

THE HAWAIIAN STAR

DAILY AND SEMI-WEEKLY.

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FRANK L. HOOGLS, Manager.

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COQUETTING.

There seems to be some idea that Judge Humphreys is looking with only half-averted eyes at a nomination from the Home Rule party as our Delegate to Congress. It is even pointed out that the apostasy of John Wise and John E. Bush from the Democratic party is due to this attitude of the Judge. The Judge would follow their apostasy by becoming a Home Ruler and quitting the Republican party, if he could be sure of the nomination, but he by no means wishes to show his hand yet. This is at all events what the long-sighted politicians claim, and they are beginning to carefully nose round and calculate how the cat will jump.

It is very evident that something has startled Wilcox in Washington, or he would not be hastening back to look after his nomination. He has been so accustomed to see his dupes follow him blindly, that it must come as somewhat of a shock to him to find that there is a division in the camp, and that there may be still further division. The younger element among the Home Rule party sees that such a position as Delegate is a very desirable one, and moreover one that carries both patronage and credit if it be properly used. Many of them feel that they know more than Wilcox ever knew, and that they have more ability. Among this section there is a decided trend away from Wilcox, and if a young leader could be decided upon, there would be a strong effort to secure his nomination. It is not hard for a looker-on to designate the man with the strong aspirations and the backing. The development will come in time, however, and it would be a pity to spoil a pretty game.

There is thus every chance of there being a three-cornered fight when it comes to the nomination of a candidate for Delegate by the Home Rule party. The work of the turn-coat Democrats Wise and Bush, will become apparent soon. Keep their workings as close as they may, the results of their work are bound to come out, indeed there are Home Rulers who openly and freely talk of the plans of the turn-coats, and the coquetting of the First Judge of the First Circuit Court. So Wise and Bush may not be the only political turn-coats.

LOCAL SCIENCE.

The U. S. Albatross has had a very satisfactory month's work among the smaller Islands and shows which form the continuation of the Hawaiian chain to the northward. A large part of the work has consisted of taking soundings, but specimens of birds have been obtained and there have also been some searching investigations into the fish life, which of course is the main feature of the Albatross' expedition, though to use a truism, "all is fish that comes into the scientific net of the party."

There is only one island to the north of us, Laysan, which at present is inhabited, though when the Mackay cables is laid Midway Island may have its quota of American citizens. Laysan undoubtedly belongs to the Territory, but Midway does not, at least it used to be under the American flag when it was a coaling station years ago. Midway Island must be in the same category as several small islands scattered about the Pacific over which the American flag has been raised.

At Laysan the scientists stayed for eight days and made themselves acquainted with the birds and their habits. Laysan has not only the masses of sea birds, the eggs and guano from which give the island its commercial value, but as there is considerable scrub insects find a home in this, there are three kinds of land birds which are able to support their lives by preying upon the insects. Specimens of the land birds have been brought here alive and kept in cages. The insects of the island have never been properly studied or collected. The Albatross people do not report any collection, but there may have been one made during the eight days' stay.

Necker Island was also visited. At one time Necker Island promised to be quite a bone of contention for rival telegraph companies, but the raising of the Hawaiian flag upon Necker put an end to that scheme. Necker would have been a terribly dismal place for a residence, and would have proved worse than Midway Island. Necker also possesses some land birds, specimens of which have been secured.

With constant research in and about the islands and reefs of our chain, much of scientific interest will be settled, and there may be practical results which will be of great value to the practical man who does not think of science.

Superintendent Boyd is still at variance with the Board of Health. He claims that the sanitary condition of the wash houses, though by no means perfect, is good, and suggests that the Board of Health look up back yards within the radius of a quarter of a mile from its headquarters. It is very unfortunate that there should be friction

of this kind between two departments of the government. Superintendent Boyd is certainly a most able and efficient head of a department. He is quite as anxious as the members of the Board of Health can be over the sanitary condition of the city. He is hampered for funds, but he has done wonders with the funds that have been available. The work done upon the Kewalo ditch or drain will stand as a monument not only to Mr. Boyd's energy, but to his diplomacy and his desire to make that portion of the town sanitary. It is easy enough for the Board of Health to condemn a district as it did Kewalo, but it is quite another thing to hustle for the money and then arrange for crossing the lands of recalcitrant landholders. When a man has worked as hard and as successful as the Superintendent of Public Works has, he takes it all if there seems ever to be desire to thwart and criticize rather than to assist from what ought to be a friendly department.

The oppressive heat of the past few days has been most depressing. Without the trade wind the climate of the islands is certainly depressing, but then we have so much trade wind as a rule. This spell of southerly weather during May and June is certainly abnormal.

The Attorney-General's Department has a good report upon its financial status. Mr. Dole expects to get through the period without having to call upon the Legislature to make up a single dollar of deficiency. This will be a very good record considering the heavy calls upon the department.

The report of J. A. Fleming of the United States magnetic observatory at Ewa that there was an unusual disturbance on the day that the first eruption took place at Martinique is most interesting. There was undoubtedly great magnetic disturbance in the West Indies, which may have resulted in a magnetic storm that has swept round the world. Further reports from the observatory will be eagerly awaited.

Captain Kay, late of the schooner Maipo, is liable to protest against the action recently taken. The matter will probably grow in importance as it is developed. On the face of the matter, and without going deeply into it, there seems to be every reason for Captain Kay to make a vigorous protest. The man who has been licensed to replace Kay has no better qualifications than Kay himself, until his pilot papers are issued in San Francisco. Kay's papers would have to be issued from New York, and would of course take a longer time to obtain than the San Francisco certificate.

The decision in the Smith case was handed down late in the afternoon by the Supreme Court. There are three decisions. Justice Galbraith backed the action of the Circuit Court in its entirety. Judge Perry gave an opinion diametrically opposed to the views of Justice Galbraith, and considered that the petitioner should be discharged. Chief Justice Frear views the case from an entirely different standpoint, but comes to the conclusion that a contempt had been committed. The Editor of the Advertiser was consequently remanded to the custody of Deputy Sheriff Chillingworth. But the end of the case is not yet. Mr. Smith's lawyers believe that there is a point of Federal law involved and the matter will be brought before Judge Estes on a writ of habeas corpus this morning. Meantime the greatest sympathy is felt by the community at large for Mr. Smith, and there can be no doubt in which direction the tide of popularity is setting. It is certainly not in the direction of the judiciary building.

The Internal Revenue taxes are not likely to be as large this year as last. Many of the small retail stores in the country took out retail federal licenses under the impression that such a license did away with the necessity of a Territorial license. This has been practically illustrated to be a misapprehension. This will doubtless effect the return in this direction. With regard to the pawnbroker's license, the Territorial law is a dead letter. There should be two or three licenses taken out at \$150 a piece. Pawnbroking is carried on in this city and the unlicensed pawnbroker charges what he practically pleases to the unfortunate imppecunious fly which gets into his web. There have been cases where 90, 70, 100 and 120 per cent per annum have been charged, and jewelry much in excess of the value of the loan has been taken in pledge. As the Federal government requires a license, as well as the Territory, there is a chance that the Internal Revenue men may pounce down upon some of the illicit pawnbrokers.

There seems to be a great deal of baseless speculation upon what our volcanoes will do, and what they will not do. There are any quantity of theories, mathematical, physical, astrological, historical and hysterical. Tuesday an ebb of the wind blew some ashes from a rubbish pile into the air, and forthwith there were many people who were certain that Honolulu was going to be buried in volcanic ash. Of course the matter is laughable enough, but it shows the nervous mental condition that many of our people are in.

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They have so supped in horrors from Martinique that they think a similar condition of affairs will be repeated here. While nothing is certain in this world save "death and taxes," there is very little danger of any such catastrophe occurring here. Save on the Island of Hawaii, all our volcanoes are extinct and not dormant. There has been no heat in any of them, not only within the period of history, but within the period of legend. The Hawaii volcanoes are so distant from the centers of population that even if they were to blow up, the damage they would do would be more from the earth vibrations or earthquakes, than they would by actual volcanic exudations of rivers of lava.

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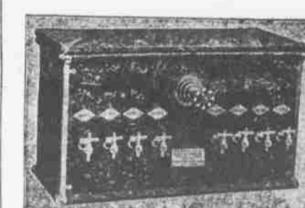
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