

# The Hawaiian Star

DAILY AND SEMI-WEEKLY.

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GEORGE F. HENSHALL ..... MANAGER  
WEDNESDAY ..... SEPTEMBER 9, 1908

### GOVERNMENT BY COMMISSION AGAIN.

The Star is accused by the Advertiser of thinking that "American government depends upon a count of noses." Well, neighbor, the accusation is not far from wrong. It has always been pretty generally understood that a "count of noses" was a vital element in our political system. Americans are accustomed to yielding peacefully to the showing made by a "count of noses." They are now about to make such a count on the biggest scale on which it has ever been done in the known history of the planet. And the "count of noses" will determine whether Taft or Bryan shall be president of by far the greatest nation which ever chose its rulers by such a test. There certainly seems to be a great deal of truth in the remark that American government depends upon a count of noses, and we are not disposed to complain of the succinct indictment.

Now the fact is that nothing but the elective system, where it is practicable, is American. The Advertiser's two exceptions are in city government alone.—Galveston and the capital, Washington. The comparison of any other American city with Washington, in matters of government, as a test, is too absurd for discussion. This leaves only one, Galveston, to sustain the proposition that government of a city,—not to speak of a whole Territory,—by commission, is American. There are over a hundred American cities larger than Galveston, all governed under "the elective system." Which system, then, is American? Moreover, Galveston, the lone exception to the really American system, is a product of special conditions. The city was practically wiped out by a flood and only by almost superhuman effort of her citizens did she rise again, build dams of enormous magnitude to prevent further disaster and again become a prosperous center. The reason for the commission was found in the executive emergency,—as well cite the Panama strip, where the great canal is being made, as Galveston. Finally, if any absurdity can be added, after these considerations, to the comparison of a government of the small city of Galveston by commission and the proposed government of Hawaii by commission, there is the fact that the commission for Galveston is chosen by the community and that of Hawaii would be appointed in Washington. The rest of the instances cited to show that government by commission is American are Alaska (which is just winning a fight to get Hawaii's American status and a delegate in Congress) and the Philippines, Guam and Samoa. The Philippines were subdued by war and are barely out of military control and are never to be a part of the United States if they can be abandoned, and neither of the other two contain enough Americans to make them worth discussing. The Advertiser seems to have piled one absurdity on another, in the effort to justify government by commission and to declare it American.

The last paragraph of the Advertiser's argument, (ignoring its customary notion that anyone who differs from it is in some way or other venal, this being a suggestion to which the community is accustomed by this time) contains some ideas with which all may agree:

We can well understand why politicians and papers that seek to curry favor with politicians would like to retain the old order in Hawaii. We had such politicians and papers in 1893. They were conservative after the fashion of the horse that refuses to leave its burning stable; but events confounded them. Today a new issue is arising which will undoubtedly test, once more, the elasticity of the American system. There is no use opposing it as something at variance with the constitution or the laws, for it is not. The question brought up by it is simply one of administrative policy, and as such it must be decided with sole regard to national welfare.

There can be no question that if the American nation decides that strategic or other reasons make it advisable to govern these islands by Washington appointees, it will be done, and that the decision will be "with sole regard to the national welfare." This The Star has said before. But it has also said that the change, taking away the franchise here, will be made, if at all, very reluctantly indeed, and that perhaps we may, by our own progress, make such a change unnecessary. But in arguing that such a system is American the Advertiser is absurd, and in advocating such a system, it misrepresents the community. If the question ever comes up in Congress we may see Advertiser editorials read in debate to show that the people of Hawaii, as shown by their one morning newspaper, want to lose their right of suffrage, their powers of self-government and their real status as citizens and to be governed by an appointed commission,—and that the only reasons given for the wish are that it is a hard task to look after our own affairs and that government by commission might be cheaper. Was this the American spirit of '93 to which the Advertiser refers?

### THE FORESTRY POLICY.

Forestry is the subject of one of Roosevelt's policies against which selfish interests have waged but a brief contest. Intelligent public opinion was too strong for them to resist, and besides some of the interests were not long in finding that systematic forest conservation was to their own advantage. Even the holders of lumbering privileges found that the substitution of scientific methods for the wasteful practices of the old-fashioned lumbermen meant money in their pockets.

In the new forestry policy recourse is being had to the experience of Europe, where the necessity of invoking science to protect and propagate forests arrived long before it did in America. It is only lately, to speak comparatively, that the people of the United States have been awakened to a sense of disastrous consequences threatening the nation from the rapid depletion of its forest wealth. The enormous demands made upon the forests by the lumber and paper, pulp industries, together with the annual devastations by fire, the wasteful culling of timber for mining purposes and the indiscriminate clearing of woods to make way for farms, had created a situation that was menacing to one of the greatest sources of national wealth.

As part of the Roosevelt policy a commission was appointed by the President to study European methods of forestry. Senator Smoot was chairman and on his return lately he expressed strong admiration of the scientific forestry of Switzerland and Germany. He told of the city of Zurich which, in connection with its forests of Silwald, runs saw and planing mills and, excellent and tool handle factories, which apparently utilize the timber to the last inch. In the Black Forest of Germany

# THE "STAR" SPECIAL ARTICLE PAGE---

Wit, Wisdom, Humor  
Politics and Nonsense

## MARCH AND JULY---

### WHAT A DIFFERENCE

Bryan's Nebraska Platform,  
March, 1908.

Bryan's Denver Platform,  
July, 1908.

#### THE PARAMOUNT ISSUE.

"Equal rights to all and special privileges to none." This is the overshadowing issue at this time; it manifests itself in all the questions now under discussion and demands immediate consideration.

"Shall the people rule?" is the overshadowing issue which manifests itself in all questions now under discussion.

#### THE GATEWAY OF REFORM.

We favor the election of United States senators by direct vote of the people and regard this reform as the gateway to all other national reforms.

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#### POSTAL SAVINGS—FIRST OR LAST.

We favor the postal savings bank, and in addition thereto insist upon the passage of laws—state and national—for the better regulation of banks and for the protection of bank deposits.

We favor the postal savings bank if the guaranteed bank cannot be secured.

#### LOST—THE INHERITANCE TAX.

We favor an income tax as part of our revenue system and we urge the submission of a constitutional amendment specifically authorizing congress to levy and collect a tax upon individual and corporate incomes to the end that wealth may bear its proportionate share of the burden of the federal government.

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#### THE RAILROAD REGULATION.

We believe that both the nation and the various states should first ascertain the present value of the railroads, measured by the cost of reproduction; second, prohibit the issue of any more watered stock or fictitious capitalization; third, prohibit the railroads from engaging in any business which brings them into competition with other jobs; and, fourth, reduce transportation rates until they reach a point where they will yield only a reasonable return on the present value of the roads, such reasonable return being defined as a return sufficient to keep the stock of the roads at par when such roads are honestly capitalized.

We favor a sufficient supervision of rate legislation of railroads engaged in interstate commerce. To this end we recommend the physical valuation of railroads by the Interstate Commerce commission, such valuation to take into consideration the physical value of the property, the original cost of production and all elements of value that will render the valuation fair and just.

We favor such legislation as will prevent the railroads from engaging in business which brings them into competition with other jobs; also legislation which will assure such reduction in transportation rates as conditions will permit, care being taken to avoid reduction that would compel a reduction of wages, prevent adequate service or do injustice to legitimate investments.

#### LABOR AND INJUNCTIONS.

We favor such a modification of the law relating to injunctions as will first prevent the issuing of the

Experience has proven the necessity of modification of one present law relating to injunctions and we re-

every tree carries its own number, stock being taken every year as if the forest were a store. Mr. Smoot thinks that similar methods are imperatively necessary to save 164,000,000 acres of forest reserve in the United States, and the commission he heads will probably advise the increase of the United States forestry department to that end. In this connection the following article from an exchange is in point:

Among all the nations of the world Germany receives the credit of being the most thoroughly scientific. She does with her limited natural resources what young nations will soon be compelled to do in self-protection—she conserves them.

When our wood supplies stored up from 100 to 500 years, are within sight of their end, and sawmills that have been moved from the white pine belt of the North to the yellow pine belt of the South have been moved to the Pacific Coast for their last stand, then Germany's scientific forestry policy will receive better recognition.

We do not think of moving a grist mill about from one wheat field to another, as the fields in turn become exhausted. After one crop is harvested another is coming on. So it must be with the sawmill and the crop of trees. If it takes fifty years to raise a tree of a given species, then one fiftieth of the forest may be cut each year, provided it reseeded or is planted—and the sawmill stays at the same place and the workmen live in their permanent snug homes near by; the "lumber shanty" will be a thing of the past; raising trees a business, like raising wheat.

#### VOTING IN HAWAII IF A STATE.

Complete statehood would also probably mean a constitution that would exclude the Japanese voter. And this might solve many a problem.—Star.

How exclude him if he was born here? The XIV Amendment to the Constitution says: "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States, and of the State wherein they reside." And the XV Amendment says: "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States, or by any State, on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude." If the Star does not intend to have the Constitution overruled, how is it going to proceed against the Japanese American-born citizen?

We will leave the question to the lawyers, who will probably delightfully disagree over it. The Star didn't say it could be done, but that it might. And in this connection the Advertiser's attention is respectfully directed to the fact that despite the 14th and 15th amendments, half a dozen states have constitutions which exclude Chinese from voting, nearly a dozen have laws under which no Indian casts a ballot and, as stated yesterday, a number exclude enlisted soldiers and sailors,—all citizens. One state even excludes atheists from voting, others those who don't pay taxes, still another didn't like duellists and kept them away from the polls, while special provisions to prevent embezzlers from voting exists in many states. It may be that all this is possible because the 14th and 15th amendments are rather limited in inhibiting disallowance of suffrage,—three reasons are named which shall not be ground for disqualification to vote, but there does not seem to be a declaration preventing disfranchisement on any other old ground that suits the whim of a state. If Hawaii should become a state, under this view, it might be with a constitution of our own making, which would practically exclude Japanese from voting if we chose to do so. And that, we beg to repeat, "might solve many a problem."

writ in industrial suits, except after notice to defendants and full hearing; second, permit trial before a judge other than the one who issued the writ; and, third, allow a jury to be summoned in all cases where the alleged contempt is committed outside of the presence of the court.

rate the pledges of our national platform of 1896 and 1904 in favor of the measure which passed the United States senate in 1896, but which a Republican congress has ever since refused to enact relating to contempt in federal courts and providing for trial by jury in cases of indirect contempt.

Questions of judicial practice have arisen, especially in connection with industrial disputes. We deem that the parties to all judicial proceedings should be treated with impartiality and that injunctions should not be issued in any cases in which injunctions would not issue if no industrial dispute was involved.

#### ANOTHER LOST DECLARATION.

We insist upon the recognition of the distinction between the natural man and the artificial person called a corporation, and we favor the enactment of such law as may be necessary to compel foreign corporations to submit their local disputes to courts of the states in which they do business, and thus place themselves upon the same footing as domestic corporations.

(No mention of foreign corporations submitting to state courts.)

In his acceptance speech Mr. Bryan declares that a platform is binding on the candidate and that it is furthermore binding "as to what it omits as well as what it contains." He goes on to say that he approves everything in the Denver platform, which everyone knows he approved before the convention was permitted to adopt it, and that it will be his political creed. Omaha Bee.

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