

THE HAWAIIAN STAR

DAILY AND SEMI-WEEKLY.

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

FRANK L. HOGGS, Manager

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

SEMI-WEEKLY SUBSCRIPTION.
 Local Subscribers, per annum.....\$2.00
 Foreign Subscribers, per annum... 3.00
 (Strictly in Advance.)

THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 1901.

ROBERT M'KIBBIN.

The death of Dr. McKibbin removes another pioneer from our midst. The old timers are passing away, and the younger generation is pressing forward to take their places. Soon the green sod will be over most of the remainder and the life-task will be done, the long sleep of eternity begun.

Dr. Robert, as he was familiarly known, though brusque in manner was one of the most kindly hearted of men. He was ever ready to help the poor with his services, without hope of reward or fee. Once undertaking a case he never gave in and no amount of fatigue would keep him from doing his duty by his patient.

To the Hawaiians Dr. McKibbin was an earnest and true friend. He had a very large number of personal friends among them ranging from royalty to humble life.

Dr. Robert McKibbin had just exceeded the three score years and ten allotted to man by the psalmist. He had lived a life of usefulness, of much kindness and of unspotted integrity. Such a monument is better than piling up riches upon riches. It leaves an enduring and pleasant memory, when the grief for death has passed.

THE DISPENSARY BILL.

The Dispensary bill came up yesterday and received its first check. The former committee on Intoxicants presented its report upon the bill, which was distinctly adverse to its passage at the present time. This report was signed by Senators Kalua, Crabbe and White. But since the report was made Senator Russel resigned the Presidency of the Senate and Senator Kalua took his place in the chair. Dr. Russel taking Senator Kalua's positions on committees. The bill is Senator Russel's bill and, as Senator Kalua's successor on the Intoxicant Committee, he has been accorded the courtesy of making a minority report in three days, in which he will be able to bring forth arguments against the majority.

The arguments advanced by the majority of the committee are worthy of consideration, and to many will appear to be cogent. It is always well however to stick to the old motto "Audi alteram partem," hear the other side, before coming to a decision. Dr. Russel in his minority report will certainly have much to say. The question is, will his arguments prove better than those of the majority.

One of the strongest arguments against the bill is that it is a "clinch" measure. It formed no portion of any party's platform. It was sprung upon the Home Rule party by a man who thought he led that party by the nose, whom the Home Rulers were disposed at one time to follow blindly, but who came to such utter grief in attempting to preside over the Senate that he lost the confidence of a majority of his party. If he could not guide the Senate, how could he be a good legislative guide.

In a measure of this sort which undoubtedly restricts the liberty of the people at large, the opinion of the people at large should be obtained. The Czar of Russia, it is true, can issue an ukase and restrict his subjects in any liberty he pleases without consultation as to their wishes, but our system of government is based upon an entirely different footing. With us the idea is that the majority rules, and not only the majority in the whole Territory, but the majority in each subdivision when we get county government and municipal government. Our people can have open counties, and open cities, or they can have both "closed," as the phrase is.

Upon this subject of the Dispensary bill the opinion of the voters has never been asked. The only way in which the public has been able to express itself either pro or con is by meeting and petition. But neither petition nor meeting, though they may show the general trend, in a measure, of public feeling, have really any exact value. The polls can show opinion exactly especially under the Australian ballot system. Let one or other of the parties make a dispensary bill a plank in the party platform, or if neither will touch it, let there be a Dispensary Party in Hawaii, as there is a prohibition party in most states, and let the votes tell the tale.

In a matter of this kind it is unjust to throw upon Senators and Representatives so grave a responsibility without giving them the opportunity of knowing what the majority of their constituents think. Several of Senators and members are strongly in favor of such a measure, but not having been elected to deal with such a measure, they feel that they must oppose it, not because they consider the measure bad, but because in such radical work they want to know what is the opinion of their constituents.

As to the details of the bill that is quite another matter. The pivotal objection to it is that the people of the Territory have had no opportunity of expressing themselves upon a radical change, which restricts the personal liberty not only of those who belong

to the Territory, but of every passer-by who enters its borders.

Upon the question of whether the bill will help temperance or will work against it The Star will not enter, though, in passing, it can be remarked that a bill, professedly drawn in the cause of temperance, which holds out as a bait that strong drink shall be cheaper, is hardly coming up to the standard that might be expected.

The fact is that the community at large wants a great deal more information upon this matter, than it has at present. Meantime the city and county bills, if ever they can be got into shape will be able to do much for the temperance cause, and we had better see the working of those, before we plunge into the Dispensary bill experiment, the lubrication of the Senator, who is not carrying out any particular party's desires or views. Consult the voter.

BEEF SUGAR.

The progress of the beet industry in the United States is a matter of interest to all cane sugar growing communities, and is especially so to ourselves, to whom sugar is the mainstay of prosperity. The Census bureau has issued a report upon the beet cultivation in the United States which is of great importance.

There are under beet cultivation in the whole of the United States 135,395 acres. Of this area California claims 63,878 acres. Michigan 37,034 acres and all other states and territories 34,393 acres. The total cost of cultivation was \$3,485,320.

The total capital invested is \$20,958,519. Of this California has \$10,139,780, Michigan \$4,013,743 and all other states and territories \$6,804,996. There are in all 31 establishments. In California eight, in Michigan nine and fourteen in all other states and territories. The total value of the product was \$7,323,857, of which California received \$3,499,996, Michigan \$1,602,266, and all others \$2,221,595. The total wages paid was \$1,092,207. Miscellaneous expenses totalled \$451,351, and the cost of materials was \$4,803,796, giving a total of rather over \$6,000,000 to bring a return of \$7,000,000 or leaving a profit of say \$1,000,000 which would be about five per cent upon the investment.

These returns have been got up by Dr. Spencer, a special expert on the subject. Of the production he says:

"In 1899, as shown by the census statistics in this report, the number of factories operated was thirty, with an output of 79,998 short tons of sugar. The total quantity of cane and beet sugar of domestic manufacture, as reported in Willett & Gray's circular in 1899, was 229,537 short tons, showing that the production of beet sugar was then approximately 25 per cent of the total sugar produced in the country from sugar cane and beets. The American beet sugar factories now have a nominal daily capacity of 22,310 short tons of beets, and, when fully supplied with raw material, should easily manufacture 240,000 short tons of sugar per annum."

The history of beet culture in the United States is not uninteresting to us. The first experiments were made in 1830. There is no record of the quantity of sugar manufactured.

The history of the next experiments is also brief. David Lee Child in 1838-39 conducted small works at Northampton Mass., and made 1,300 pounds of sugar, then discontinued the manufacture.

There is no record of further attempts until 1863, and from that time until 1876 a number of failures occurred in California, Illinois, and Wisconsin.

The first factory in California was erected in 1870 at Alvarado, the site of the first successful factory in the United States.

These works were operated until 1873, when it was proposed to remove them to another location. A new company was organized, which purchased the Alvarado machinery and removed it to Soquel, Santa Cruz county. E. H. Dyer a stockholder of the Alvarado Company purchased the buildings, and in the face of many difficulties organized a company and installed new machinery. After a short time this company was re-incorporated with larger capital, and operated the works until 1889 with varying success. The operations were hampered by imperfect and antiquated machinery, and these conditions, combined with lower prices of sugar, compelled another reorganization. In 1889 the property passed into the hands of the Alameda Sugar Company under the management of E. C. Burr, an experienced sugar refiner, who has rebuilt the factory and has continued the manufacture with marked success.

In 1879 there were only four factories in operation, two in California, one in Maine and one in Delaware. The Alvarado factory is the beacon light of beet sugar industry in the United States. But for its success the industry would have languished and died even now says Dr. Spencer, speaking of the results of the year 1900. "As a whole there was an apparent small profit earned by the factories, in certain cases handsome dividends were paid, in others there were heavy losses and in many instances the factories little more than paid expenses." At all events our own industry has a very much better tale to tell than this.

Pain's franchise clinch bill had another resuscitation yesterday, only to be clapped into its coffin again. Wonderful is the power of cash, it will even galvanize a corpse sometimes. But galvanism will not restore to life.

If the members of the Legislature do not know that Sanford B. Dole is Governor of the Territory of Hawaii they will learn in time. Some of them may not be aware that William McKinley is President of the United States. He signs documents "William McKinley" and Congress does not send them back.

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1,500 pieces of White Dress Goods, Assorted Styles and Patterns, reduced from 20c to 12 1-2 cents,—Must be sold as we are overstocked.

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