THE GARDEN ISLAND

Issued Every Tuesday

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TUESDAY : : : : : : : : : : : NOV. 7, 1922

SHALL WE OBSERVE ARMISTICE DAY?

According to reports that are circulating about the island, a number of local organizations are considering not observing Armistice Day as a holiday.

Just why any American organization should take the attitude not to observe Armistice Day is hard to fathom. Perhaps now that the war is four years removed and the danger that threatened has worn off, the significance of the day is steadily losing ground with those whose patriotism is confined to periods when their own personal welfare is at stake.

But the significance will always remain for those who were vitally concerned, whether they served in the Argonne at Red Hill or whether their shoulders were at the wheel in Liberty bond and kindred drives, Armistice Day should and will always remain one of the greatest days in their lives, for it represents the successful conclusion of the supreme effort of themselves and their nation.

It is a day of celebration, for it represents the removal of one of the greatest menaces that has threatened the world and for one man or any body of men to arbitrarily take the stand that the day is not worth observing, when the majority of the American people have seen fit to acknowledge it as one of the greatest days in American history, that man or body of men are placing themselves in a very peculiar light in regard to their status as Americans.

A DIFFICULT TASK!

There are still a lot of things an editor can't understand, and one of them is why some people will call him on a legal holiday or out of bed at night to give him an earful of scandal, or tell him a report they heard about somebody's shortcomings and insist that he publish it in bold bold black and white, while the informant would not for the world sign their own name to such an article. They want the editor to be the goat at all times. And these same hypocrites, whenever a relative dies, expect the editor to write an obituary, oh, so sweet and nice—probably going on the theory that it will serve as an entrance credential to St. Peter when the decedent has rapped at the pearly gates. We have sometimes thought that the editor who can run a good paper, make both ends meet and get along smoothly with all mankind and womankind, is fit for any job, no matter how big it is. And we don't think we'll ever have occasion to change our opinion.

LOOK AT THIS, BOYS!

Recently a New York reporter interviewed the business men in several blocks in that city. He found that 70 per cent of them were born on farms or in small towns —exclusive of those who were foreign-born. That ought to make the average Kauai boy sit up and take notice. It ought to spur him on to better work in the school room, for business conditions are not going to change very much in the years to come. The business of this country will be in the hands of the men who are born and reared in small towns or on the farms where they had opportunities the city-bred boy knows nothing of. There is a more encouraging atmosphere in those places than there is push and scramble and people are so herded together that they haven't the time, and seldom the inclination to reach down and lend a boy a helping hand. Think it over boys—think hard. And then ask yourself if it isn't going to best for you to stay right here at home with your studies until you, too, have reached the point where you can become one of those 70 per cent who are running business affairs in our big cities.

The dead-letter office at Washington is said to be swamped with political letters—and that's where most of them belong.

We heard one Lihue man say yesterday that he'd invest in a high priced auto if he wasn't afraid the neighbors would think he was bootlegging.

More evidence that the ex-kaiser is not in favor of peace is the fact that he's getting ready to marry again.

Kauai girls should remember that it's not too early to begin hinting around about what they want for Christmas.

Some folks take too much trouble in making pleasure, and too much pleasure is making trouble.

STAY OUT OF DEBT

In many ways the new federal farm loan banks are going to be a godsend, and in some other ways they are going to mitigate against the ultimate prosperity of the country. In conversation a few days ago with a Lihue man who is pretty well posted on financial affairs, we learn that more farm and real estate mortgages are being made in this country now than at any previous time in history. He is of the opinion that it is because money is more easily borrowed now than it used to be, and because people look more lightly upon debt.

Don't try to borrow yourself rich. Remember, before you place a mortgage on your home or your land that every cent of it, and added interest, must be paid back. If you don't live to pay it back, your family will have to. We know there are times when it seems pretty hard to struggle along without ready money. But your forefathers usually managed to get by without assuming back-breaking burdens in the shape of mortgages, and you ought to be able to do the same thing. Every indication now points to a far more prosperour year ahead than we have had a good long while. Money is not going to be as tight, and if you have paid your debts as they came due you are still in position to use your credit for most any reasonable sum without resorting to an iron-clad mortgage.

Stay on the job as long as you possibly can without making your burden heavier by going deeper into debt. Sacrifice every time it is necessary. But don't get the mortgage habit, for it's something you can't shake off during the balance of your life.

A NOSE FOR NEWS

Not everyone has a nose for news. In fact, if we started out to count noses on Kauai today we feel sure we'd find very few that could actually "scent" a news item, unless it was of tremendous importance. And yet, every day something is occurring in your home or your neighborhood that is actually news. The coming and going of yourself and your neighbor, receptions, sales, robberies, socials, weddings, wedding anniversaries, club meetings, lawsuits, cases of illness, funerals, all that is of interest to someone. It may appear small on the surface, yet of such things are readable newspapers made. We can't be everywhere at the same time, and we can't hear all of the things that are going on that should be in the paper. That is why we would like you, and your neighbor, train your nose for news, and send us or bring us or telephone us items which you feel we haven't heard. It all goes to make up your home paper, and your home paper goes a long way toward reflecting the hustle and progress of the community in which it is published.

If the average man had to spend the whole day as a telephone operator he would change his mind about how the exchange ought to be run.

We overheard a Lihue citizen declare a few days ago that if hair tonic is as long developing a jag as it is in developing hair on a ball head it makes a poor substitute for booze.

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LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE

Editor Garden Island:—In the editorial columns of your paper of October 31st, you have an article about anonymous letter writers and you describe them as "seizing the opportunity of expressing some hateful sentiment without using their name," and of "belonging to the back-stabbing class." Further down in the same column you have a small paragraph which reads, "Rudyard Kipling says that in the recent war England saved her soul,—yes but was the United States which saved her bacon." I notice that you mention the name of the author of the first sentence, but omit the name of the author of the second sentence. Who ever the author is, that sentence along with the author's name (if you know it) should go where you say all unsigned articles or letters should go, to the waste basket, unless the author would add to the sentence, "and by doing so saved her own." I would like to wager the author of such a boastful sentence has not got a single decoration to wear next Saturday the 11th, but will be on the side-lines.

G. WALSH,
Lihue Mill.

Our little quip about Rudyard was intended facetiously, but Mr. Walsh apparently takes us seriously. This is not a Hearst paper and we are not afflicted with Anglofobia, but this is an American paper and Mr. Kipling in his discredited interview took a slap at America, so we could not fail to take advantage of the opening Mr. Kipling gave us.

As to our war record we do not believe that the Battle of Hotel del Coronado was ever considered a major engagement, hence we wear no decorations, and as to standing on the side-lines next Saturday, it would take a platoon of police to keep us there.

Our advice to Mr. Walsh is that he write a letter to the Times about it.

Dr. Justin C. Smith
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