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FRANK L. HOOGS.....MANAGER

THURSDAY.....AUGUST 24, 1905.

The Bennington Court Martial

There seems to be a good deal of misapprehension regarding the finding of the board of enquiry in the Bennington horror. The board has found that Ensign Wade, the senior engineer officer of the ship, should be court-martialed, and many people have jumped to the conclusion that this officer is therefore declared guilty of such negligence as caused the death of scores of his comrades. This supposition is utterly unfair. As the officer in charge of engines and boilers it is quite proper that Wade should be court-martialed. It is altogether probable that his reports will show that he has repeatedly reported the weak condition of the boilers to his superiors and that he has recommended repairs done. This must be so, in fact, from the report made by Commander Lucien Young previous to the disaster in which he speaks of the weakness of his boilers. There is only one way to get this evidence before the country and that is by a court martial. It is Ensign Wade's fate to have to stand this ordeal but the idea that he is to be adjudged blood-guilty in advance of the findings is utterly abhorrent to every sense of fair play.

The Stanford Mystery

Unpleasant though it may be, there will be a deal of satisfaction expressed not only locally but all over the United States if the reopening of the Stanford case settles the mystery which still surrounds the death of the aged philanthropist. Despite the attempts made by many persons interested in the estate and in her memory to banish the idea that Mrs. Stanford died of poison, the fact remains that a large proportion of the public believes that her death was due to such outside agency. Four physicians of standing, men whose mere word on matters of the sort would not even be discussed, testified, that in their opinion, death was due to strychnine poisoning, and other physicians, all over the country when the symptoms were described to them acquiesced in the view that strychnine caused the tragedy.

Only a little time before this a similar occurrence had been avoided in the victim's San Francisco home, merely by chance, and yet in the face of this, men of position came to Honolulu, admittedly with the intention of smoothing over all the rough places and making it appear in the eyes of the world that Mrs. Stanford had died from natural causes.

That the handling of the case locally was not of a high order has been commented upon, perhaps ad nauseam, but the fact that the death has never yet been explained will not down. It is to the entire credit of the four Honolulu physicians engaged on the case that they did their work without fear or favor, and that even veiled threats from powerful sources failed to move them from what they considered to be their line of duty. Here in Honolulu, where the final tragedy occurred, it may perhaps have been difficult to get the proper perspective, but in conversation with people from the mainland who have kept track of the Stanford affairs, any person may gather that the belief is general and implicit that poison caused her death.

If the Honolulu physicians follow their intention of putting their findings in the form of a brochure for public circulation, the public will be their debtor. The doctors owe it to themselves that they should do this in any event. Now that the case is all ended there cannot be the slightest suspicion that any ulterior motive can exist, but the world is still very much interested in the motive, if motive there was, which caused the death of the kindly old lady here in Honolulu.

Keep Up Promotion Work

The report of E. I. Spalding to the Chamber of Commerce yesterday on the work of the Promotion Committee, besides being a very conservative, but at the same time hopeful and encouraging report, contained one matter which the Star believes of particular importance. It was mentioned in his report that one \$15,000 residence, and one \$40,000 residence had been arranged for by visitors to the Islands from other places. This directly touches a point upon which The Star in the past has laid considerable stress.

The Star has on several occasions called attention to the fact that both Florida and parts of California have largely been built up, in their industrial and permanent population throughout the tourist traffic which each state has cultivated so assiduously. A very large part of the population of Florida consists of people who came there first as tourists, pure and simple, and, pleased with what they found, built homes and made their permanent residence there. This fact creates openings and opportunities for the productive efforts of others.

In Southern California, especially, thousands of homes are built every year through exactly the same influences. The Star has contended that in this fact lies one of the most hopeful features of promotion work. It has insisted that of the tide of travel attracted hither, a certain proportion was bound to become permanent. People traveling for their health or for their pleasure will in many individual instances—in a certain proportion of cases—become enamored of Hawaii and want to make it their home, and will do so.

Every such family added to our population adds so much to the advantage of living here. It tends to create wants which the productive effort of whites will be required to fill. And thus, in a constantly augmenting ratio, Americans and Americanizing tendencies are added to our population and to our social life.

What Mr. Spalding has reported, is direct and positive evidence to the contention The Star has indulged, that of the tide of visitors coming here, some will remain. Increase that tide of visitors, and the number who will remain will increase. There is no reason to doubt but that if promotion work can bring to our shores visitors in such numbers or anywhere near such numbers as we believe our natural attractions and resources justify, that a very considerable and a very marked addition to our permanent American population will follow. The more of this class of population we get, the more opportunity will be created for diversified industries. Room and opportunity will be created for Americans dependent on their productive efforts and productive energies for their livelihood and fortune. It will become easier and easier for them to find something to do which as American citizens they can do. There will be increasing opportunity for American social and industrial life, for the building up here of an American community out of Americans.

On the material and commercial side, it is easy to see that great benefit will accrue to the islands from a continuing and increasing stream of visitors, a certain proportion of which buy or build houses here and live in them. Every branch of business is benefited.

What in the past has been a hypothesis based on the facts of other

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places, has now become, in the light of Mr. Spalding's report, an ascertained and determined condition of our own islands. We can go on seeking tourist traffic knowing now that we are at the same time adding to our permanent American population, and bringing in elements that will make it easier to build up an American community. It is not the theory of The Star that this is the only line of effort to be followed in the movement to diversify industry, build up homes, and an American community, actuated by American ideals and having opportunities attractive to Americans. But it is one line, and one that has now been experimentally proved feasible. In pursuing this, none other need be neglected. Every line of practical effort to Americanize this Territory, is consistent and compatible with every other. Keep up the promotion work.

The old Australia has been seized by the Japanese for carrying contraband goods. If old water-front legends are to be believed, her late cargoes were not the only "contraband" stuff she has carried in her career.

To read that interview with Governor Carter which was cabled by the Associated Press, one might be led to believe the governor had been attending a Methodist revival instead of luncheon with the President and tarrying at Lake Tahoe.

Craft seems to have become more of a pest to cotton growing than the boll weevil.

Richard is himself again. Former cordial relations are to be restored, and Hawaiian brethren are to dwell together in peace and unity. The only thing that will be lacking when the Manchuria brings back our rejuvenated governor will be Kappelmeister Berger and his band. Berger could make a hit by playing the Manchuria off at San Francisco when Carter leaves, and giving the Golden Gate city a sample of an island steamer departure.

Forger Cooper, on his own showing, is a good deal more of a hypocrite than the Star suspected. In a letter he states that as soon as he went into

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the counterfeiting business, he told his fellow Christian Endeavorers that he had gone out of the Christian business. It would be interesting to know if the enterprising private worked off any of the "queer" into the unsuspecting contribution plate.

Good news is good news no matter whence it may come, hence there must be a great deal of satisfaction in Honolulu over the tidings from San Francisco that "the Royal Hawaiian Band is kept up by Uncle Sam and no one begrudges the appropriation."

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