

THE GARDEN ISLAND

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HAWAII AND THE WORLD PRESS CONGRESS

The meeting of newspaper men of the territory in Honolulu on the 5th of this month was the forerunner of what is destined to be one of the greatest events in the history of Hawaii—the meeting of the world press congress in Honolulu next October.

Lorin Thurston, the master booster of Hawaii, in speaking of the coming event, said:

"Forty nations are to be represented in this congress. Think of it! There have been mighty few occasions in history when the accredited representatives of forty nations have come together for any purpose. It might have happened when they got together to parcel up Europe and decide what they would do with Napoleon, and at the peace conference at Versailles, but the times have been few.

"Without regard to race or faction it is up to us to give these delegates such a welcome and such an entertainment as they will remember to their dying day."

The foremost publishers of forty different nations—approximately 400 newspaper men—will gather here for that congress. They are going to be entertained as only the people of Hawaii can entertain. They will be given the opportunity of seeing the wonders of our several islands—wonders that cannot be surpassed in any other land upon the face of the globe.

When these men (and women) return to their homes they are going to be boosters for Hawaii. Four hundred of the world's leading newspaper men, from forty different countries, as enthusiastic boosters for Hawaii. Think of it! The territory has not cut much of a figure in world affairs heretofore, but after the world press congress, Hawaii, the "Crossroads of the Pacific", will assume its place of importance.

The expenses attached to the press congress will amount to approximately \$25,000, and is to be borne by the people of the territory.

Kauai will be asked to share in raising this amount, and, judging from past events, we believe the people of Kauai will not only gladly contribute their share of the expense, but will also assist in any other way that will tend to make the entertainment program a success.

A FINE EXAMPLE

There are children starving in Europe, women are suffering, and once strong men are breaking under the strain which the war has given them as an inheritance. We are comfortable here in our own land, and few of us have the least idea that conditions are at this moment worse in some European countries than history has ever recorded. America has heard the cry of starving children in Austria through Herbert Hoover, and it is good to know that she is answering, showing that she can forgive a recent enemy, and that her big heart will not permit little children to starve.

But the part of this answer which strikes us most forcibly is the answer being sent by the farmers of the United States. President Howard, of the American Farm Bureau, said recently in a speech at Chicago:

"Farmers in 37 states have authorized me as their president to offer enough American-grown corn to feed the starving millions of Europe, China, Armenia and other foreign countries. And I promise that the farmers will deliver their offerings promptly to the point of shipment. This treasure will come in voluntary gifts from 5 to 3,000 bushels, many wealthy farmers having given as high as 3,000 bushels."

All that the farmers insist on is the corn be not sold, but must go straight to the people who need it. The farmer is having a pretty tough time of it himself just now, with grain and hog prices declining. But he comes to the front when trouble appears; he realizes that the good in the world outweighs the evil, and he sets a mighty fine example for the balance of the world.

RAISE THE DUTY ON SUGAR

Sugar has always been one of the main sources of Federal Revenue. From 20 to 30 per cent of the total customs revenue for the last 20 years has come from sugar.

Now when Congress is casting about for some means of relieving the excess profits income tax burden, it cannot well ignore the potentialities of sugar. One hundred million or even one hundred and fifty million dollars could readily be raised by a sugar duty of 2½ cents a pound. This would be an easy duty to collect, and would awaken less opposition than any other scheme which would raise the same amount. Great Britain, long the citadel of Free Trade, has placed a duty of five cents a pound on sugar. Certainly two and a half

cents would be a very reasonable burden for America.

But aside from the revenue producing feature of the matter there is the equally important protection feature in its favor.

First and last the sugar business of the United States is a very large business. It is no longer a matter of the cane sugar interests of the Islands of the sea, and Louisiana, but the beet interests of the Pacific Coast and Western States as well. From all these interests there is an anxious outcry that they cannot continue to raise sugar at present prices under present conditions. Unless some protective assistance is given, the great industry will be crippled or ruined beyond recovery.

Surely a plan which will at once produce a vast revenue for public needs, and protect and foster a great industry, will commend itself to an intelligent Congress.

THE DIGNITY OF LAW

It is an easy thing to make laws, but laws are something quite different from law and order.

The charge has been made against the American people that they are content to remedy evils by framing acts and passing bills—and then let it go at that, with the serene assurance that everything is all right.

The dearest thing in the world is a dead-letter law. Most things when dead are harmless;—but strange to say, a dead-letter law is dangerous. It discredits all law, and pulls all law down into contempt.

The main fundamental factor of civilization is respect for law. The dignity, authority, and sanctity of law, as law, must be kept supreme and inviolate or we have begun to drift into the condition of Russia and Central Europe. When any law becomes only a scrap of paper we have begun to juggle the whole system;—to pull out the underpinning which sustains our whole social and national fabric.

Presumably the laws are right, but right or wrong they are the laws, and ought to be enforced and ought to be obeyed.

When we as a people have reached the point where we begin to set up private judgement on the law, and dictate as to which laws should be enforced, and which we will obey, and which we will defy, the seeds of anarchy have been sown, and we don't need to look abroad for Bolshevism,—we have it right at home.

Freedom of thought is all right, freedom of speech, within temperate limits, is all right, but when it comes to freedom of action to do what we "damn please" without regard for law,—that is the most vicious kind of Bolshevism and there ought to be no place for it in our country.

WHAT ABOUT HEAVY TRAFFIC

The present badly eroded and ravelled out condition of our roads, due partly to recent storms, and partly to heavy traffic, emphasizes anew the necessity for the limitation of speed and weight of heavy traffic.

Some months ago the Chamber of Commerce took up this matter and passed strong resolutions, recommending such limitation, and appointing a committee to advise with the Board of Supervisors in regard to the matter. What has become of that committee, and what, if anything, is being done?

Every great invention is but a stepping stone to a greater achievement, and what the next century may bring forth in the line of applied science is beyond human ken. Turn back the pages of history and get posted upon the conveniences enjoyed by the people of a century past, note the advances that have been made to the present time, and then speculate, if you will, upon what people will be doing in 2021, one hundred years in the future. It may be that the automobile will have passed out and that the family will, when desiring to take a run into the country, just go to the closet and bring out a pair of wings and fly away, and they may have something even better. Who knows?

Congratulations are due the Advertiser for the "Pineapple Edition" recently published. It is the first time this important industry has received the attention it deserves at the hands of the local press. Kauai received its full share of publicity and shows up most favorably as compared with the other islands.

We agree with the man who said the other day that most of the "unrest" in this country is caused by "Dollar Itch."

No man ever gets so powerful but some weak little woman can set her foot on his neck any time she wants to.

WORLD'S WETTEST SPOT DOES STUNTS IN THE WAY OF HEAVY RAINS

Mt. Waialeale, the wettest spot on the face of the earth, has been doing stunts in the way of precipitating moisture. B. T. Rush, assistant engineer of the United States geological survey, recently made the ascent of Waialeale under the guidance of W. V. Hardy, former assistant engineer, who installed the big 900-inch copper rain gauge about two years ago at an elevation of 5080 feet. They found that 590 inches of rain had fallen for the thirteen months ending February 3rd, 1921.

The five-year average for the mountain summit, prior to 1920, was 476 inches; hence it appears that there 70 inches more rain in 1920 than the average.



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