

THE MAUI NEWS

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WILL J. COOPER : : EDITOR AND MANAGER
 FRIDAY : : : : MAY 28, 1920.

HIGH FINANCE AND ELECTRIC COMPANIES

We are using a good deal of space in this issue in publishing a letter from Robert E. Bond, president of the Island Electric Co., because the subject matter of that letter is a very live issue in Maui just at present. Also for the reason that the letter is of no more importance or interest to the editor of this paper, to whom it is addressed, than to any one of the several hundred residents of Wailuku and Kahului who are victims of the Island Electric Company's frailties.

We do not intend to comment upon the different points touched upon by Mr. Bond. Most of his arguments and conclusions are not new to Maui people. Nor are his fallacies and misconceptions new or any less apparent.

He, as usual, does not appear to suspect that the lack of support he complains of may just possibly be due to some of his own natural peculiarities.

And while some parts of his letter seem calculated to arouse sympathy for a man who has carried on for 8 or 9 years a fight against heavy odds, and for that man's family, in whom he has vested most of the title to the property for which he struggled, still it must also be remembered that for all this length of time the public has been helpless; forced to pay an outrageous price for a service that has almost from the first been inefficient in the extreme.

The community, which presumably should have something to say about what it pays for, in this case apparently has had no rights at all; and Mr. Bond strongly hints that it even now has no right to get up on its hind legs and assert itself under the goading it has been getting. He suggests that it has been guilty of conspiracy!

And this is the real fallacy in Mr. Bond's reasoning. The thing which probably has in the past and which will defeat him now in his plans, is the idea that a public utility is some kind of a gold mine for its owners. Mr. Bond is about fifty years behind the times. Time was when a public utility franchise was a license to bleed a helpless community. That day is no more. Hawaii may be a little behind but it is nearly enough up with the procession to make it absolutely ridiculous for Mr. Bond to compare the dividends of an industrial corporation like the Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Co., with those of the Island Electric. He perhaps may properly use the Hawaiian Electric as a criterion, but it must be remembered that the value of any such public utility lies not in the big dividends it pays but like a bank, in the money represented in its property and in its permanence and stability as an asset.

There is little doubt that some day there will be a big electric company on Maui, and it is also true that those who own it will have a very high grade of investment because it will be practically guaranteed by the public it serves. But it is also true that that same public which makes for such soundness will never long submit to being bled at a rate that will pay 33 percent dividends which some of Mr. Bond's literature suggests is possible. And the public will hold the whip hand.

Any man who contemplates putting his money into an electric company on Maui has a right to expect only two things—first, making a sound investment that will return a moderate interest rate; and second helping boost his community as any good citizen should be glad to do.

THE MEASURE OF A SCHOOL TEACHER

A lot of school teachers in Honolulu and perhaps elsewhere are making much noise over the decision of the school department to spend 30 minutes to the school day. We'll say we are disappointed.

If the average woman isn't able to spend 25 hours a week in the school room there is certainly something radically wrong with present day methods of instruction. Teachers used to take it as a matter of course that they should teach for 6 hours a day.

We know all about the argument of having to come half an hour before school opens, and of the mass of work that has to be done in the evening, and our opinion still holds—that something is wrong with the present method.

Granted the nerve-strain and all the rest of it, it is hard to believe that the thousands and thousands of women who work at other occupations from 8 to 10 hours a day instead of half that number, and for 6 days a week instead of 5; and for 12 months in a year instead of 9, have all the best of it.

The truth is that school hours have always been short—not out of consideration for the teachers, but for the children; and for the further reason originally that the children were needed at home to do the chores. But the modern idea is inclining to the belief that neither of these reasons are well founded and that instead, the child should thrive on proper education every hour he is awake.

The Maui News believes, and has steadily contended, that the salary should be paid on so high a scale that a big lot of the present teachers would have to buck up a lot to hold their jobs in competition with the new ones. The letter brains that these high salaries would certainly attract from other fields. It believes that our national schools are woefully supported, and that the very safety of our nation is menaced by this lack of support. We believe that more money spent on education—which is real American—would require less money to be spent in big armies and navies; because intelligence in a nation is a safeguard in itself.

There isn't a doubt in the world that teachers are imposed upon by some burdensome regulations. It is a dead sure thing that they get the worst of it when they are expected to teach classes that are double or more the size they should be. It is true that equipment is too often insufficient and inadequate so that a teacher's work is made harder hereby.

But none of these things are good grounds for shorter hours. They should be inspiration for real, concerted, intelligent effort on the part of the teachers for the bettering of these conditions and not for mere complaints and fault finding. The real teacher will not be carping about the length of the school day, or be found trying to measure their teaching by the size of their salary warrant.

FOR THE GOOD OF MAUI

The Boy Scouts of Maui are to hold a whirl-wind drive for funds to make up their budget of \$2000. This was decided upon by the executive committee of the Maui council at a meeting held last Tuesday afternoon. The drive is to start next Tuesday and will be in the hands of the Scouts themselves.

The Boy Scout work on Maui is something that deserves the whole-hearted support of every person, because everybody is, directly or indirectly getting something from the movement. It is making better boys and is making Maui a better place in which to live. Think of this when a Boy Scout asks you for a contribution—and then dig up liberally.

Of course the tourist who happens along just now will be hard to convince that the present spell of hot weather is very unusual. But the truth is the kamaainas are probably suffering from the heat more than the newcomers are.

FRIENDS OF THE HAWAIIANS

Hawaiians, who of course are as much American citizens as though they had been born in Boston, ought to be highly gratified with Senator John Wise and others who have apparently firmly fixed their status in an entirely different light in the minds of the people of the mainland. "A benevolent policy has been particularly true of our attitude towards the American Indians and the Hawaiians," is the way Congressman Jared Y. Sanders, of Louisiana, put his conceptions in a speech before Congress a few weeks ago.

"I would like to ask a question as to one thing," said Congressman Monahan, of Wisconsin, of Secretary Lane during a hearing of the House committee on territories on the Wise proposition. "You speak about the Hawaiians not being considered able to grasp our system of government for the reason that they have been a communistic community and had feudalism for centuries, and not being able to grasp the situation as we have another system of government. Have they the same characteristics along that line as the American Indians?"

"Yes, I think it is the same," was Secretary Lane's reply. And the bill passed the House last Saturday without amendment and probably will also pass the Senate and become a law. The next thing we shall expect to hear is of a proposal to shove the Hawaiians off in a corner somewhere known as a reservation, and to have a commissioner appointed to look after them just like is done with the Indians.

Moonshine whiskey is selling at from \$60 to \$120 per gallon on the mainland, Secretary of the Treasury Houston reports. The Secretary's long arm evidently doesn't reach to Hawaii because booze here has advanced only about normally with the rest of the high cost of living. The Islands still maintain their reputation as the cheapest place to live in the United States.

It is no more than good common sense to buy from Mr. Merchants whenever possible. You wouldn't be able to get along without them and it is scarcely fair to use them simply as a convenience.

Its coming! The mud batteries have found Superintendent MacCaughy's range. Wonder if he'll be buried by the storm as have been all his predecessors?

Better take your coal oil lamps—hously—it looks like a long dark spell.

Don't forget to display your Flag on Sunday—Memorial Day.

OPEN FORUM

DR. GOODHUE FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE
 Editor Maui News

Dear Sir: In regard to your editorial note in the NEWS of May 14th, referring to myself and woman suffrage on Molokai, it appears to be the "irony of fate" that mere statement of unfavorable fact as to an actual condition, is so often taken to mean adverse criticism.

Mr. Roosevelt was accused of pro-Germianism once by some one because he said the American people were asleep, lethargic, indifferent to the real issues of the War!

My interest in woman suffrage began years ago, and I assisted my old friend Bob Burdette in his personal campaign, as I happened to be on his doorstep at Los Angeles the day the California vote was taken.

My defense of the rights of woman and their suffrage may be found in a 55-page booklet—two editions of which were published in the United States and England: "Letters of Junius Commodius Brutus, 2nd. ed. Sept. 1913."

My reference to suffrage on Molokai at all was only to nail a fact to the

board; a well granted one all over, that Women (as well as men) are too indifferent to their political privileges—or possible rights.

I don't remember "intimating" that "all the suffrage talk comes from but a few women with unusually active tongues and strong lung power," but if I did do so, I referred only to the restatement that Molokai was all enthusiasm over suffrage, and not to the matter of suffrage itself.

In Honolulu I am told that those most prominent in outside politics are not the most representative women there, and it may well be. Perhaps the others do not have time to canvass. What with home duties and children, their time is taken. But even so, they have a great work at home in inculcating principles which they can so splendidly do.

Perhaps some of you may remember that at the territorial republican convention, a few years ago, Rev. Mr. Desha and myself were the members of the committee to draft a platform, who approved of and got up to defend, the woman suffrage provision of the final draft.

I trust you will do the justice to publish this letter.

Pukoo, Molokai, May 19, 1920.
 E. S. GOODHUE.

House Has Passed Wise's Hawaiian Rehabilitation Act

WASHINGTON, May 23—The Hawaiian homestead bill introduced by Delegate Kalaniana'ole, providing for the reserving of approximately 200,000 acres of land in the Hawaiian Islands for homestead sites was passed by the house of representatives yesterday

without amendment. The vote was 244 in the affirmative to 14 in the negative.

Under terms of the measure the homestead lands would be available only to members of the Hawaiian race. The Hawaiian legislature urged action by congress and sent a delegation headed by Governor McCarthy to Washington toward this end. Supporters of the homestead measure expect to prove of importance in rehabilitating the Hawaiian race, which, they say, is fast dying out.

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