

BARCELONA CALAMITY NEWS UNTRUE

KAPAA LANDS 134 LOTS ARE DISPOSED OF

LAND COMMISSIONER PRATT RETURNS FROM VERY SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO KAUAI TO DISPOSE OF THE MUCH DISCUSSED LANDS FORMERLY UNDER LEASE TO MAKEE SUGAR COMPANY—PRICES ARE LOW AS PLANNED.

James W. Pratt, Commissioner of Public Lands, returned from Kauai, where he went to sell and lease the Kapaa lands so long a matter of discussion between the government and the Makee Sugar Co., this morning after one of the nastiest trips across the channel he ever experienced.

"We advertised house lots on the flats," Mr. Pratt said to a Star reporter, "to be taken under the 99-year lease system, twenty of them, and nine were taken.

"Of house lots mauka we advertised thirty lots and eight were taken. "Thirty-five taro land lots mauka were advertised and thirty were taken.

"Eighty-five house lots mauka were advertised and thirty taken.

Under general leases we advertised twenty-seven lots of agricultural and rice lands, of which twenty-six were taken; on the flats five lots of similar lands of which four were taken, and sixty-three house lots, of which thirty were taken. The total of lots under general lease advertised was 95 and those taken 60.

"We advertised forty-seven town lots to be sold under special agreements to citizens. Of these forty-four were taken.

"The grand total of lots advertised was 227 and 134 were taken. We purposely advertised more lots than there

was any idea would be taken, so as to avoid a petition that would force up prices on intending settlers.

"Japanese, Chinese and Portuguese took the general leases. The house lots were generally taken by people of European races. Natives of course took the taro lands.

"The total of upset prices asked on general leases was \$1138.50 and the total result \$1139.50.

"Under special agreements \$4285 was asked and the sales brought \$299. The advance in this matter was mostly caused by two instances—one that of two old Chinese at feud and the other that of two business men who got fighting over a business site and ran it up from \$700 to \$2125.

"We sold a lot of detached buildings, the total upset price being \$591 and the proceeds \$678.

"Starting in at 9 o'clock Wednesday morning the clerk and I worked until 9:15 that night, when those attending the sale having said they had no further business, we left for Lihue. Remaining there over Thursday on Friday I drove over to Lawai. At this place I had appointed Louis McKeague as sub-agent and now gave him general instructions.

"Sales and leases sold came to \$8,115.50 altogether, of which we brought home \$2506.35, being the amount of all the payments due at this time."

WARSHIPS COMING BIG HOSPITAL PLANS

FOUR JAPANESE FIGHTERS DUE IN APRIL—PEARL HARBOR TO HAVE GREAT HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATIONS—1,500 MARINES FOR NAVAL STATION—FIFTH CAVALRY MEN ARE GREAT SHOTS—ENGINEERS TO BE RELIEVED BEORE LONG.

A Japanese squadron of four warships will visit Honolulu and California ports in April or early in May. Arrangements are being made here for coaling and a representative of the Japanese government is at present in California arranging for coaling at mainland ports.

Two armored cruisers and two training ships, each of the latter being a large protected cruiser, will leave Japan the first week in March for Honolulu and after a short stay here they will go to San Francisco, Tacoma, San Pedro, San Diego and possibly Panama.

PEARL HARBOR HOSPITAL. Plans and estimates are about complete for a large hospital at Pearl Harbor, since the importance of the station and the proportions to which it is intended by the government to have it grow, very soon, make it expedient to anticipate the necessity of an adequate hospital there to provide for the large number of men from the Navy and Marine Corps to be stationed on this island.

1,500 MARINES INTENDED. Rear Admiral Ingersoll states that the plan of the General Board is to use the Marine Corps at advanced naval bases; 1,500 each at Guantanamo and Pearl Harbor. At Panama the marines are to be drilled in special maneuvers in defending advanced naval bases and in seizing such bases in time of war. The men are to be drilled on shipboard on ships of their own specially adapted to work to be cut out for them.

FIFTH CAVALRY SHOTS. The average percentage for the Cavalry, mounted and dismounted practices with the revolver for 1908, is 42.92. The average percentage for 1907 was 53.05.

Troop C, 5th Cavalry leads with an average percentage of 55.13, while Troop D, 5th Cavalry, is lowest with an average percentage of 35.83.

Captain August C. Nissen, 5th Cavalry, leads the officers of cavalry in this class of firing with an average percentage of 79.00, while Pvt. William W. Warns, Troop C, 5th Cavalry has the highest average among the enlisted men, 82.50.

ENGINEERS' RELIEF. Headquarters and Co. G, 2nd Battalion of Engineers, will be relieved from duty at Washington Barracks and will proceed to San Francisco, Cal., and be reported to the commanding general, Department of California, in time to embark for Honolulu, Hawaii Territory, on the transport sailing from San Francisco on May 5, 1909, to relieve the headquarters and Co. A, 1st Battalion of Engineers, which upon being thus relieved will proceed to Washington Barracks for station.

K. YAMAMOTO. Wholesale Merchant on Hotel street has received the largest consignment of Japanese goods which he is disposing of at very reasonable prices. Mr. K. Yamamoto is always the first man to import the first crop of goods from Japan, and we can promise the best of treatment from this popular merchant.

HOME MADE CANDIES. The Alexander Young Cafe makes fresh home made candies every day. Try their chocolates and nougats.

Culman's watches are of lasting regularity made perfect by machines of precision.

DRESS GOODS SALE. The dress goods sale at Sachs' is bringing out exceptionally good values. Don't miss it.

Best cup of coffee in the city at New England Bakery.

Fine Job Printing, Star Office.

ALL THE NEW SHAPES MAINLAND PRICES.

L.B. Kerr & Co., Ltd

ALAKEA STREET.

KUHIO STOPPED THE BILL

The following letter from Prince Kuhio was written about two weeks before a Honolulu mass meeting asked him to urge the suspension bill:

Washington, D. C., Jan. 9, 1909.

EDITOR HAWAIIAN STAR:—After conferring with our friends here at the Capitol, I have asked the Senate Committee on Commerce to hold my Coastwise Suspension Bill without further action for the present. Meantime we are doing all we can to assist the movement to secure passage of the mail subsidy bill now pending.

In view of the divided sentiment in Honolulu on the question of special shipping privileges, I hesitate to press my bill for passage even if the subsidy measure should fail.

While I worked hard for this legislation at the last session when expressions of public sentiment at Honolulu were practically unanimous in its favor, I regard it as a very different question to ask for special legislation when a considerable portion of the expressions of public opinion are now opposed to the step.

As matters now stand, I am disposed to let the bill lie in committee unless the community shall evidence a fairly united desire to have further efforts made to secure its passage.

BARCELONA GREAT CITY

Mr. Marques of this city states: "The population of Barcelona at last census was 539,000. It is now the second largest city in Spain."

The statement was made in correction of the information appended to the cablegram of the reported great earthquake disaster to Barcelona in this morning's paper.

plete for a large hospital at Pearl Harbor, since the importance of the station and the proportions to which it is intended by the government to have it grow, very soon, make it expedient to anticipate the necessity of an adequate hospital there to provide for the large number of men from the Navy and Marine Corps to be stationed on this island.

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Kuhio Again Takes New Tack On Land Laws

Washington, D. C., January 18.

EDITOR STAR:—Believing that the power of the Executive to exchange government lands should be limited, I have informed the Governor of my intention to ask for a provision that no exchange by which the Territory shall convey lands exceeding ten acres in area, or five thousand dollars in value shall be made except with the approval of two thirds of the members of a board, constituted as may be provided by the legislature.

Very truly yours, J. KALANI NAOLE, Delegate to Congress.

TRENT REFUSES TO PAY ROAD LABORERS

AUDITOR ISSUES WARRANTS AND TREASURER CASHES THEM WHERE THERE IS NO DISPUTE OVER APPOINTMENTS—BOARD'S APPOINTEE, CUMMINS, CAN'T GET SALARY AS ROAD OVERSEER, NOR CAN WORKMEN UNDER HIM RECEIVE WAGES.

Having been advised by the City and County Attorney that he could safely issue warrants for salary demands authorized by the Supervisors, Auditor Bicknell this morning handed out the pay-slips to those who called and the heavens didn't fall until the office of City and County Treasurer Trent was reached and Trent declared that he would refuse to deal out cash to men whose appointments were in dispute.

The firemen got paid, as did the police, and the elective officers and all who had been appointed both by the Mayor and by the Supervisors and where there was no possibility of dispute, but, where the Mayor had appointed an employe and the Supervisors had also appointed a man to do the same work, there was no money issued.

This particularly affected Road Overseer Tommy Cummins, appointed by the Board, and his men, the road laborers, and all the parkkeepers, save one.

Trent wants to be on the safe side and has dug up a section of the Municipal Act and hence his action on the word "pay."

Whether a City and County Treasurer "pays" just because he hands out the money per order, or not, is a question that may have to be decided in the courts. The people pay, the City and County pays, the Supervisors have ordered the bills to be paid and the Treasurer hands out the cash, except when he is convinced that he and his bondsmen may be held liable for paying illegally.

If his action affected the Mayor's appointee as road supervisor, Wilson, and the men on the road under him, Trent would act the same, but Wilson and his laborers have not got as far in their fight for warrants as to get the warrants issued.

Trent has the following to say in the premises: "It is with very deep regret that I feel forced to refuse to pay some of the warrants drawn on the City and County treasury in favor of persons who have rendered service to the City and County; and I especially regret to have to hold up warrants drawn on behalf of the large number of road

men who have faithfully worked during the month just closing. "I am aware of the fact that these men are in immediate need of the money for which they have worked, and no one is more anxious than I to see them get it at the earliest possible moment.

"And in refusing payment I want it distinctly understood that I am not attempting to pass judgment on the legality or illegality of the acts of the Mayor or the Board of Supervisors. I do not pretend to know which side is right or which side is wrong on the matters now in dispute between them.

"But I do know that there is a section in the new Municipal Act (and which was not in the old City Act) which seems to make the Treasurer personally responsible, and his bondsmen with him, for the payment of any illegal claims against the City and County, no matter who may previously have approved or allowed them or ordered them paid.

"The section to which I refer is No. 138 of the Municipal Act, and reads as follows: Section 138. Every officer who shall approve, allow or pay any demand on the treasury not authorized by law, ordinance or this charter, shall be liable to the City and County individually and on his official bond for the amount of the demand so illegally approved, allowed or paid.

"While that section of the law stands uninterpreted by the courts I do not feel that I would be doing my duty to the taxpayers, to my bondsmen or to myself if I were to hand out some thousands of dollars to employes whose status has been questioned and is in grave doubt in the minds of thoughtful citizens. I shall therefore refuse to pay any warrants that are drawn in favor of employes whose appointments have not been approved or sanctioned by both the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors, and I shall be absolutely impartial and non-partisan in the matter, and if any one wishes to hall me into court I will agree to throw aside all technicalities and meet the issue at once."

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MADRID DENIES TALE OF TERROR

(Associated Press Cable to The Star.)

MADRID, Spain, January 30.—The reports of a tremendous earthquake and great tidal wave yesterday destroying cities and towns in this country are untrue. Yesterday there was a slight shock at Tolona but no serious damage ensued.

U. S. SHIPS SALUTE NEW EMPEROR

TANGIER, Morocco, January 30.—The United States battleships Georgia and Nebraska of the Atlantic fleet arrived here today and saluted with their guns the flag of new emperor.

MIDDLE WEST SUFFERS STORM

CHICAGO, January 30.—Heavy losses to property from severe snow storms are reported throughout the middle-western States.

MINING MAN'S FRAUDULENT STOCK

SAN FRANCISCO, January 30.—Frank Dietz, secretary of the Belcher Mining Company, is accused of issuing \$22,500 shares of fraudulent stock.

ANTI-ALIEN BILL NEARING PASSAGE

SACRAMENTO, January 30.—The Judiciary Committee of the Assembly has decided to report favorably on the measure having for its object the prohibition of all aliens owning land in this State.

KING JAMES WINS

SAN FRANCISCO, January 30.—King James wins the Burns handicap.

NEW PARK THEATRE

Work has commenced on the Werner new "Park" Theatre which will be opened a week from tonight.

The theatre which will be an open air affair promises to afford much entertaining to the pleasure seeking people of Honolulu. There will be no stifling uncomfortableness that is in all inside theatres.

Harry Werner is confident of great success. Lucas Bros. have started today on the erection of the theatre.

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