

THE MAUI NEWS

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FRIDAY : : : : : JANUARY 10, 1919.

ON CONSERVING THE LABOR SUPPLY

Word comes from Washington that there is no hope of any action at the present session of the Congress on Kuhio's bill to admit 30,000 Chinese laborers to Hawaii, owing to the congestion of the congressional calendar. There is very good evidence also that the bill would receive scant shift even if it did get acted upon.

With hundreds of thousands of soldiers to be turned back into civil life, there is little sentiment in the Congress or elsewhere in the country to consider with favor any kind of immigration at present. Representative Lufkin, of Mass., has already introduced a bill in the House prohibiting all immigration to the United States for a number of years.

What Hawaii is going to do for labor is a hard nut to crack. There is one thing that can and should be done, however, and that is to conserve such labor as we have in every way possible. We have not been doing this in the past. We are not doing it now.

One of the best anchors for any man or family, regardless of race, or station in life is a home. Some one has asserted that no man will fight very hard to defend his boarding-house, though he will fight to the last drop of his blood to defend his home. It is just as true that no man will ever consider a domicile on a sugar plantation a home, be it 2-room camp shack or a manager's mansion. Unless he can own it from the center of the earth to the stars above, it will remain to him a temporary abode.

No matter how much he is paid, in his mind he will plan some time to leave it and to find a real home. And his children will leave it, nine times out of ten, as soon as they are able to shift for themselves.

A complete reversal of the present land policy of the sugar plantations would doubtless put a stop to this constant, always expensive, and now really serious drifting away of people who should form the foundation of the Islands' population.

If, instead of the present congested plantation camps, well laid-out villages could be substituted, and the houses and lots therein be made available by purchase to the workers, it would certainly work for more contentment and permanency than the present system.

Outside of the scattered kuleanas and other small holdings and the comparatively small area of government land, all land of whatever character is corporation owned, and is not for sale on any terms.

If the plantations would eschew everything but sugar lands, and were willing to dispose of the rest in small tracts, there would be a powerful incentive to hold people in the Islands that is now lacking.

Though he might never realize his dream of becoming a land owner, the fact that such possibility was open to him (and more particularly to his children) would do much to keep many a laborer for the cane fields who otherwise would have but one motive—that of saving enough money to get away.

With the county fairs, children's garden contests, working reserve movements, etc., a good start has been made towards teaching a love for the soil in the coming generation. And there is no question but this kind of endeavor could be greatly extended with most beneficial results—to the children.

But that the Islands are to get much benefit therefrom is doubtful. Rather is California and other states likely to reap the benefit, until Hawaii is able to at least offer a real home to her children.

LESSONS FROM LAHAINA

Carelessness engendered by long immunity is responsible for Lahaina's heavy loss last Saturday night. There was plenty of water available, hose was supplied quite promptly, and the fire might have been checked before it had gained much headway had there been a means of connecting the hose to the fire hydrants. But by the time this all-important bit of metal tubing was located the fire was practically out of control.

Nobody, perhaps, was responsible—nobody in particular to blame. It was simply a case of community neglect and carelessness.

An organized fire department would perhaps not be justified in Lahaina, but there is no excuse for not having simple, dependable fire-fighting apparatus ready for emergency. And more important than all, some one person whose duty it is to see that such apparatus is at all times in serviceable condition.

The county should provide several light reels of hose at convenient points in Lahaina, and should make it a punishable offense for any person (including county officials and employees) to use such hose for other than fire purposes. It should be made the duty of the county sheriff, or other department head, to see that such apparatus be tested at regular intervals to insure its always being in good condition.

It would seem that the fire underwriters have not been blameless in connection with this Lahaina disaster. We do not recall ever having heard of a protest being filed with the supervisors as to the condition of the fire apparatus in Lahaina, or recommendations by the underwriting board of obviously needed improvements.

What has just been said concerning the conditions at Lahaina applies in considerable measure in Wailuku and other places. Here we have a cumbersome chemical fire engine—which is about as unreliable as it would be possible to imagine. The last time a fire call was sounded it was impossible to even start the motor to get the truck out of its shed.

In our climate, with no freezing weather to menace, perhaps one of the most efficient protections would be a plentiful supply of the small 3- or 5-gallon hand chemical extinguishers.

One of these should be hung conspicuously every few rods along a street like Market street, with instructions for using posted in various languages along side each one. Were these then kept in good order, and some little effort made to educate the public in their use, they should go a long way towards safeguarding against the fire menace.

Wailuku's Seagrave fire truck cost some \$7000. It is a good piece

of apparatus, but it belongs in the equipment of a well organized paid fire department and not in a country village. The cost of this one engine, if invested in several hundred chemical hand extinguishers, supplemented, perhaps, by one of the small Ford car chemical engines and hose carriers, which almost everybody understands driving, should make Wailuku one hundred percent safer from fire than it is at present.

AND STILL THEY DEMAND REAPPORTIONMENT

We have it on the authority of the Honolulu newspapers that Oahu's roads "would be a disgrace to any community"; that Honolulu has no free garbage collection system; that her parks are "shabby and disheveled and rapidly getting worse"; that Waikiki beach, "famed throughout the world as a great bathing beach and pleasure resort, is a ghastly joke"; that Honolulu streets are "defaced by hideous billboards that are not only unsightly but a positive menace to life"; that her "gutters and storm drains are choked with debris"; and that "shabby and disreputable tenements offend the eye and breed disease and immorality".

And we also gather from the same source that the cause of all this is because Honolulu is run by "peanut politicians." Furthermore that the municipal government "is a disgrace." That Honolulu's mayor is "elected not to advance the interests of Honolulu, but because petty politicians prefer him to a good man"; because they have "a board of supervisors composed of men who are too indolent, too selfish and too small-minded to place the welfare of the city before their own selfish interests"; in short because the present board of supervisors is "incomparably the worst Honolulu ever had" (that's going some!); and "has not done one thing to warrant commendation. It has neglected its work, betrayed the municipality, presented a disgusting spectacle of selfish and puerile squabbling ever since it was elected to office."

To the Honolulu supervisors we are told, "the appointment of a school janitor is of more importance than the building of a road"; and "some of the members don't take the trouble to attend meetings of the board for weeks at a stretch".

And still these same Honolulu newspapers express pained surprise that the rest of the territory looks askance at the suggestion of a reapportionment in the legislature that would put us all at the mercy of this same regime of inefficiency or worse!

WHERE POLLY ANNA PHILOSOPHY IS NEEDED

A lot of food for thought is contained in two small tables of statistics in Governor McCarthy's report to the Secretary of the Interior, recently published. It is shown by these figures that during the past fiscal year ending June 30, 1918, there were more departures, of every race in the Islands, than there were arrivals, excepting only Filipinos and Japanese women. In other words, all that the territory gained during the year through immigration was 1206 Filipinos, 1086 Japanese women, and 34 Chinese women and children.

A table covering steerage arrivals and departures for the past 8 years tells the same story. Every race save only the Japanese and Filipinos have lost by departures more than they have gained by arrivals, the Japanese gaining 1690 and the "little brown brothers", 17,169.

We have made some gain in population through births, however, all races save only the pure Hawaiians showing a small increase in the 8 years, after allowing for the departures and deaths. But this total gain from births and arrivals over deaths and departures, for the period, amounts to but 43,922, an average of less than 5500 per year. Of these the Japanese account for 42 percent and the Filipinos for 38 percent.

About the only consolation we can draw from these figures is that it might be worse. Most of the new arrivals are American citizens by birth and our missionary instincts should thrill at the opportunity we have of educating them and otherwise preparing them for their future work in the Orient or in the mainland states. We can look for our reward in the hereafter, for we cannot hope, as things are at present, to keep them permanently in the Islands.

Maunaolu Seminary Makes Good Record

Maunaolu Seminary made some good records for the last term, according to a report which has just been made out, and covering the term ending December 21. The standing of the 7th and 8th grades by pupils is as follows:

VIII Grade	
Lillnoe Rowland	92
Ngit Ngoo Lee	91
Eather Peary	90
Ellen Luke	90
Rose Ah Nee	90
Lucy Lono	88
Annie Keanu	86
Mabel Huewaa	83

VII Grade	
Yoshino Takayama	91
Hannah Shim	87
Lily Iwata	86
Kealoha Kaaihue	85
Emma Jeremiah	84
Annie Kawaakoa	81

Pupils standing 100% in written examinations:
Music
Esther Feary and Ngit Ngoo Lee.
Grammar Yoshino Takayama.
Spelling Lucy Lono.

EUREKA, California, Dec. 27—(By Associated Press.)—The three sons of Mrs. Charles Shepherd living near here all have lost their eyesight, either wholly or in part, as the result of accidents.

William Shepherd is in a local hospital recovering from the effects of the removal of an eye which was injured when struck by a flying piece of board in a mill where he was working.

James Shepherd, his small brother, lost an eye several years ago when struck by a jack knife while at play. The other eye became affected and the boy is totally blind.

Grove Shepherd, another brother, lost an eye in a dynamite explosion.

Lumber Prices Do Big Aviation Stunt

Nor'West Yesterday Jumped \$6.30 And Redwood \$5 Per M.—Resumption Of Building On Coast Probable Reason—New High Record

The end of the war has failed to bring down the high cost of living in Maui, in so far as building construction is concerned. On the contrary the cost of rough lumber is going skyrocketing in the past few weeks above its already high price.

The Kahului Railroad Company sent out a new list yesterday morning showing a big advance on both nor-west and redwood, and this on top of a \$2.80 advance on redwood on December 28.

The increase noted in the new list on all sizes of merchantable grade nor-west lumber, is \$6.30 per thousand. The advance on extra merchantable redwood is an even \$5 per thousand.

Rough nor-west now costs at Kahului from \$55 to \$66 per thousand, according to size, and ordinary flooring has advanced from \$61.70 to \$68 with additional cost for special stock.

Rough redwood now costs from \$57.15 for 2 x 4s of shorter lengths (the cheapest size) to \$63.15 for 1 x 12, and up to as high as \$75.15 for some sizes.

Shingles have also followed suit, redwood shingles jumping from \$1.45 per bundle, to \$1.65; and cedar from \$1.65 to \$1.80 per bundle.

A revival of building operations on the coast, following a general curtailment of such work during the war, is presumed to be the cause of the upward trend of lumber prices in general. Nor, according to those in position to know conditions, does there seem any likelihood that prices will go downward at any early date. The present prices are probably the highest ever known in the Islands.

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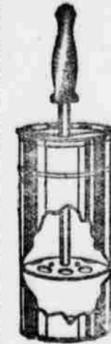
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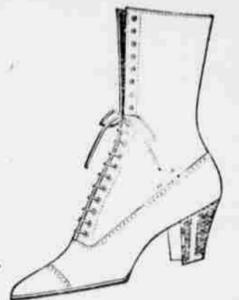
M. Uyeno, Kahului Agent

Jack Linton, Wailuku Agent.

HONOLULU

LADIES' BLACK KID LACE BOOTS

\$5. \$5.50 and \$6.



We recently received these, lace boots with cloth tops, and are able to sell them at the prices quoted. We cannot buy more to sell at this price, our advices from the manufacturers being conclusive that shoes will cost more.

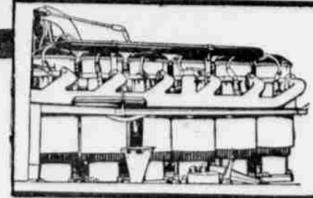
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