

THE HAWAIIAN STAR

Published every afternoon (except Sunday) by the Hawaiian Star Newspaper Association, Ltd., McCandless Building, Bethel street, Honolulu.

WALTER G. SMITH, EDITOR

THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 1911

WHY WE REFUSE AID.

The President of the Board of Health, Mr. E. A. Mott-Smith, is reported by the morning paper to oppose the plan of asking such Federal assistance in cleansing the town of cholera as other American and colonial-American cities freely ask for and freely receive.

His reasons are given as follows:

"It is not costing very much and we are fully equipped ourselves to handle the matter. The volunteer assistance we receive is making matters easy and it is, in fact, making local handling of the situation possible.

"I think it would be a mistake to ask for outside help and that purely local control of the situation will be worth real dollars to the Territory."

And so it is fear that "local control" may be taken away! We wish to Heaven it were taken away in all health matters, for then the city would be kept clean "between times" and not merely made clean while in peril and when it is too late to save human lives. For months, while the President of the Board of Health has been absent on other duties, Honolulu has been allowed to become dirtier and dirtier. Under this head the Advertiser, only the other day, reviewed incidents which fairly put the burden of blame for cholera upon the very men who now say they "need no help in suppressing it." Perhaps if luck is with us, it will turn out that they do not, but the lessons of the past are all the other way. The Star cannot learn the exact dimensions of the big sum which was spent in 1895 by the Board of Health to suppress the cholera but it knows what that same Board spent in fighting the bubonic plague in 1899. That sum was two million dollars of local treasury surplus and we burnt three millions of dollars' worth of property besides, on account of which the United States settled claims in the sum of two millions. But we "kept control." We were still able to stay on the salary list.

It will be all right if the Board makes good at once; if it stops the deaths and the outlay and releases the quarantine soon. It will be all right if the cholera does not spread into the plantations, but if it does and things go from bad to worse here, this Administration had better not risk "keeping control" much longer or it may lose that privilege in other things besides sanitation. The people are getting restive over waiting for an antidote from those whose carelessness, indifference or helplessness in public sanitation are responsible for the bane. They are not keen for making expenses. They are quite willing that the money raised here by themselves for a safeguard which is not erected, save partially during epidemics and then at vast cost, should be kept for roads and bridges and public schools instead, while the money of the United States, which is freely given for the sanitation of other tropical and semi-tropical American cities and is always available, should be expended here instead.

There stands the Federal Government, introducing the new Public Health Service, the business of which is to cleanse American cities where maladies exist which threaten commerce, travellers and Federal garrisons and the lives of the people. Here is a port infected with cholera, at a crossroads of commerce, visited by travellers, housing garrisons and surrounded by plantations employing an army of Asiatics disdainingly ready help. It is a port with but a small fund to draw upon, having surrendered the greater part of its public revenues to the United States at the time of annexation, yet a port which declines to ask for the efficient aid to be had for nothing. San Francisco had no hesitancy in seeking Federal money for its rat crusade. Jacksonville, Florida, surrendered its "control" of the yellow fever epidemic gladly enough to Uncle Sam, who drove the disease away. Manila and Havana, lairs of pestilence, let themselves be cared for by the Federal officials who have reduced sanitation to a science. Only Honolulu looks askance at the means of relief which is at once the best and cheapest, and does so because its costly ornament, the Territorial Board of Health, fears to "lose control." It is small solace to those who die that they do so under strictly Territorial auspices even for the benefit of fellow-citizens on the payroll. Some of their surviving friends feel that they might better have lived by accepting the grace of Uncle Sam, even if they had to endure the black looks of dislodged payrollists afterwards.

Uncle Walt The Poet Philosopher

One man who is dismal and grim as a storm, with eyes that abysmal, disheartens the crowd. I know of a dealer in pickles and who lutes a glad spirit on the sight of a grin. He prances the floor on, and scowls at his clerk, and seems to be sore on the contracted neck. He thinks that good humor is foolish and vain, and carries a tumor instead of a brain. His clerk wouldn't care if they saw him no more; and some day the sheriff will close up his store. His patrons grow weary of such a sour dog; they find things less dreary around at the morgue. I know of a grafter in rat and job-bait, whose jubilant laughter resounds in his lair. His mirth is outrageous, but serving good ends, for it is contagious, and brings him to friends. The salesman who tinker around in his store all day he's a chinker—what man could ask more? I say that your scowling costs more than a grin; and growling and growling are stupid as sin.

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WALT MASON.

The death of Dr. Walter Brinckerhoff ends a life of great promise and much performance, in which the elements of joy and tragedy were strangely blended. It seems but a little while since his wedding; but there have been occasion for two funerals since. The only one of the family left is a child whose birth caused the death of the mother.

Senator Lorimer will be no more influential in the Senate "circulated" than Burton of Kansas is out of it with the beard.

Now that the great salaries are coming down, let us hope they will meet some of the small ones going up.

There would be plenty of money for left roads if Uncle Sam paid over the sanitary expenses.

You begin to learn how the other half lives when the demagogic search of health officers begins.

With poi and fish on the blacklist where does the Hawaiian come in with a dinner pail?

If DeLessez returns the Kaiser may feel like calling out the Potsdam militia.

Reciprocity will have innings by itself.

LITTLE INTERVIEWS

SENATOR FAIRCHILD—We ought to have a town meeting before March 15 to consider taxation matters.

GEORGE A. DAVIS—If the Federal government can give a better health service than we can and pay the bill, why not let it?

ROBERT CATTON—Why not organize the citizens to clean and inspect the town as they did before and put the Federal authorities, who fully know their business, in charge?

JOHN SMITH—I was told yesterday by a well-known lawyer that there is not now a single Hawaiian engaged in commerce on the island of Oahu. There isn't even a native poi shop.

C. S. DESKY—I have several thousand roses growing in the Kalia valley and they are fine. But it takes a lot of poison to get rid of the pests. I am beginning to know as much about poisons now as a criminal lawyer.

J. LIGHTFOOT—I would suggest that, after dark, distinguishing colored lights be placed on the King street and Emma street cars. Many a King street car is stopped at the corner by someone who wishes to go up Emma street. Time and trouble would be avoided if different-colored lights were used.

RALPH JOHNSTONE—Why don't we get out picture postcards for distribution abroad, showing the busy scenes which were presented in Honolulu's main streets during the visit of the Shriners. I'm not referring to the thousands who lined the highways during the procession, but the everyday scene during their stay in this city. Seems to me there was more shopping and a bigger crowd of local people and visitors than on ordinary occasions.

CAPT. BRAY—I have a theory with regard to the cholera as well as others. A lot of blasting has been done near the Quarantine Island—Rotten Row, as it is called—where all the old hulks have been anchored for years. Some of these hulks have sunk and I think a lot of old copper and poison-saturated wood from those old

hulks have been the means of poisoning the fish. When you look at the black muck that goes up with each blast, it looks anything but healthy, and the fish have been poisoned by the explosions. The natives have been picking up the fish and eating them. The fish swimming around the wharves have appeared to be stupid and sick. The natives have been fishing all around the different wharves, and I cannot help thinking that the whole trouble is right here, and that the fish have been poisoned. That is where the trouble has come from.

JOHN EFFINGER—The Star has had quite a little to say lately about the plan now being discussed in California to provide for the "recall" of the judges in that State. I think that most thoughtful persons will agree that the measure ought to fail, although there are two sides to the shield. The President carries the "recall" of the judges in the Territories under his hat; that is to say, although the judges in the Territories are appointed for a definite term, the President may remove them at any time, with or without reason. Probably the "recall" scheme would not have found so many adherents in California had it not been for the scandal growing out of the decision of the Supreme Court in granting Alva Stutz, the confessed and convicted grafter, a rehearing. It must be admitted as rather significant that, as soon as the demand for the enactment of the "recall" measure became somewhat widespread, the Supreme Court vacated its decision giving Stutz a rehearing. The bar is largely to blame for the growing lack of confidence in the judiciary. If the lawyers would put aside personal considerations and recommend only the best among them for the bench, a better order of affairs would obtain. In the old days, judges were made out of lawyers; now we make lawyers out of judges. This gives the bench an elementary kindergarten aspect; it should not have.

COMMISSION GOVERNMENT.

(Continued from Page One.)

to the matter of making appointments. It is provided that all such matters shall be controlled by a majority of five of the members of the board. In similar ways other powers of the Mayor are cut down and placed in the hands of the board.

The important section of the Long bill is on the government by commission idea and provides for the amendment of the city and county act in Section 24, as follows:

Section 24. The officers of said city and county shall be a Mayor; a board of seven supervisors, of whom the Mayor shall be one, ex-officio; a sheriff, who shall be ex-officio coroner; a city and county clerk, who shall be

ex-officio clerk of the board of supervisors; an auditor; a treasurer; and a city and county attorney; of whom the Mayor, the other six supervisors and the auditor shall be elected at large by the duly qualified electors of the city and county and the others shall be appointed by the board of supervisors.

Under this idea the Mayor will be a member of the board of supervisors, who will be seven in number and who, with the auditor, shall be the only elective officers, the sheriff, the county attorney, treasurer and county clerk all being appointed by the supervisors.

In the Archer bill, which is under- stood to have been drawn up by Attorney C. W. Achi, the government by commission on the Des Moines idea is

BY AUTHORITY
OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH
Honolulu, March 2, 1911.
The members of the Board of Health, created February 24, 1911, in accordance with the provisions of the Act of the Legislature, are hereby notified that the following is a list of the members of the Board of Health, and their terms of office.

THEATERS MAY OPEN SUNDAY

The Board of Health has issued a notice that theaters may open on Sunday, provided they are closed on other days of the week.

SEESAW GAME OF THE LAWYERS

Attorney John Brinckerhoff has filed a petition for a writ of habeas corpus for the release of the case against the State.

FINED \$100 FOR LIQUOR SELLING

The law against selling liquor has been enforced against a man who sold liquor in a public place.

TOO INFLUENT

They say that a man is too influential in the Territory.

NOT EASY

What is the matter with you? My husband says you are not easy.

A NEW DEFINITION

What is naturalization? The naturalization of a man who has been naturalized.

THE JOB FINDER

Find job openings here.

Public Sanitation, Away!

J. A. COMBES

Real Estate, Insurance, Loans Negotiated

As. W. Pratt

Houses For Rent

Front Street Co.