure of their ground, but believed some check on the "irresponsible masses" to be necessary; as witness the system of electors in the election of the president, which now means nothing. But this notion that the people cannot be trusted to manage their own affairs still persists; and while we find leading anti-saloon men advocating the privileges of statehood for Hawaii, we find these same advocates working more or less openly to have congress enact special laws for the territory on the grounds that our people are not to be trusted to properly handle their own affairs when it comes to the liquor question.

The United States has become what it has because the responsibility in every line has been placed upon the people themselves. They have gained strength through effort on their own part, and the progress against the use of intoxicants in our country is one of the best examples of the success of the theory. That Hawaii cannot of her own initiative eliminate the saloon evil, is a libel. Hawaii has made good in other directions in equal measure with any of the states. Moreover Hawaii has in the past placed the ban on booze. She can do so again, and is making steady progress in that direction. Unless we are willing to confess that we are unfit for self government in other directions, we have no right to call upon congress to legislate for us in the liquor matter. The idea is not right, and should be resisted.

HOW TO PROTECT THE COUNTY ENGINEER.

Editor Maui News:—In last week's issue of the MAUI NEWS, you refer, editorially, to the road work above Paia, and say that rumor has it that it is a piece of poor work, reflecting no credit on our County Engineer.

As one interested in good roads, and also as one jealous for the good name of our Board of Supervisors, may I say that it is reported that the particular piece of road work to which you refer was done under the immediate direction and supervision of the chairman of the Board of Supervisors, and that the County Engineer is in no way, personally, responsible for it. If this is true, just why it should be true, would be well for the public to know, and, certainly, if it is true, the blame for the poorness of the work, if it be poor work, should not rest on the shoulders of the county engineer.

Yours for efficiency,
PRO BONO PUBLICO

We are certainly glad to be put right on this matter and to know that the county engineer is not responsible for a job that he should be responsible for. Of course the chairman of the board, who is not a technical expert in engineering, and who besides has many other things to do, cannot be held responsible either, even if he be willing to assume the responsibility. Consequently no responsible person is responsible. We would suggest, however, in order that the engineer's reputation may be protected in future instances of this kind, that the jobs in question be suitably placarded.

The Advertiser, of Honolulu says that the administration is responsible for the deaths of Americans on board vessels torpedoed by German or Austrian submarines. Such an assertion is as unwarranted as it is untrue. President Wilson has the confidence and backing of the American people in the course he has taken in these matters. About the only other alternative that might be taken would be to plunge into the general carnival of slaughter going on in Europe, and America is not ready for that. Besides such an alternative is not in the province of the President. There is a good deal of loose talk these days that fortunately is not likely to do much harm, and certainly can do no good.

Dr. Durney's idea of a school for the children patients of the Kula Sanitarium, as well as for other children of the district who would benefit by attending school in a clean and sanitary school room, and by receiving a hot, nutritious meal at mid-day, is one that should become a reality at once. There are already 8 children in the sanitarium who have no school facilities, and there are 20 or 30 in the neighborhood who should have some special attention, such as he proposes. The county has the money for such a school on hand right now. It couldn't spend a part of it in a better way.

Honolulu is setting an excellent example these days of how county governments should not be handled. The plan of creating as many jobs as possible and of splitting up the authority in proportion, is the thing that all American communities are getting away from as fast as possible. It has been tested for a century and it doesn't work.

record of not a single drunk at the New Year's races while some time there was no restriction on the sale of liquor, should be of much significance. People of Hawaii, as elsewhere, are simply getting out of the habit of drinking as they used to drink. As a Maui liquor dealer puts it—the liquor business is dying a natural death.

Between the national guard ball and the races and frontier sports celebration, Maui had a New Year's celebration such as she has never had before. To the officers of the Third Regiment, and to Messrs. McPhee and Locey, the public owes a strong debt of appreciation.

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