The Hawaiian Star,

DAILY AND SEMI-WEEKLY.

Published every afternoon (except Sunday) by the Hawaiian Star Newspaper Association, Limited.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

Local, per annum.....$ 8.00
Foreign, per annum.....12.00

Payable in advance.

Entered at Post Office at Honolulu, Hawaii, as second class mail matter.

Subscribers who do not get their papers regularly will oblige a favor by notifying the Star Office; Tele phone 300.

FRANK L. HOGGS.....MANAGER

FRIDAY.....MARCH 1, 1907

Get At The Bottom Of It

The most striking and important thing about the Governor's message to the legislature regarding the Nuuanu dam is what he says about the attitude of the contractor to the work. While speaking only in general terms, it seems clear from what the Governor says that the contractor instead of being desirous either of expediting the work or of co-operating with the Public Works Department to construct a work that shall be reassuring to the public as to its safety, seems looking only to making the largest possible profits out of the work and to so delay and extend the work that every element of risk which a contractor is naturally expected to assume when he bids, shall be shifted from him to the Territory. According to the Governor's message, the attitude of the contractor is little different from that of one who seeks without furnishing either capital, experience, insurance against risk, or any other of the items which a contractor is usually expected to furnish, he still insists on receiving a profit on everything done, a commission on every expenditure made.

The Governor in his message cut a direction in which the joint committee of the legislature can make every pertinent and probably very useful inquiries.

Let the Committee find out who is behind the contractor, controlling him, and dictating the policy he is following. Let the public know who it is that without coming out into the light and sharing the opprobrium which naturally attaches to such conduct as the Governor describes, is yet reaping the profits. Let the committee find out just who it is that insists on a commission for every dollar that the dam will cost the Territory.

Such an inquiry, if successful will show the sinister influence against which the Territorial officials have to contend. They are dealing with the nominal contractor. But behind him, shielding itself from any influence that a just presentation of the situation, or the force of public opinion might exert, are those who, if what is generally understood to be the case, is so, will reap these extraordinary profits from the added cost of the dam.

Results can show who are behind the contractor.

To Protect Children

Judge Whitney has drafted a bill for an act for the prevention of cruelty to children, for introduction into the legislature. The bill is a very simple one, not at all radical, and certainly not going farther than a very ordinary sense of the rights of childhood would require. The essential part of it is as follows:

"Any person who shall wilfully abandon or injure in health or limb any child under his legal control or shall neglect to provide such child with suitable or necessary food or clothing or shall cruelly or unreasonably strike, beat, flog or chastise any such child, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be fined in a sum not exceeding two hundred dollars ($200) or imprisoned for a term of not exceeding six (6) months."

The only surprising thing about it is that it should be new—that there should not already be such a statute in force. But there has always been a jealousy of any apparent interference with parental rights in Hawaii, and more especially, perhaps, among the Hawaiians, though among no people is there a stronger sentiment of kindness and hospitality for children. This is proved by the fact that Hawaiian children bereft of parents, are quickly adopted by others and very often by those who have no direct obligations in regard to them, and who often are not well able to assume the additional burdens.

But with our growing population of many races, and our growing distance from the time when that Hawaiian spirit of adoption universally prevailed, there is growing need of some such law as Judge Whitney has drafted. Indeed what Judge Whitney has done in this matter has grown out of his experience as District Magistrate, and the simple though often touching and extremely human annals of the poor that are tried before him day after day.

The act is very moderate in its terms. It does not interfere with any just parental authority. It seeks only to protect childhood against that which no real parental authority would inflict. It is to be hoped it will meet with the approval of the members of the legislature and become a law.

Throttling Race Bigotry

The Hilo Tribune is authority for the statement that the organization in that place of the Hui Kuokoa a Hookuonoono o na Olelo Hawaii has ceased to exist, and that a local organization to be known as the Hui Hawaii Pono has taken its place. The reason for the change is said to be, that whatever the original purposes of the older organization, the branch of it in Hilo had become controlled by those who made it its principal purpose to see that none but those of Hawaiian blood were appointed to office. This spirit and policy was alleged to have found culmination in the action of the Board of Supervisors refusing to approve the appointment of T. J. Ryan to a fifty-dollar a month job, although it is admitted that it was very largely through his efforts that the fusionists secured a majority of the Board of Supervisors at the last election. In Ryan's place a native Hawaiian was at once installed. This action is said to have made so clear the animating spirit in control of the organization, as to have created a revulsion of feeling among the members of the organization and among Hawaiians in general, which has resulted in the dissolution of the old organization, and the creation of a new one whose purposes are purely benevolent.

If this is so it reflects the highest credit on the Hawaiians themselves. There is nothing more characteristic of Americans and American politics, nor more commendable, than the widespread spirit which will not tolerate the application of any tests of race or blood or religious convictions for public office. Americans may have their personal predilections and their personal prejudices. But the firmest in conviction and the most prejudiced will not tolerate any secret, oath-bound societies or organizations whose object is to put in office or keep out of office classes of men because of their race or their religion irrespective of their political views or their character. The experience of the A. P. A. movement and kindred organizations in the past few years has been decisive on this point.

So it is proof both of the good sense and of the Americanism of these Hawaiians, that as soon as it became evident that an organization originated for wholly different and wholly commendable purposes was being used to advance this species of bigotry, they should at once and so promptly throttle the spirit of bigotry.

What Hawaii needs is the co-operation of all men of good will to advance it politically and materially. And though men will inevitably differ as to the best means and will therefore divide into parties, difference of views and political principles, and not the mere accidents of race or differences of religion are the basis of party divisions. And if good men divide only on differences of political principles, partisanship loses all of its danger.

The native Hawaiians are giving constant proof of their desire to make this a truly American commonwealth, and in nothing have they given more creditable proof of their qualification as Americans than in throttling the spirit of race bigotry.

A Man With A Message

The very large attendance at the opening lecture of the series Dr. Edward I. Bosworth is to give in Honolulu, is conclusive evidence that there is widespread interest either in the subject or in the lecturer. Dean Bosworth's reputation as a lecturer preceded him, and his first lecture has justified all expectations entertained of him. But there is no doubt that his subject is one that appeals. Notwithstanding the revisions and revulsions of theological standards which have been going on, seemingly more rapidly in our own generation than in any other—perhaps because of these revisions and revulsions—there never was an age when there was more earnest and widespread inquiry into the fundamentals of religion, and above all into the character and life, the teachings and the personality of Jesus Christ.

It is to discuss with candid minds these very things that Dean Bosworth has come, and he has come "shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace." It is his preparedness that instantly strikes his hearers. It is one of the sources of his power. Considered from no higher view point than that of mere intellectuality, no man or woman who appreciates ripe scholarship and the full, comprehensive outlook which ripe scholarship coupled with strong mental powers can give, should fail to hear these lectures.

The San Francisco papers devoted a great deal of space to discussion of the settlement of the Japanese question made by the amendment to the immigration bill, but nowhere do they give any intelligent summary of the provisions of the bill as it was passed. When the Siberia arrived Wednesday with files of the San Francisco papers, many people immediately began searching them to find out more in detail the terms of the settlement. But they searched in vain. There were columns of stuff telegraphed from Washington of gossip and controversy as to whether Japan was satisfied, and whether the President had handed Mayor Schmitz and the California people a gold brick or not, and whether bricks or bouquets would greet the Mayor on his return. But nowhere in any of the San Francisco papers is there a clear or intelligible statement of what are the terms of the bill, which has settled or is supposed to have settled the controversy at least temporarily.

L. A. Thurston, who returned by the Siberia this morning says that he was returning across the continent at the time the settlement was effected, and that he tried diligently in the San Francisco newspaper offices to find out the exact terms of the bill, but without avail. The clearest presentation of the subject he got was from a Texas paper.

Senator Bailey does not seem to have lost his hold on the people of Texas.

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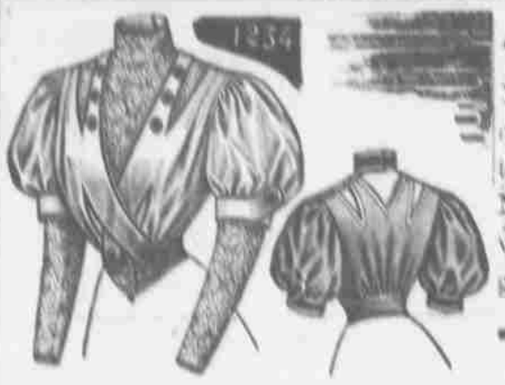

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