

THE GARDEN ISLAND

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Decoration Day

Decoration day (May 30) is one of the noblest and most useful memorial occasions we have. By showing respect for those that lived and died bravely, we fill with patriotism and ambition the young and the strong.

Respect for the dead that were good or great is an incentive to goodness and those things that make for greatness among the living.

And respect for the dead, which Decoration Day emphasizes, is powerful in reminding men of their duty to those that live and need help.

Unexpected Objection

Strange as it may seem, an objection has been raised to the proposal that pupils in the lower grades (or, more specifically, down to the first grade), below the sixth grade, be received into the "select" department of the new high school.

This question has been gone over so many times, and so thoroughly, and the last settlement of it seemed so generally satisfactory, that it is surprising and disappointing that harping should now be introduced. The only effect of bringing up the question again may possibly be a further delay in plans for the high school; and it is to be hoped that those persons who may differ from the very large majority on a point so unimportant to them (and all important to others) will gracefully accept the situation in the interest of the community at large.

In order to provide instruction in the school for pupils below the high school grades, it will be necessary for parents to pay the salaries of teachers. The parents of nearly sixty children have already signed an agreement to do that, and certainly the spirit manifested and expressed wishes of those parents in the matter should be respected.

The high school proper must of necessity start with very few pupils, so that the select school attachment will in no sense be in the way, but, on the other hand, will lend interest and vigor to the former. In course of time it may come to pass that the high school proper has pupils enough of its own to go it alone; and then it may become desirable, for one reason or another, not now apparent, to separate the select school from it. But until that time does come, the arrangement last decided upon, and above indicated, should be allowed to go on unhindered.

No More Filipinos

The information comes from Honolulu that the importation of Filipinos into Hawaii for labor purposes has been stopped. We are glad to hear it, and for more reasons than one. Labor in the cane fields is becoming more efficient the longer the laborers stay with the work, in consequence of which fewer and fewer will be required as time goes on. Gradually the inefficient (whether from physical or other causes) will be weeded out; and as the Filipinos are notoriously the most inefficient labor we have, that nationality in the cane fields will suffer first and greatest. Therefore, it need not be surprising that the army of unemployed Filipinos in the Islands is gradually augmented rather than decreased.

Another reason we are glad that no more are coming this way is that the Filipinos as a class fill the police court records with most of larceny and petty deviltry. The percentage of the criminal class among them is entirely too large, and we would almost rather have no Filipinos at all than to be compelled to stand for their criminal element.

The Sugar Situation

When the final clean-up is made, it need not be surprising if it is found that Kauai has gone 12,000 tons of sugar above the original, official estimates. These figures may not at first glance appear large, but in dollars and cents they amount to a very great deal to this island. Figuring the remainder of the crop at 3.50 (which seems fairly reasonable at this time) the excess of production alone would add \$870,000 to the revenues from Kauai's sugar crop, which in itself would more than offset the low price at the beginning of the campaign, and actually place the average above (considerably above) the market figures at this date last year, prior to the definite appearance of the reduced duty cloud on the horizon.

The situation brings to mind however, the probabilities had the conditions prevailing a year ago as to duties been allowed to remain as they were. Sugar figures at this moment would have been anywhere from 35 to 40 cents per cwt. above those of last year and a regular old-time "boom" would have been on. Undoubtedly the situation will have the effect of boosting sugar stocks on the market, although with the day of absolutely free sugar coming nearer and nearer, it cannot be hoped that stock prices will ever again reach bases formerly prevailing.

Vocational Training

Newspapers of the mainland are just now giving considerable serious consideration to a report recently issued by the educational division of the Russel Sage Foundation, which has made a study of all the boys above the age of 13 years in 28 American cities, and has reached the conclusion that too much attention is being paid to what is popularly termed vocational training and not enough to the fundamentals of education.

It developed from the investigation that more than half of these boys were in and below the sixth grade, and were progressing abnormally slow. They are not promoted because they are found to be unable to keep an average pace, and show a lack of the elementary instruction which is conceded to be so essential. The investigation also showed that only one father in six was living in the place where he was born, and that but a wife over one-half of the boys were living in their birth places. This latter observation would hardly apply on Kauai, but the point is well worth considering, when it is remembered that all peoples of the western world are more or less migratory.

It is admitted that vocational training in Germany has been a great success; but it is pointed out that Germany's population is not only very stable as to residence, but its industries are intensely localized and a great part of the population is frequently connected with a single industry. However (and that is the point), even in Germany it is seen that the fundamental, elementary education is sound and practical.

Our school curriculum in the Islands is admittedly good, but it needs revision (as the new superintendent of education and Governor Pinkham have pointed out) to the end that a great deal of the work imposed upon young children by faddists may be eliminated, and that there be more and better work in the fundamentals.

A rich fund of material awaits the researchful attention of the

Kauai Historical Society. Hundreds of interesting bits of history, having important bearings on general facts which may or may not have been published, are to be gathered from "old timers" and from old documents and letters; and when these are all assembled they should afford a rich field for exploitation by the student of Kauai history. We predict a most interesting future for the society, and bespeak for its work the cordial endorsement of the public.

THE STATEMENT of Sheriff Crowell, of Maui, that he can economize by cutting off 17 policemen, whose services his department may dispense with without seriously crippling it, is highly interesting over here, inasmuch as Kauai has only 18 policemen altogether. Either Maui has had far too many policemen in the past, or Kauai has had (and has) too few on the force. The matter is probably well worth looking into a little further.

THE APRIL REPORT of Supervising Principal Brodie, extracts from which are published elsewhere in this issue, supplies food for a world of good, earnest, hard thought. It is therein shown that only 44 American, British and German children attend the public schools of Kauai and with the Portuguese added the total is only 664, out of 5,703 on the island. Why? The question is next to useless, for you, reader, and your neighbor and everybody else knows why. The facts are that the taxpayers of this island are paying for the public schools and then paying for the education of their own children outside of them. It is a peculiar condition of affairs—a condition that spells injustice in big letters; and can only be remedied by the high school with a big select school attachment at Lihue.

ONE OF THESE years some one will start a movement to grow flowering vines on walls or trelliswork at both sides of the road from Lihue store to the Fairview hotel. He will be almost laughed at at first, but finally, after a world of perseverance, his efforts will be successful. So splendid will be the effect that a popular demand will arise to have the same extended on down to Nawiliwili; and, in time, that too will be done. People coming to Lihue will then get their "first impression" from the beautifully flowered driveway through which they will enter the town—an impression that will never leave them. What a splendid advertisement of Lihue (of the right sort) such a road would be!

THE FOLLOWING interesting statement in regard to sugar is made by Willett & Gray, writing under date of May 7: "We may mention here as a matter of interest that an influence in promoting the advances of the week is that many of the purchases made of Cuba sugars by operators, both for Europe and for the United States, have been made to cover sales previously made by these operators on the short side of the market. These short transactions have now been mostly liquidated by the recent purchases, and the market can be considered on a normal basis of supply and demand." All of which should make the present advance in price the more encouraging.

GOVERNOR PINKHAM advised the homesteaders of Maui to raise the supplies required for their own consumption. There is the keynote of success in homesteading, under average conditions, in this Territory. The homesteader who can produce the articles that go on his own table, and raise pineapples, sugar cane or other staples for cash, does now and must continue to succeed. The reminder of the Governor is a good one for all Kauai homesteaders to consider seriously.

THE HEALTH RECORD of Kauai in the month of April was of a

most satisfactory character. The hardest fight of all the island (and the whole United States for the matter of that) is against tuberculosis, and it is a satisfaction to know that on Kauai this disease is being reduced to a minimum. There must be no let-up in the fight, however, until the White Plague is a thing of the past on this island.

CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTSON would undoubtedly be a great power for the good of Hawaii in Congress; but it is hardly conceivable that a man at the head of the judiciary of the Territory, with almost certain reappointment awaiting him at the end of his present term, should retire to engage in a political squabble for an office that, in many respects, is less desirable, and which must be fought for every two years.

WORD COMES from Honolulu that "Bill" Inman is organizing an unusually strong team to bring to Kauai on July Fourth. All of the men are first-teamers and speedy, and the Kauai players will have to bestir themselves to hold down the aggregation.

SUGAR PRICES today compare very favorably with the quotations on centrifugals and beets a year ago. On May 23, 1913, raws struck a low level of 3.26, having dropped to that figure from 3.29. Thus, all things considered, the present situation is not half bad.

THE SALARY of John J. McGraw, the baseball player, is \$5,000 a month. Almost anybody wouldn't mind being termed a "professional" for that little, monthly stipend.

THE INFORMATION that Senator Knudsen would leave Berlin May 27 for New York was published in this paper last Tuesday, reproduced in a Honolulu paper on Friday and duly wireless back here a few hours later as red-hot news. These Honolulu news sifters for the wireless service are immense.

A PROMINENT Japanese editor of Honolulu has lost his position because he was too religious, which goes to show that it does not pay even a newspaper man to be altogether too good.

HONOLULU COUNTY has decided to reinstate all of its former laborers on the pay-roll. This reminds one that the campaign is drawing near and that a lot of votes will be needed.

J. P. COOKE STATES that only 40 per cent of Makaweli and McBryde sugars reached the market during the low-price period, and that sixty per cent will come in for higher prices. That is good news.

IT IS PRETTY hard for ordinary mortals to argue against dancing when the embryonic saints of the church announce dancing as a drawing finale for a church benefit concert.

OFFICIAL WASHINGTON has had the pleasure of meeting Judge Wilder and "Soapbox" Barron. Surely Abe Louissou, as Delegate from Hawaii, ought to make a stunning impression over there.

UNCLE SAM may be having an awful time with Mexico, but, from all accounts, he has nothing on John Bull just now with the suffragettes.

UNDOUBTEDLY the men behind the Progressive Party movement in Hawaii are making a mistake in butting into politics at this time—particularly that part of it affecting our status at Washington. They cannot hope to gain anything for themselves, and the result of their work may be to let in some person whom neither they nor the general interests of the Islands would be willing to stand for. Mr. Carter and his supporters are toying with fire, and we sincerely hope they may have the good sense to go slowly before they force upon the Islands a repetition of former experiences.

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