

THE GARDEN ISLAND

Issued Every Tuesday Morning

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An Ideal Summer Resort

Three weeks ago THE GARDEN ISLAND printed an article from a Honolulu paper in which George K. Larrison, district engineer of the United States geological survey and superintendent of hydrography for the Territory of Hawaii, advocated a system of summer camps, and perhaps a summer hotel, in the upper portion of Waimea district around Halemanu and the Kokee stream. He pointed out facts concerning elevation, temperature, physical and general characteristics which certainly looked good on paper. Mr. Larrison's report and recommendations were unofficial, but Governor Pinkham has since found occasion to take cognizance of the same in a very favorable way.

In his report Mr. Larrison stated that he found a temperature of 36 (four degrees above freezing point) in this beautiful valley-mountain country, and in summer weather at that. We are inclined to suspect that the hydrographer was slightly misquoted, but adding ten degrees to the proposition and a climate is obtained which discounts that of a very large majority of summer resorts all over the mainland.

Kauai needs a summer resort such as has been suggested by Mr. Larrison. We need it for our own people—for our own selves. Every summer there is a scramble from Kauai towns to the coast, to the volcano, to Hanalei or up tortuous trails into the hills to escape the heat and depression of the beaten paths of nine months. All this is expensive, nerve-racking and, in the light of the new suggestion, unnecessary. We have the place, as Mr. Larrison has pointed out, and all that is now required is the means of utilizing it to proper advantage.

Kauai needs just such a place for her friends. A summer hotel in the locality indicated would prove an attractive haven for Honolulu people and coast tourists in the warm months.

The main thing at the start, however, is to provide a place in this cool and delightful locality for our own people. The rest will come in the natural order of events. Let the government provide a serviceable road and water and lease camping areas for a term of years (say five years, with the privilege of renewal under certain conditions).

The lease on much of this property expires next year, when it will pass again into the hands of the government; so that there is nothing in the way of its being offered back to the people along the lines proposed. It is good for little or nothing else, but has not its equal for the purposes suggested.

The Kauai Chamber of Commerce will hold a regular meeting in Waimea next Thursday afternoon. It is the proper place and the time will be opportune for taking this subject up for serious discussion. Let it be brought up there in a business-like way (as the Chamber always does things), thoroughly threshed out and the governor be given, in the way of resolutions, the endorsement of the people of Kauai of the suggestion of Mr. Larrison.

The Honolulu Strike

The strikers did not win their fight at Honolulu. In fact the employers of waterfront labor beat the strike to a frazzle, and showed plainly that they were able to do it again and again. As a matter of fact the late strikers have better wages than before, but the increase was granted them after they had been beaten and were willing to return to work on the old terms. That the employers were willing to increase wages after the strike was over seems to us to be proof positive that they would have done so before the trouble started had the matter been laid before them in the proper way.

The trouble with the stevedores union at Honolulu is not with the union itself nor its legitimate purposes. The vultures of unionism—walking delegates, those vampires who suck the life-blood out of labor and labor unions—were at the bottom of the trouble and will continue to cause trouble as long as they are permitted to hang around. It is a great pity that these parasites cannot be reached by our vagrancy laws and shipped out of the Islands.

New Auto Light Dimmer

A new type of glass front for automobile headlights has made its appearance in cities on the mainland, and local autoists should lose no time in getting them here, for the present system of dimming auto lights is far from satisfactory. These glass fronts remind one, in appearance, of a honeycomb laid open, being constructed with numerous small lenses molded on both surfaces in such a way that they diffuse the light without obstructing it, the glass being transparent. It is claimed that headlights equipped with these glasses will light a country road at both short and great distances. At the same time that great brightness, or glare, which is objected to, is done away with.

The dimmer painted across the top of auto lights on Kauai is unsatisfactory, and the frosted globe is equally objectionable, as there is still a strong glare from the reflector behind it. It is claimed that the new glass front does away with the objectionable features of both schemes, and at the same time gives a far more satisfactory light.

It is a new invention, but the dimmers have been rapidly taken up all over the country, most of the big cities already using them. We would like to see some of our auto owners or agents introduce them here without delay for we feel certain that they will prove just what we have been looking for.

The Men Behind The Taxes

Probably the most important result of the Civic Convention and the County Fair, just closed, has been the real and sincere aloha which has accrued between the various units of this group of islands. Judging by the expressions of the visiting delegates they have one and all been impressed with the way Hilo has "done things"; with our roads, with our Board of Supervisors, with our open-handed hospitality, with our broad way of treating questions of importance to the other islands as well as of Hawaii. Words of appreciation such as have been uttered by our guests are to be treasured by Hilo citizens; they are sincere, they mean a closer brotherhood of interest, commercially, socially and politically.

The foundation was laid at the Fifth Civic Convention for a deeper understanding between the public officials of the Territory and the county and the people, the men behind the taxes. This foundation should be built upon in permanent fashion. To whom shall the Civic Convention let this contract? We believe it should be a strong, non-partisan legislative committee, one without axes to grind, one which has the confidence of the people and of the legislature. Such a committee has been provided for by the Convention. Suggestions as to its personnel are in order. One from each county and one at large. Speak up, gentlemen.—Hilo Tribune.

A New Death Weapon

The list of new devices for destroying life brought out by the great war in Europe seems to be unending. It is now learned that the Germans have developed an invisible gas. It is unlike chlorine, which has been in use for sometime, and being colorless gets in its work before being noticed. The character of the gas is not yet known outside the laboratories of the manufacturers, and the sole means of combating it seems to be to wear respirators constantly when the wind blows from the direction of the enemy's lines. The gas cloud settles and moves along close to the ground, and when it reaches a trench unless the men have taken the precaution to wear masks they are dazed and drop. Signals are given from the first line of trenches and the men in the rear trenches hastily don their protectors.

This new invisible gas is now being used against the Russians on the east front where it has proved quite a puzzle to the soldiers of the Czar. It has, perhaps, also made its appearance on the west front, but if so it has been in a small way and nothing has come out about it.

First Step To Preparedness

The magazines, the great dailies and the mammoth Sunday edition of the same; the army and navy publications, and even the rural press of our great country are nowadays preoccupied with talk of "preparedness". They want a larger navy, and are getting it. They clamor for a larger army, and millions have been appropriated for it. At the same time the greatest difficulty is being experienced in getting men for this larger army. Why? The pay of the American soldier exceeds that of any fighting man on earth, so that there must be some other reason for the difficulty in keeping the ranks full.

We believe that it is a question of insufficient uniforming, and if more attention were paid to that detail the problem would be simplified greatly. Compare pictures of the American soldier on the Mexican border with those of the German soldier in France and the idea will dawn. In the one case we have the martial appearance and consequent spirit of the ancient Roman; in the other a brave soldier cowed by a uniform which he knows is not up to the standard of the important work which has been entrusted to him by the nation. The former plan makes for efficiency; the latter for slothfulness and inefficiency.

The whole idea of uniforming the army has gone astray in the past twenty-five years, and it is high time we, in the United States, were executing an "about face; forward, march!" on the proposition. For instance: Prior to the Spanish war the National Guard on the mainland received two uniforms from the United States government—one a neat, clean fatigue and the other a dress uniform, the latter to be worn on dress parades and special occasions. In addition to that in most States there was a State dress uniform, which, of course, is now a thing of the past. What is the situation today? We have only the field service khaki—very excellent for its purpose, but a failure when compelled to be the whole thing in the way of a uniform; and on Kauai it is a case of khaki uniforms that look like they had followed Teddy Roosevelt all around the circle at Santiago and been three or four times to the Philippines.

Let the war department start the ball rolling in this question of "preparedness" by equipping the regular army with bright, new uniforms in which the men may feel like throwing their chests out, and then rapidly continue the operation down through the National Guard. If this is done our word may be taken for it that there will not be half the difficulty in keeping the regular army recruited up to war strength while the ranks of the National Guard from Maine to and including Hawaii will be filled to overflowing. It is a practical, business proposition which the Germans understand and which we, apparently, have yet to learn.

The first step to "preparedness" is to provide equipment to "the man behind the gun," which consists not only of munitions of war but the details which back up American pride and stamina.

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Mr. Wong Hock Shi was formerly army tailor at Schofield Barracks, Oahu, at which place he gave great satisfaction.

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