

THE MAUI NEWS

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JOSEPH H. GRAY : : : EDITOR

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MISUNDERSTANDING AS TO BONUS.

Nothing so unfortunate has arisen in Hawaii industrial circles for a long time as the misunderstanding of the working out of the bonus system in the final payment of bonus this year. It is certain to prove a difficult task to convince the day laborer who does not get the final bonus expected by him that he has not been deceived, "double crossed", that what is justly coming to him is not being withheld from him. And yet, nothing that has been earned by him or was promised to him is being withheld.

The bonus system is designed to let the laborer share in the profits of the employer. Those profits are not determined from month to month but only at the end of the year. It is for the convenience of the worker, to enable the one who has not savings upon which to draw during the year to live better than would otherwise be possible, that it was arranged to make payments of parts of the coming bonus each month. The bonus is based on the prevailing price for the entire year, the payments made on the prevailing price for the month.

The year just ending has been one of abnormalities. Raw sugar prices went to unbelievable heights. Had there been an established, steady, fixed price for the whole year the laborer this year would have found his final payment a fourth of what he had already received. So also, if he had worked approximately the same number of days every month, such would have been the case.

However, when the bonus ranged from 400 per cent to 500 and more per cent for the month, the worker wanted every day of labor at such wage he could crowd into those months, but when the bonus fell away he was ready to live on the honey of the previous rich periods and drone along with only enough days to get in on the bonus at the smaller rate. He did not think, he did not realize that his bonus, like the company dividends could only be based on the average price for the year of raws, on the average bonus rate. When he drew 28 days in a fat month and only 20 in a lean one, he destroyed the equilibrium, he was drawing upon his account, that account being the final bonus payment.

It may be said that the office of the planters' association should have made this clear in the information given out for publication in its circulars and it must be admitted it would have been better so, but it is too late now for that. The difficulty is for the plantation companies to make uneducated and illiterate workers understand the true facts, that they are not being unfairly treated, and the difficulty is a serious one. Disappointment and dissatisfaction of the workers will have a tendency to disturb the harmony for which the sugar interests of the islands have been honestly and conscientiously working. The planters are right but can the laborer be made to understand? It is hoped so and here is an opportunity for the foreign language press to help and not to hinder, to aid in explaining the situation to its readers.

COUNTY LIBRARY PLAN.

Consideration may well be given to the plan for county libraries in the Territory outlined in an article on the first page of this issue of Maui News. Senator Rice wrote from Honolulu last week that he believed the legislature would be in a position to give the subject attention at the coming regular session of the legislature.

Book lovers, readers, students on Maui have long wanted something more in the way of a library than has been obtainable. This can be said without belittling the efforts of those who have undertaken to give them something and the little library in Alexander Settlement has brought joy if not content to numbers who have availed themselves of it. But there have been efforts made to secure for this county such a library, at least, as Hilo has. It is therefore recommended that all those interested in the subject give careful perusal to the proposed plan.

Without going deeply into that plan it would appear that it has much to commend it and little that is objectionable. If it were proposed that there should be a branch of the Library of Hawaii in each county that wanted one and was willing to contribute therefor, it would be objectionable but on the face of it this appears not to be the case. There is to be a central distributing point in the county seat where a library can be built up through money raised by county taxes. But more, that library is to have the privilege of drawing upon the territorial library, the Library of Hawaii, for such books as readers may desire and which are not on the shelves of the county library.

Such arrangement is eminently proper for there are territorial appropriations made for the support of the Library of Hawaii, thus every county has been contributing to the support of the central library. It should be added, however, that the management of the library has sought to make it available, so far as might be, to residents of the other islands.

Miss Allyn has dwelt on the phase of supplying books to the schools at considerable length and the plan in that respect is admirable but Mauiites want something for the adults as well as the children and something for residents other than teachers as well as for the teachers. New novels are interesting, entertaining and amusing but there are readers of other works than novels. With a catalogue or card index in each library showing what works are contained in and can be drawn from the territorial library that difficulty would be, in part at least, settled.

Maui Woman's Club is to take up the subject of books and libraries next month, it is said, and in connection with its other deliberations may well consider the proposal made by Miss Allyn through Senator Rice.

LANGUAGE SCHOOL LEGISLATION.

Control and supervision of foreign language schools has been voted by the legislature at its special session and the effort made to eliminate them has failed. Proposed amendments which, it is claimed, would operate to eliminate such schools at once were also defeated. There have been concessions made by both sides, by those who honestly believe in the elimination of foreign tongue schools, and most especially the Japanese schools, and by the Japanese.

While the subject is disposed of for the present it is hard to believe that it is absolutely settled and it seems to be a safe forecast that elimination of such schools will come in the end with a more general teaching of the Japanese language.

There was an outstanding feature in the public hearings which is worthy of comment, the stand of the American Legion and the views of the accredited representative of the sugar planters which are not, after all, so widely apart. Mr. W. O. Smith, speaking for the adoption of the senate measure said he believed that further legislation would come and that, in time, Japanese would be made a course in the public schools but that funds needed were not at this time available. J. K. Butler speaking for the American Legion, said the Legion did not oppose the bill, that it is a step in the right direction, but that the Legion wanted elimination of every un-American feature of such schools and would not be satisfied till it got them. He also inclined toward the teaching of Japanese in the public schools.

During the 1919 session of the legislature the writer talked with members of the education committees of both houses and advocated the making of Japanese an optional course in the public schools. The objection was then offered that funds were not available, as is now offered,

The Optimistic Pessimist

In former days when a Wailuku resident called up some one in Pala, Haiku or Makawao and could not get an answer he was sore and perhaps cursed a little. Now he charges up to profit the toll he does not have to pay because of failure to connect.

This time the newspapers do not have to scold the legislators for dilatory practices at the session. Seems as if the voters may have been pretty well represented by the men sent to Honolulu.

It has been impossible to run a territorial fair in Honolulu at a profit. Perhaps that's the reason some Oahu legislators sought to oppose exempting Maui Fair property from taxation. Nevertheless they will be welcome to come over and enjoy the property every fair season if they wish.

Congress will convene next week but it will not be a Wilsonian body. It will give the wisecracks in Hawaii another opportunity to criticize and give long distance advice as to how to run the country and the universe.

Even if all the teachers did not get all they hoped for in increased pay there's a large number of struggling girls who wear brighter smiles. It was a real Thanksgiving day for them yesterday.

Tire prices have hit the toboggan and slid downward. Hilo folk can now cheer up, rubber boots and rain coats may be the next to decline. At that Maui could use a little of the Hilo moisture.

One good thing about Christmas is that it gives some folk the opportunity to pass along the gifts they received last year and could find no use for. Truly it is more pleasant to give than to receive, sometimes.

Inventors of business efficiency systems at least widen the field for the employment of bookkeepers. They can make three bloom where one blossomed before.

In the last hours of the legislative session the senate as a body gulped down and swallowed a nauseous dose, the "Rehabilitation Bill" was endorsed. Maui's three senators wouldn't take the mess and all three voted "No!"

Those who want to know what the Fair and Racing Association does between times might take a stroll through the Fair grounds. They would have their question answered.

Most of the pleasure of having anything is in the getting, and most of the rest is in the sharing.

Nothing helps and strengthens a person so much as to help others. Some few persons think, others think they think and still others try to find out what others think. The last class are good listeners and are usually popular.

It sounds paradoxical but he who frequently looks within has the broadest outlook.

and it must be admitted the objection is valid. But if the ways an' means can be found to make available the funds now spent by the Japanese for the maintenance of their schools, such optional courses could be established. The writer believes such a plan will be the ultimate settlement of the foreign language school problem and there will be no thoroughly satisfactory settlement till it does come.

OREGON SHOWS WAY.

Without public funds available the state of Oregon has made some wonderful strides in a branch of welfare work that is coming in for attention on Maui and in all the Territory and as to one phase of which this Island will soon hear something from Dr. Hoag, student in and expert on child psychology.

Oregon has undertaken to learn the cause of human failure, of the down and outer. Its undertaking is for the purpose of preventive treatment, to learn the cause in order that it can be eliminated. Such topics as feeble-mindedness, subnormality and abnormality come in connection with the investigation.

Oregon is setting an example which can be imitated elsewhere, including here. But, departing somewhat from it, remembering the "child is father to the man", it is well to learn the causes of delinquency, of subnormality and mental deficiencies and defects in the child before grown to manhood and to seek the elimination of the cause in the earliest phases of its effects. On Maui, with the machinery of the schools and with proper probation officers who would go into the subject scientifically, real results can be secured at a comparatively small cost.

How Oregon is working is told elsewhere in this issue.

ALL ROILED UP.

It has really been to bad to roil up the placidity of Honolulu, to embitter the sweet waters of contentment and self satisfaction and to make the Tizer and the Starbul rear right up on their hind legs and roar and "holler", but that is what has been done.

It was early in the special session that Senator Baldwin introduced a concurrent resolution to ask congress to amend the Organic Act in regard to reapportionment and only two Oahu senators voted against his resolution, whereupon he gravely thanked his Oahu supporters for their assistance. And the Starbul thought for a day or two it was a joke and poked fun at the Oahu senators. But reapportionment is an open and festering sore for Honolulu and the Tizer hollered. A little later two Oahu senators tried to undo the Baldwin resolution with a counter one, and it failed, whereupon Senator Judd did wax sarcastic and thanked the senators from the other counties.

Thereupon did the Starbul fail longer to see anything amusing and howled out loud in its editorial columns just as had the Tizer.

One of the best known soap advertisements of a few years ago pictured a crying baby seeking to reach a cake of soap just beyond its grasp. Oahu and the Honolulu papers reaching always for reapportionment on a basis of population without regard to territory and land area are reminiscent of the baby that "won't be happy till he gets it." But in this case reapportionment is different from soap, the baby couldn't be trusted with it.

Because auto owners pick up and carry to town less fortunate neighbors the Manoa line of the Honolulu Rapid Transit and Land Company is a losing venture, reports the company. If Manoaites are so inconsiderate of the welfare of the corporation the board of supervisors will have to step in and pass amendments to the traffic ordinance making it a misdemeanor for an autoist to take a prospective passenger from the street car line. Half the fine imposed might be paid over to the company as liquidated damages.

Hawaii is to be excluded from the proposed new restrictions against Japanese immigration, say reports from Tokio. However, Hawaii will be included in the rights and privileges the United States extends to Nippon, so it will be all right—for the Japanese.

It might save time for congress in drawing and engrossing bills to pass forthwith an act to the effect that no legislation appropriating funds for any purpose whatever shall apply to the Territory of Hawaii unless the measure shall specifically provide that Hawaii be included.

Paradise of the Pacific Christmas number is one that must please all lovers of the beautiful but it has an especial charm and attraction to the newspaper man and the practical printer who understand the work, effort and pains attaching to the issuance of such excellence in typography and print.

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From remarks of some of the senators to Superintendent MacCaughy of the department of public instruction he might be inclined to think they do not consider his office force so hard worked as he had believed.

Christmas next. Four weeks will bring the hurry on the scurry of the last minute preparations one always has so much time to arrange before, if he only would.

It is an Oahu man who suggests that the slogan of the Hawaiian senate should be "Maui no ka oi."—Pacific Commercial Advertiser.

Teachers, those who have been least paid, at least, have reason to rejoice in the action taken by the legislature.