

# THE MAUI NEWS

Entered at the Post Office at Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii, as second-class matter.

A Republican Paper Published in the Interest of the People  
Issued Every Friday.

MAUI PUBLISHING COMPANY, LIMITED,  
Proprietors and Publishers.

M. R. PEREIRA, Manager

SUBSCRIPTION RATES, \$2.50 PER YEAR IN ADVANCE

JOSEPH H. GRAY : : : EDITOR  
FRIDAY : : : MAY 13, 1921

## HAWAII'S LABOR PROBLEM.

Recently the Star-Bulletin furnished some highly illuminating figures on the labor shortage in the Islands, apropos at a time when a labor commission is starting for Washington. The decrease in available labor for the Islands' leading crop was made perfectly clear.

It is no new problem the sugar industry faces, but one it has had to meet almost from the outset, simply the situation is more serious now. The Islands must have field labor; they differ from other producing sections where there is a large and crowded population and one suited for such work. Experiments of the past show that the second or third generation drifts away from the fields. Oriental labor could be most readily secured, now as in the past, if the laws would permit. To secure such permission the commission goes to Washington.

It sounds plausible enough to say that the planters could secure labor from the mainland or from Europe if they would pay enough, but experience shows such is not the case. Long before the price of sugar declined Japanese by the hundreds had planned to draw their bonus and pay and leave for their old homes. If the Japanese would not stay could whites be expected to? Experience in other lines of business does not show it. Many come to the Islands to see them, and then drift away, take places in the commercial world for a time, and then go onward. The majority who come do not remain permanently. This is evidenced with school teachers also. Pay the laborer a wage sufficiently higher than that prevailing on the mainland and they would come. For a time they would stay and then, when they had saved and set aside, back to the old home they would go.

So it appears that Hawaii's labor problem is not only not new, but is one which will not stay solved for much longer than a single generation. It is like Banquo's ghost, simply will not down and stay down.

## MAUI'S CHILDREN'S HOME.

Now there is starting on Maui a campaign to raise funds for a children's home. There is to be a luau and sports for the benefit of the project on Kamehameha Day and committees to assist in raising funds for the beneficence are being selected from all districts of the Island. It will take time and it will take effort to push the plans through to completion, but the splendid purpose that is back of the proposal makes any effort that may be undertaken by either individual or community well worth while.

It is not so long ago that Maui folk financed the project of a sanitarium at Kula, and the Children's Home proposal is one which has much or more appeal to it than had the sanitarium idea. And as the Kula Sanitarium became a reality so, this paper believes, will the Children's Home reach realization in the near future. The project, besides having an equal or greater appeal than the Sanitarium, is quite as worth while and fully as great liberality as was shown on the former occasion may be expected now. There is quite as much reason for the same or a greater liberality.

Truly worthy is the relieving of the sufferings of the victims of the white plague, fine indeed is the effort to restore such victims to something like their pristine health and strength, but not less splendid is it to care for the orphans and other dependents, the "wards of society", to nourish them in health that they may not fade and die before they have an opportunity to blossom, to lay the foundation for lives of future usefulness, to give to helpless and otherwise hopeless childhood its rightful chance to be and to become; for life is not merely being, it is becoming that is the real end. If to restore health is good, to conserve it is better, and best of all is to conserve humanity. That is what the Children's Home will do.

Especially reassuring and encouraging is it to look over the personnel of the various committees. A study of the names restores one's belief and confidence in ideals. Whatever of sectarianism there may be later in the conduct of the home, in the organization that will bring about the establishment of the home there is nothing of sect, but, on the other hand, there is everything of humanitarianism and of the inspiration of the example of Christ. With such backing behind it, with such purposes before it, ultimate success of the plan is certain, but it devolves upon every member of the community to awaken, to make the project his own or her own to bring that success to a more speedy realization.

## BUILDING OR BOOKS.

What is it that makes a library, is it books or a building to house them?

Doubtless the great majority of persons, when they think of a public library, form a concept of a substantial, fireproof structure, beautiful without and filled with row upon row of bound volumes resting on metal shelving. Such is the library that every community desires for its members, and so it is not strange that when a library bill is passed one of the first questions asked was, "Where shall we locate it?" There spoke the vision of the building, not of its contents. At a time when the spirit of community beautification is coming into deserved attention it is not strange that first thought would be for a building.

But both books and the building to house them cost hard cash of the realm. At this time the county funds are in such state that there cannot be taken from them an amount which would purchase a large site and erect a handsome structure upon it, unless it be at the sacrifice of much-needed road betterments and other public improvements which are of urgent necessity. So it comes down to the question "Books or bricks, which?"

Alternative proposals will be presented to the board of supervisors this afternoon. One is for the purchase of a site with a building on it that can be secured at comparatively low cost, which will suffice for library needs for some time to come, though not the type of building which the average citizen has in his or her mind's eye. Its purchase will not be extravagant and will leave the territorial funds for buying books and meeting library expenses, salary and the like.

The other proposal is to utilize a building now leased by the county for town hall purposes and for the county to contribute all that it is able to the support and the maintenance of the County Library. Under such proposal the money which would otherwise go into the purchase of land and building would be spent for books instead. For a period of two or three years the work of accumulating books would go on

## The Optimistic Pessimist

Today is Friday the thirteenth but that will not deter any beneficiary from accepting an unexpected legacy or a creditor from pocketing the loan he had given up all hope of being repaid.

From Germany comes a report of invention of a machine that will summons taxi-cabs. Pshaw, America has had one for years in the telephone.

Invention of a lunch pall that can be worn under the coat is reported. Lots of persons carry their lunch under their coats now, as did the boy who ate his cake and took it with him.

Two Oregon men have invented an apparatus that compresses air for steering ships. An improvement, truly, over hot air for steering people.

It's all in one's ethics. Some men will fight for their own rights if it injures their friends and benefactors while others will quit at personal loss rather than injure a friend. The latter class is really the most courageous.

Possibly the Honolulu Chamber of Commerce has not been and is not in politics but it's hard to convince the public that the secretary of the organization should have worked for a gubernatorial aspirant while traveling at the expense of and ostensibly on business for the chamber.

It's a sad spectacle to see Honolulu business interests and the Andrews machine squabbling over award of an office but fortunate for the Territory the incumbent gives such tolerably good satisfaction.

Some persons are never satisfied to see another prosper no matter how well they themselves may be doing. Another and more interesting class likes to see others make money and enjoy life even when surmounting serious difficulties for themselves.

until the proposed quarters were outgrown. Then would come the problem of erecting a building of the type that Maui would like to have now and cannot.

The decision between these two points rests with the members of the board of supervisors. Whichever course they pursue, they will have done well, but they must determine which is the better and which the wiser course to pursue. Maui News thinks it is reading, not architecture, that is wanted.

## MILK IS SPILT.

In the making of plans for the bringing of an excursion to the Islands to dedicate Hawaii National Park, Maui has been left off the itinerary and the program does not call for a visit to Haleakala. Once again it is apparent that the mainlander has two outstanding points of interest in view when considering a visit to the Islands, the Volcano of Kilauea and Honolulu, or perhaps Waikiki Beach. And so it has happened that the Brooklyn Eagle park dedication party will pass up Maui and Haleakala.

Maui News is not criticizing Big Islanders because of the slip, but rather congratulates them on the fact that they are reaping a harvest now from the seeds of publicity sown in the past. Perhaps the Tourist Bureau may have slipped at the outset by not making it more clear to those organizing the trip that Haleakala is part of the National Park, even if on another island, but it tried later to secure an amendment of the plans and was at no time responsible for them. The milk is spilt, and if any tears are to be shed they must be from the eyes that miss seeing marvelous Haleakala.

However, there's no reason to let a similar incident happen in the future. It's time now to wake up! There's another opportunity coming within the next six months, a much better and much greater one, in the visit to the Islands of the World's Press Congress. When 400 or more of the greatest publicists of the world come to the Islands, Maui must look out for itself and not depend upon others. That's the work for which the committees of the Chamber of Commerce and the Fair and Racing Association that met yesterday must see to.

Reports say the newspapermen will have longer in the Islands than was at first expected. So much the better for Maui, if it makes it so much the better. The committees have work before them and will need hearty co-operation from all the people. Sitting still gets nowhere, and tears do not fill a broken pitcher, at least not with milk.

## UNIVERSITY EXTENSION.

Next week will be "Extension Week". It marks an effort on the part of the University of Hawaii to include Maui within its campus, and the visiting educators are truly welcome. The University comes to Maui with arms full of fragrant blossoms and begs their acceptance. She comes promising that she will bring more blossoms on subsequent visits. It is a kindly, a handsome and a generous act.

Much of advantage can be secured by attendance at the sessions that are to be held next week, but beneath it all, is the promise of future visits with greater gifts, still greater benefits are put within the reach of Maui. The course to be offered is brief, but it is well arranged. The subjects, though not numerous, are well selected. And appreciation of these facts, a realization of the offer now presented is all that is necessary to secure a continuance on a larger scale.

What the Chautauqua has been to some mainland communities, that and more can University Extension service mean to Maui. Compulsory school education may be possible, but for grownups further study and education must be voluntarily sought or accepted, and upon present acceptance may depend future continuance.

It is becoming the fashion for teachers who do not live near the school to which they are attached to apply to the board of supervisors for reimbursement for transportation. The news has gone forth that the board has allowed money for "house rent" in some such cases and it is not apparent why, when this is done for one, it should not be done for all. Coming after the increase in salary it is not apparent why the allowance should be made, but a precedent appears to have been established and "Everybody's doin' it now."

For downright, good-hearted generosity, commend us to the Wacs. In splendid spirit of sympathy, when it considered the Puunene nine short-handed and weak, the club let its rival have some splendid material and in the first practice game thereafter—lost. However, the Wacs are good sports, for never a sob has been heard, and like good sports they smilingly put on more determination with their uniforms.

Organization of a Hawaii Press Club is announced from Honolulu, with practically every newspaper editor as an officer or honorary officer. That leaves the reportorial staffs for the plain, everyday membership. All joking aside, such a club may well be one of the most useful organizations in the territory, not for the craft alone, but for the whole community.

As the ship strike tightens, a sense of isolation comes to the residents of Hawaii.

Molokai furnishes the first applications for use of the fund for transportation of remote school children. Assistant Supervising Principal Murphy had the subject up before the board of supervisors Wednesday afternoon. He has a plan for transporting children from two schools, one on either side of a larger one, to the one central school.

Candidates are making their campaigns alone this year. Thus far they have not been traveling about in a body, as in previous primary elections. It gives an appearance of little activity, but the individual candidates are working strenuously, if not addressing public meetings. The "personal touch," as it were.

District Magistrate McKay carries with him from the bench the regard and best wishes of many friends made in his more than 20 years of public service.

And now the fan comes into his own again. "Play ball" will be the slogan on Sunday on the Wailuku diamond. Welcome back, old pal!

## McINERNEY'S REPRESENTATIVE

### Mr. A. I. Silva

is now at the Grand Hotel, showing a complete line of HIGH-CLASS HABERDASHERY from the well-known firm.

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