

THE HAWAIIAN STAR

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THE BILLBOARD QUESTION.

While the Star does not see any signs of a popular movement against the billboards, in spite of auto club circulars sent out from New York, it sympathizes with the plea that these advertising devices are an offense along the rural drives. When Mr. Frazier's troubles started here, some years ago, they all had to do with a giant pickle sign which intruded on the view along Kalakaua avenue. While that sign stood there was a real row, and the feminine College Club, unmindful of the anti-boycott law, proposed to blacklist the fifty-seven varieties of the sign advertised until the then Chief Justice gave the irate ladies wise advice. Finally Mr. Frazier brought the pickle sign into town and after that it aroused nobody's resentment. There had been a similar case some years before when Mackchnie, the sign painter, daubed his name on the sacrificial rock on the crest of Punchbowl. That name had to be rubbed out, for the people then as now, objected to any disfigurement of natural scenery.

In town practically no one objects to the billboards. They are not many. Mr. Frazier does not let them become offensive to the public taste. Liquor advertisements and questionable ads of all kinds are kept off and the painting is well done. Some of the signs have an art touch that makes them attractive. Hosts of people prefer them to the unkempt city lots with broken-down fences and flaunting weeds which the signs hide from view. One could point out dozens of places in Honolulu, which pictorial fences would improve out of sight. Indeed the whole billboard business has been so well conducted in town as to make it a matter of congratulation that a man of local pride like Mr. Frazier has held the ground against the Billboard Association of America and kept it from painting this whole city with risqué designs and gaudy mural spectacles—a vulgar show of circus legs and scalp dances around a captured frontier saloon.

But billboards in the country, thrust on the eye that seeks the fern-clad brook or the brawling waterfall or the long tropical vista, deserve the complaints they call out. We think that Mr. Frazier could do well for himself and this island, to remove them. If he did so we believe no one would object to his city street signs so long as he kept them decent and artistic and used his customary good judgment in locating them.

NO ECONOMY IN OURS.

We habitually talk in terms of millions and begin to look upon a civic debt as a civic blessing. Thus in the official comment of the town we hear that it "may cost two millions" to complete the sewer system when, in a place partly supplied with sewers now and having a direct incline to the sea in most of the areas not yet visited by pipes, it ought not to cost half that sum. Colonel Waring's sewer system for San Diego cost but \$600,000. Our needed additions would be dear at a million and, if built under contract with people not hampered by citizen labor clauses, could probably be had for much less.

Not only does Honolulu and Hawaii love to deal in big figures and throw economy to the winds but it seems to be eager to take on burdens that are a proper charge upon the Federal government. The Star holds that the sanitation of this port is as much the business of Congress as it is of the Territory, seeing that the health of the garrison and of ocean travel are in jeopardy from epidemics that enter here through the lines of the Federal quarantine. Congress might be easily persuaded of that fact if anybody would take the trouble. We don't doubt for a minute that a campaign at Washington would end in an appropriation for a drainage canal which would do the business for us at Waikiki; and yet, with a \$250,000 sanitary loan fund provided by the last legislature, we are already talking of the need of a million more to be raised from bonding. A fine debt we are piling up for posterity to pay for improvements, a large part of which the Federal government might willingly bear in return for what it is making out of us in customs and internal revenues and postal business.

The frozen truth is that "economy, retrenchment and reform" and "government economically administered" are things we know nothing about and never did since the early day of the New England missionary "who pinched a penny until the eagle on it screamed."

THRICE TOLD TALES.

It is somewhat trying to be assured from malihini sources that the phenomena of Kilauea are for the first time getting serious study. For years they have been investigated by men of scientific attainment, including our own eminent fellow-townsmen, Dr. Sereno Bishop, who discovered the relation of Krakatoa in 1883 to the red sunsets of that period and whose observations on Kilauea were welcome in his day to any scientific journal. Dana made two notable visits here and Professor Hitchcock's book covers observations, the breadth and acuteness of which do not suffer by comparison with any that were made before or since. And they were the more useful to science in that they were studiously made and not exploited as a means of self-advertisement.

What the public is getting now is a flamboyant report of the same old sights and sounds, accompanied by indubitable proof that the molten lava is hot and the cold lava is porous; and the opinion that there is apparently less danger at Kilauea now than there was when the explosion occurred 150 years ago. Of course it is all headlined to beat the billboard and, supposedly, for a like object. Kilauea is being discovered over again with much accompaniment of red fire and glare, but our people must really be excused for yawning over it and taking a superior interest in other things.

Champ Clark undoubtedly holds the highest office under our government which it was within the power of the Democrats to bestow as the result of the last election. Chairman O. W. Underwood holds the second highest office that the Democrats could bestow. Consequently it is meet that these two should stand forth as special spokesmen before the country, and they seem disposed to do its as promptly as can be.—Advertiser.

Oh, we don't know! Underwood fries in a much smaller pan, officially and politically, than either of the Democratic governors of New York, New Jersey and Ohio. And spokesman Clark doesn't reach so far in party politics or compel such national attention as spokesman Wilson.

Not everybody has an automobile and many folks like to walk, and some of these, in the Trail and Mountain Club want about \$5000 worth of work put on the hill trails. It is proposed to smooth the upland way from Moanalua to Ni'u. The request is not an unreasonable one and the supervisors might well figure out the sum desired from the road fund. Give the trails a chance.

The Chinese troops at Wuchang have been ordered to Szechuen to suppress the outbreak. It will take them four weeks to get there. By that time there may not be anybody left to save. The incident is a good argument for Chinese railroads.

Perhaps the authorities will choose to put in a word about burying a man for forty-eight hours who is in a hypnotic trance.

If Anna Shaw has her way, Spring Lake may yet have a meeting of governesses.

There seems to be nothing serious in the way of getting a better mail delivery.

Uncle Walt The Poet Philosopher

Doubtless dames deserve the ballot and the other things they wish. I won't stand around and argue—I had rather go and fish. I have met the suffrage women, listened to their tale of hope, but not one of all the legion could persuade me to THE SUFFRAGISTS clope, I can listen quite politely while such dames explain their dream, but I'd never buy them peanuts or invite them to ice cream. I can seem quite sympathetic while the suffragist orates, but I'd never want to take her for a whirl on roller skates. It is strange that lovely damsels who don't care a whoop for votes always have as many lovers as a husbandman has shoats; men admire them and adore them; lovers fret away their lives until they have secured a promise from these girls to be their wives. Why are men so blind and foolish, marrying these trifling girls, who have naught to recommend them but their starry eyes and curls? Why not hang the orange blossoms on the noble suffrage dames, with their tragic eyes and voices and their missions and their aims? Why not wed some worthy relic with her sex's good in view, rather than some blushing maiden who has charming eyes of blue?

WALT MASON.

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LITTLE INTERVIEWS

JUDGE ANDRADE—Yes, I am getting better slowly, and was on a horse again two weeks ago. I can't keep out of the saddle. The hurt to my spine pretty nearly ended my life.

HARBORMASTER FOSTER—I do not anticipate any trouble in enforcing the new harbor regulations. The firms affected are ready to meet all reasonable propositions.

EMIL BERNDT—Regatta Day is one of the regulation holidays in the calendar of the Merchants' Association, and I expect to see general closing up tomorrow. Let there be a holiday all round.

HENRY COBB-ADAMS—Collections for the Kaneohe church are doing very well. I have sent out 110 letters. One letter has gone to Mrs. Nannie L. Rice of Boston and one to W. G. Irwin, the principal owners of the land in Koolau-poko.

JUDGE HUMPHREYS—I was glad to read the Star's editorial on "Police and Audiences." I attended Sousa's

evening concert, but my party had to crowd its way past a lot of noisy and drunken men and boys to get to the entrance. I spoke to a policeman about gangway room and he tried to get the loafers to move on, but they simply joshed him.

TREASURER CONKLING—There was only one thing for me to do with the borrowed money and that was to do just what I did do—bring it to Honolulu and put it in the vaults of the Territorial treasury. I had no authority to leave the money behind, or to put it out at interest on the mainland. It may be true that the Territory will have to pay interest that a business firm would be able to avoid by a counter loan, but the Territory's board of directors meets only once in two years, and in the meantime we have to do the best we can. As to bringing the cash here, instead of exchange, the whole million and a half can lay in the vaults for two months and still the Territory will have saved on what the exchange would have cost.

THE SAILOR BOY

(Continued from page one.)

or Boy, then suggested as the court was closed, that it would be a good time to go and get a little refreshment, as he had a little change.

Everything seemed settled, and the procession started for the refreshment room, when the men who had assembled two hours ahead of the stated time, spoke up and asked would it be possible to get a little advance as they were feeling the pangs of hunger, but had no money with which to purchase food.

The Shipping Commissioner then outlined the situation to the men: He had told the captain to bring the money to his office at twelve o'clock. Come around then, and they would get it. That was all that he could do.

The captain at this point put in his plaintive assertion that he could not do this, as he had no money for such a purpose. He was quite firm when he stated that he was not going to pay his own money out; he had already put too much money into the ship.

A Heated Argument.

In response to this Almy got heated. He said: "That does not go with me. No, sir; not in a thousand years. You're a captain of an American ship, flying the stars and stripes, and you want to come in here and put men on the beach without a cent after eight months and five days work, and not getting any pay. No, sir; you can't play any of those lousy tricks here."

"Let them go to the sailors' boarding house the same as I used to do," suggested the captain.

Back thundered Almy: "You look into my eyes and tell me you used to do that captain; just try it. You can't. You'll treat them right, or I'll make you. Anyway, if you have no money to pay them for their meals, where are you going to get the money from to pay for the drinks?"

"Oh, he'll pay," replied the captain denoting the passenger, who seemed quite interested in the little drama.

"Well, you come back, men, at twelve o'clock and we'll see what can be done," said Almy.

"But," protested the spokesman, "we're hungry and have not had anything to eat since yesterday."

"Did you hear that?" Almy asked the captain.

"Yes," replied the captain, "but they got their breakfasts this morning."

The spokesman admitted that they had got a cup of coffee and a slice of bread.

and had been condemned in the Gilbert Islands. There a captain, an officer of a British sailing boat, had looked her over and had stated that she was unseaworthy. As a result of the report the kamakas that had been taken on board for the plantation on Fenning Island were removed by the British authorities there. That was why the kamakas were not taken, and not because they would not go on account of the ill-treatment of previous laborers.

There was plenty of food on board, the men said, but they were given a lot of stuff that wasn't fit to eat. There was a good supply of fairly decent food down below for trading purposes, but the crew was not served with this. The only way they could get it was to buy it, and they were not able to get much in this way.

Naturally, they were angry at being left penniless and hungry. They say they have not had a square meal since the ship arrived here, and they look on this as a great injustice when they have eight months and five days pay due to them.

What will become of the ship, of course, can not be said yet. The captain has given instructions that she is to be surveyed, and then he will telegraph to her part owner, Johnson, of Oakland, for further instructions. The captain says that the chief trouble is that the decks are leaking so badly. The copra, however, is not all under water, and even what is wet, will not be harmed, because it has been said that only fresh water will affect the copra.

Captain Erratt says that with the mast fixed, the vessel could be navigated to the Coast, if she had a gasoline engine installed in her; to cope with the water that finds its way in. In this way the water could be held in check easily enough, and there would be no danger of her foundering. He declines to discuss the matter at length, because, he says, he can not say anything definite until she has been surveyed. When this report has been received, then the owner will be able to say whether it is considered worth while expending money on her to fix her.

The men in support of their story that the vessel was condemned at the Gilbert Islands, say that they only stayed with her because the captain promised to pay them off immediately on arrival at San Francisco. He pointed out that there was no chance of getting another vessel out of the Gilbert Islands, so they might as well get back to a home port in her. The passages out of the islands would be exceedingly heavy.

In the meantime the men are hungry, and as Commissioner Almy says, sober, because they have not the money with which to get drunk.

There should be some interesting developments before the matter is settled.

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A. C. Aubrey, Prop.

COURT ITEMS.

The Laamen-Mahelona title quieting case before Judge Whitney will go to the jury on Monday morning.

The Supreme Court will sit for the first time after vacation on Monday.

The Celtic Chief salvage case is still on before United States Judge Clemons. The law point came up today as to modification of award to salvaging vessels in such a case as this where other assistance to the stranded vessel was available. Reference was to the presence in port of the German training ship Arcona, she having in fact thrown a line to the distressed Britisher.

Judge Robinson is trying without a jury the ejectment suit of Lelaoha (K), Lahapalilli Bush and John F. Colburn against E. H. F. Woiter, for 602 square feet of land at Queen and Maunakea streets. Ashford for plaintiffs, Watson for defendant.

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