

THE HAWAIIAN STAR

DAILY AND SEMI-WEEKLY.

Published every afternoon (except Sunday) by The Hawaiian Star Newspaper Association, Ltd.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
Per Year (in advance).....\$ 8.00
Three Months (in advance)..... 2.00
Per Month (in advance)..... .75
Foreign (per year, in advance).... 12.00

SPECIAL ADVERTISING AGENTS:
Chicago—James E. Colby, 309 Stock Exchange Building.
San Francisco—Drake's Advertising Agency, 64 Merchants' Exchange.

SEMI-WEEKLY SUBSCRIPTION:
Local Subscribers, per annum..... \$2.00
Foreign Subscribers, per annum... 2.00
(Strictly in Advance.)

FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 1906.

THE RIGHT TRACK.

That Robert Wilcox should desire to be a delegate from this Territory is a most noble ambition. In such an ambition he is carrying out the traditions of true Americanism. The offices of a republic are open to every one of the republic's sons, and Mr. Wilcox is a son of the Territory of Hawaii. Thus far Mr. Wilcox and those who support him are distinctly in the right, and every believer in Republican administration will applaud Mr. Wilcox's laudable ambition. It is a grand thing to represent a fragment of the United States in Congress, no matter how small the fragment may be.

It is very clear from the speeches of the native associations, and the addresses of the ex-Queen, that the situation is thoroughly understood by the main leaders of the Hawaiians. The ex-Queen says distinctly that when the flag of Hawaii went down in 1898, it sank forever, and the best had to be made of the matter. Other sensible people have made similar remarks.

The wisest thing that the friends of the Hawaiians can do, is to try and make their constituents understand the situation. The situation is by no means clear to the average Hawaiian voter. He is still thinking that there can be a distinct Hawaiian party, and that he can run the party in contra-distinction to the parties of the Mainland. This is a fallacious hope, and suicidal to the Hawaiian. The only course for the Hawaiian is to amalgamate and not keep aloof. To impress himself upon the political future he must Americanize himself. This, both the ex-Queen, Robert Wilcox and others unite in, when they say that the cause of Hawaii ended when the flag fell and was replaced by that of the United States.

If Mr. Wilcox acknowledges this position, and he does; if many of his countrymen acknowledge the position, why seek to galvanize a corpse. Why attempt to draw a color line when no color line exists; why not accept the position which even the leaders of the movement acknowledge exists. In the Territory there never can be anything, to amount to any fixity of purpose, but Americanism. An Hawaiian party, it is true, may be formed, it may apparently flourish, but it can never live. Nothing can live in an American Territory but truly American parties.

The American constitution takes no cognizance of either color or race. There are English, French, Germans, Swiss, Italians, and so forth in the United States, far more in number, each of them, than the whole Hawaiian population. But there is in no English party, no French party, no German party in the Republic. The voters of foreign descent range themselves on the side of one or other of the great American parties. They have assimilated themselves into the great body politic.

There has been, it is true, an effort to create a negro party. And what is the result. Constant friction and action to control the negro vote. Three States, Mississippi, Louisiana and South Carolina, have amended their State constitutions so as to bar (by means of educational and property qualifications) nearly all the negroes from the polls; North Carolina is about to vote on a similar amendment, Virginia and Alabama are considering the step. Certainly the effect of such a policy is not encouraging, even where it involves the franchise of millions. Is it going to be more encouraging where it involves the franchise of a few thousands?

The Hawaiian must learn to consider matters not from the narrow platform of Hawaiianism, but from the broad platform of Americanism. Anyone who has the interest of these people at heart will tell them so, and will strive to make them understand. Anyone who strives to make them isolate themselves and remain Hawaiians instead of becoming Americans, is doing them a wrong.

As was said in the opening remarks of this article, it is a laudable ambition for Mr. Wilcox to represent the Territory of Hawaii on the floor of Congress. It is a truly American ambition, but the ambition should be to represent the Territory as such, and not to merely represent the Hawaiian. In the one case he would have influence, however slight. In the other case he would have none.

A QUEER PLATFORM.

The platform of the Independent party was adopted yesterday afternoon. It is a curious document which strives to stand upon two stools. It makes the party willing to assist either the Democrats or the Republicans, and is quite ready to support any party which will assist the Independent party. This position is not likely to commend itself to either party on the Mainland.

The party platforms upon the general conduct of the national affairs are clear. In joining either the Republican

or the Democratic party a man must be influenced by the broad lines of general policy, but those Independents, so-called, announce that the party platforms are nothing to them; they are quite impartial. It is nothing to them whether there is free silver or not; nothing to them whether there is expansion or the contrary; nothing to them whether there is a gold standard, and the Monroe doctrine is a giddy dream. They will support or oppose anyone with equal aplomb and impartiality.

The platform does pronounce against monopolies, but how are the Independents going to manage if they find it to their advantage to support the Republican party. The anti-trust plank belongs to the Democratic platform, and, supporting the Republicans, the Independents would be in the anomalous position of voting against their own plank.

As to taxation, who taxes the people but the people themselves. These gentlemen are still under the impression that the government and the people are two separate entities. They are not. If appropriations are made, from whom does the money come? from the people and from no other source. The executive is but the custodian and administrator of the people's funds. It is to be hoped that the plain conditions which now exist will be realized. Certainly the platform adopted by the Independents does not show that such have been yet realized by its framers.

AN ICE TRUST.

New York is up in arms over the price of ice. A trust having got hold of the ice trade, the price has gone up to sixty cents per hundred pounds, the former price having been thirty cents per hundred pounds. The trade journals have been calculating the cost of ice and find it to be \$1.50 per ton. Retailed at \$12, it can be seen what an enormous profit is being made out of the city of New York, and what a very paying investment ice stock must be. In point of fact, a gold mine isn't in it beside ice monopoly.

The scandal connected with the monopoly is that Mayor Van Wyck holds four thousand shares at the par value of \$400,000, Judge Augustus Van Wyck owns a like number, and John F. Carroll, the acting leader of Tammany Hall, holds five thousand shares, valued at \$500,000, while the chairman and another member of the dock commission, each holds five hundred shares valued at \$50,000.

The result of this has been to shake the Tammany majority in New York city, and the press opposed to Tammany has been making the most of the matter, showing that this enormous profit upon ice is made out of the extortion of the poor. It is curious how things unexpectedly influence votes. But undoubtedly this ice monopoly will influence the next election in New York city.

Controller Coler, who has established a wonderful reputation for honesty and fearlessness in a city government that is notorious for its corruption, suggests the building of a municipal ice plant. He reckons that the city could sell ice at thirty cents a hundred pounds and make profit enough to pay for the plant in a few years.

It is here that the matter becomes interesting to us. We pay \$20 a ton for our ice. What the cost of ice making here is, is not known to the general public, but granting it is \$10 a ton, which is very doubtful, the profit would be too large, and we have quite as much right to register a kick as the people of New York here. If New York makes a vigorous kick because it has to pay 60 cents per hundred pounds, we ought to make as vigorous a kick when we have to pay \$1 per hundred pounds. The cost of manufacture may be somewhat greater here than in New York, but it cannot be so much greater. Controller Coler figures that at \$6 per ton, or 30 cents per hundred pounds, a profit can be made in New York. The cost of manufacture here ought not to be so very much greater.

The Council of State met yesterday and made such changes in the appropriation bills as were suggested by President McKinley. Whether we have a special session of the Legislature or not, the executive has funds to carry on public works and public business until the regular session of the Legislature in 1907.

The future governor spoke to the point when addressing the delegates of the Hawaiian Evangelical Association, who called upon him yesterday. There is no doubt of the importance of the work to be done by this body during the opening era. A people to succeed depend upon two great things, their religion and their schools. Religion without culture is apt to degenerate into fanaticism. Culture without religion leads to immorality and a disintegration and degradation of a race. Together, religion and education uplift a people to the highest of human planes.

Leung Chi-tso seems to be making great progress among the Chinese of the Territory. The majority of the Chinese in Honolulu and on the Island of Oahu heartily endorse his theories. His success upon the Islands of Hawaii and Kauai has been phenomenal. On those Islands the feeling against the empress dowager seems to be unanimous. It is not quite unanimous in Honolulu, because here there are some members of the official class, but their number is small, and their influence among the Chinese population seems to be practically nil. In the future history of China the name of Leung Chi-tso is quite likely to be written in large characters.

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