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THE FINANCIER.

Auditor Fisher has at least the merit of proposing some plan by which the financial stringency may be met. As Mr. Fisher pointed out in his report it is a very unfortunate condition of affairs when so little money comes into the treasury at the early and middle part of the year, and such an enormous mass after November 15. It is a case of a feast or a famine. Figuring upon an income of \$2,500,000 annually he showed that \$650,000 was collected from January 1 to June 30, and that \$1,850,000 between July 1 and December 31, of which \$1,300,000 comes in after November 15. Mr. Fisher suggested that authority be given to the Treasurer to deposit a portion of this cash in the banks secured by Territorial bonds, and further that there should be a semi-annual collection of taxes.

Both these schemes were good, but they failed to receive any attention from the legislature. That body was far more interested in whether the policeman for Kahoolawe was to receive \$25 or \$30 a month, or whether the park keeper on Molokini should have his salary raised or lowered, than they were in any broad measure of finance. In point of fact the average member of the legislature could not understand a broad measure of finance. To see or know that coin was piled up in the treasury was about his utmost limit. That such an accumulation of coin might be injurious to the business community was far beyond him.

But if we cannot have the Auditor's proposed amendments, we certainly can have an intelligent statement of our present financial condition and of our future prospects. And it is this which the bankers want and which apparently they have not been able to get out of Treasurer Kepoikai. Even if the legislature has appropriated too much, it is not so difficult to cut out what can not be done. During the six months' period the departments did not spend funds up to the limit allowed. Considerable sums were returned to the treasury, or rather remained undrawn. This would be the case at the end of this year. But something more than this is required. There must be a definite cutting down. And it is this work which only the Governor can do. It rests with him to do it. No subordinate officer can undertake this task, only he can have authority enough over his heads of departments to make them curtail where, after consultation with them, he considers it wise to curtail.

There is really not so much difficulty, if the question is faced and a proper understanding is come to. The main difficulty has lain in the fact that the Treasurer himself had no plan. He saw the shortage, a blind man could see that, but he had no plan to meet it. He should have had a definite plan ready for the Governor, which the Governor could have put into effect, or could have modified. It is true that only the Governor has authority enough to make his heads of departments curtail their expenses, but the Treasurer, if he were anything of a statesman ought to save the Governor as much trouble as possible by having some plan prepared. The only plan Mr. Kepoikai had was to send a letter to the heads of departments, which was duly printed in the papers, advising them to spend no money at all. Practically it said, draw your salaries, gentlemen, but for heaven's sake do no work till I see some money in sight.

Once the banks get a clear-cut statement and a financial policy is announced which is going to be adhered to, and the financial troubles of the Territory will melt away like snow off a bank side. Other places have had serious financial troubles, which looked almost insurmountable, but they have been conquered. Financial troubles can be met if there is ability to meet them. Inability muddles the finances, and that is why it is so necessary to have an able man in the position of Treasurer. A man of not only executive power, but a man of initiative power.

CHILD LABOR.

At the first of this year Germany put into effect its latest law with regard to limiting child labor. Statistics show that 27,000 German children under 14 years of age labor in factories and 532,000 under that age are engaged in industrial pursuits outside of factories. In some states of the Union, notably in the South, conditions are far worse than this, and in many European countries there are also worse conditions. But it is satisfactory to see the gradual march of progress which is steadily eliminating child labor from possibilities. We have child labor here occasionally. It is to be found among the Chinese. How to meet it has not yet been solved, but the percentage is so small that it need hardly be considered.

According to the new German law infants are defined to be such as are under 13 years of age, as well as such boys and girls still subject to compulsory school attendance. The employment of one's own children is permitted in a somewhat larger degree than that of non-related children, provided always that the industry itself is not a prohibited one.

In manufacturing, trades and traffic the employment of non-related children under 12 years of age is absolutely prohibited. Own children are protected from such employment when under the age of 10 years. Employment of non-related children over 12 years of age is also forbidden between the hours of 8 p. m. and 8 a. m., as well as before the beginning of the morning school hour. The labor of such children must not exceed three hours per day during school terms, nor four hours per day during vacation. A recess of two hours must be afforded during the middle of the day. In the afternoons such employment can only begin a full hour after close of school. The same provisions cover the employment of own children over 10 years of age. Such own children are forbidden to labor in the homes or shops of parents or guardians for strangers. Neither own nor other children can be employed in public theatrical exhibitions; but the proper authorities may permit an exception where the school authorities are convinced that interest in art or science will be promoted and the morals of the child not imperiled thereby. Due care is also required that no injury to health be sustained through the child's participation in such exhibitions.

One of the chief lines of infant labor in Germany is the carrying of parcels or messages. According to statistics, 42,837 children in Germany are employed in carrying bakers' wares, 45,603 in carrying newspapers, and 35,900 as messengers simply. This law draws a wide distinction between own and non-related children with regard to this species of employment. Non-related children are protected by the same provisions which are set forth relative to factories, trades, and traffic, but with a certain transition period provided. From January 1, 1904, to January 1, 1906, the governing authorities, with the advice of the school authorities, may in each district, or parts thereof, permit the employment, in certain or all of the trades, of children over the age of 12 years as early as 6.30 a. m. and before the opening of school, but not longer than one hour preceding such opening, and this permission must cease absolutely after January 1, 1906.

Of course there are provisions by which there is supervision, and there are penalties for infringing the law. The above is only the very briefest sketch, but it serves to show how carefully the rights of children have been considered.

One of the most striking of the provisions is the regulation of the

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time that children may be employed. Three hours is the limit while schools are in session, and four hours when they are in vacation. Were such a law possible here, many children would be benefited. The working of related children for two and three hours before school begins, is common. The children reach school worn out, and do not gain what they should do from their teachers. A provision in the German laws prohibits employment for one hour before school begins. The subject is an interesting one and merits treatment at greater length than can be given in a daily paper. It might be taken up by the Teachers' Association. There is much that can be learned here, if information is sought for.

The Island of Hawaii is to have a considerable amount from the loan fund. This will give a number of citizens work for some time to come. The condition of the roads which is at present very bad will be much improved when this new work is carried out.

Tenement houses seem to be risky property. They are constantly taking fire. A list of fires would show that more such accidents occur in tenement houses than in any other kind of building.

The Wireless Telegraph Company is, to use a slang phrase "up against it." It has been drawing a subsidy of \$1,000 and has been giving no service. An investigation by Governor Carter shows that the company has not been improving its instruments and material, and that it has not carried out matters which the payment of the subsidy called for. The subsidy has been stopped very justly by Governor Carter. Now the company will have either to hustle or give up.

Judge Dole gave a heavy sentence to the member of the Ten Dollar club who had been attending Oahu College. It was unfortunate that this institution should have had such a moral pervert among its attendants, but it casts no reflection on the institution. The case however, emphasizes how careful as to the home status and surroundings of a student, the various principals of the public schools should be.

A further pension scheme has materialized in Congress. Every veteran of the civil war aged 62, is to have a pension of eight dollars a month, without regard to disability. Those who are 68 years old get 10 a month, and 72 a month goes to those who are 70. Men who served two years get two dollars a month additional. According to one set of figures the pension rolls will be increased by \$15,000,000 according to another set the increase will be \$60,000,000.

Four men have been convicted of fraud connected with the post office at Washington. There are a number more who are in the toils of justice.

In what condition the Korean army

Classified Ads in Star.

Ads under "Situations Wanted," inserted free until further notice.

Wanted

A good light second hand English saddle. State condition and price. Address C., Star office.

A salesman to handle our line of made to order shirts, pants, underwear etc. Also our specialties to the trade. Good commission. Permanent party wanted. Address Easton & Co., 625 Market St., San Francisco.

Agents or Schoolboys—Make big money quick, selling "The Wonder Toy." Every boy buys on sight. Skins flyer, shoots arrow, spins top. Write quick. Weakley & Co., 379 Lake Ave., Chicago.

Found

A purse on Fort Street between School and Vineyard this morning. Owner can have same by applying at Sun Chong Kwook Ho, 82 King street and payment for this ad.

For Sale

A fox terrier can do anything. Apply C. Gatter, Mechanics' Home.

For sale cheap, two fine lots in Kaimuki Charles L. Rhodes, Star Office.

A magnificent building site on the Punchbowl slope near Thurston avenue. Particulars at Star office.

Building lot corner King and Kamehameha road. Palama terminus of Rapid Transit road. Apply at Star office.

To Rent

The clock building on Fort street, next to Lucas mill, is for rent. Apply to Hawaiian Electric Company.

The two-story residence on 1286 Beretania St., between Piliok and Keau-moku Sts. Rent, \$45 per month. Apply to C. J. McCarthy.

Furnished Rooms To Let

A nicely furnished front room. Mosquito proof and electric light. 494 Beretania near Punchbowl.

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For particulars see

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may be is not clear. At one time it was drilled by Russian officers. It has been reported as unruly. Under Japanese discipline it may become a formidable body and be of some assistance in the war.

What is the Russian Squadron doing at Jibuti? It was reported that it had been recalled, but it still remains at anchor. If the Japanese can bottle up or destroy the Russian ships in the Far East, it might be worth while to send a squadron to look up this detachment, and sink or capture it before the Baltic fleet comes along.

The Japanese seem to have sunk the four hulks at the mouth of Port Arthur and to have carried out their plan quite successfully. Alexieff claimed to have destroyed them before they reached their destination but a telegram to Consul Miki Salto has quite another version. Of course Alexieff would not be likely to confess that his harbor mouth is choked.

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 29.

RUGS, CARPETS, DOOR MATS,
CRUMB CLOTHS AND LINOLEUMS.

JAPANESE RUGS. Size, 9x12 ft. Worth \$13.00.	\$9.50	ANTIQUE MATS. Size, 24 in. x 26 in. Worth \$2.50.	\$2.00
WOOL CRUMB CLOTH, Size, 9x12 ft. Worth \$25.00.	\$15.00	VELVET RUGS, Size, 4 ft. 6 in. x 6 ft. Worth \$10.00.	\$7.00
AXMINSTER RUGS. Size, 3 ft. x 6 ft. Worth \$7.00.	\$5.50	TAPESTRY RUGS, Size 25 in. x 55 in. Worth \$2.00.	\$1.25

\$1.75 LINOLEUM \$1.25 yd.

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