

THE HAWAIIAN STAR

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THE POLITICS OF THE PACIFIC.

Suppose Great Britain should fortify Fanning island, what of it? Suppose she wants Palmyra island the same as she did Necker island, in 1893, the time when Hawaii stole a march on her, what of it? Suppose she should put guns on Savaii or Tonga, what of it? The Star cannot see why America has any reason to complain, unless the English are after property to which it has a prior title. The Pacific is not an American lake, and as Great Britain has vastly larger holdings in it than we have, including Australia and New Zealand, to say nothing of an enormously superior commerce, what reasonable objection could there be to her preparing to defend them? Fanning island is an important link in the cable system between Canada and New Zealand and if Great Britain leaves it unprotected the fact will belie her history. We hope she will be able, at all times, to keep it from falling into the hands of a power less friendly to the United States.

We, of Hawaii, have often quoted, with great hopes, the Seward prophecy about the Pacific becoming a center of events, and now that we are learning what that means it is not for us to show inglorious tremors. With the opening of the canal, and the consequent change in the direction of commerce, all the maritime powers will seek to have a more complete representation here. This paper cannot doubt that one result will be an immense increase in the common preparedness for war; and every island with a harbor, or with cable connections, will play its part in the game. If Germany fortifies its part of the Ladrones and we fortify Guam; if England, Germany and America fortify their thirds of Samoa; if Japan fortifies Marcus island; if the United States takes the Galapagos (or Columbian) islands and fortifies the canal; if fleets come to the Pacific instead of squadrons, is not all that part of our anticipations ever since Mr. Seward spoke? So why should we Americans "jump" in our waking hours over the first realization of our Pacific dreams. We hold the key to the Pacific situation so long as we control the canal, protect our cable with the Philippines and have an impregnable Hawaii; and if other powers wake up to their opportunities and help make the Pacific ocean a greater theater of events than the Atlantic, is not that what we have been preparing for?

THE ILL-TEMPERED WIND.

If this southerly weather should hold awhile longer, Honolulu might expect color-line politics or any other form of indiscreet political excitement, and while waiting for settled trades it might be in the general interests of peace for everybody to take something for their nerves. Southerly weather has always been the bane of our politics and the worst rows we have had, in the past fifteen years, followed it like effect from cause. It operates as the east wind does in Boston, where, when it blows, there is an instant rise in the divorce and homicide statistics. One of our esteemed contemporaries is so worked up by it that it sees secret Hawaiian meetings going on to organize the natives against the whites who put up the money for their politics and a trifling meteorological inadvertence about dogs, causes it to have nervous indigestion. But it will feel better when the trades come back with healing on their wings. They shall all have a rosy optimism, and even some "agent" of Kuhio may drop into the Robin's Egg Blue chamber with flowers and take it all back. There's no telling.

IT WAS KUHIO'S STORY.

The publication this morning of a letter from Correspondent Walker telling how the story started about an agent coming here to investigate Governor Frear precisely bears out the Star's hypothesis. The weird tale was Kuhio's, not the President's, and the correspondent took it as a gudgeon dose bait. But hear the main confession itself.

WASHINGTON, January 18.—The interesting gossip of the moment about Hawaiian affairs here centers upon the renomination of Governor Frear. Early in the week Delegate Kalaniano'ole saw President Taft. Coming from the White House, the Delegate announced that the President had told him a man would be sent to Hawaii to investigate charges against the Governor. The Delegate assented to this being made public through the newspapers and he also assented to its being cabled to certain persons in Honolulu. The Delegate sticks to his statement, but the Interior Department claims to have no information bearing upon the subject. The fact that President Taft has been confined to the White House for the two days since the announcement was made by the Delegate may be a reason why the President has not communicated to the Secretary of the Interior about it. Because of the President's indisposition it has not been feasible to reach him at the White House and ascertain what was actually promised, but this will undoubtedly be made plain by cable before this letter reaches Honolulu. At the Interior Department it is suggested that the matter of Governor Frear's reappointment may be taken up within a week or two, in spite of the fact that the Kuhio charges, which have been sent to Honolulu, will hardly have time for return within that period. An impression gained from Honolulu, apparently from cables received here, that a special agent would be sent to investigate the charges. According to the information from the Delegate, it was not asserted that a special agent would be selected, but that some one would be who could look into the matter and in whose judgment the President would have confidence.

The Star said from the outset that the story was Kuhio's and not credible on that account or as gauged by the fact that the President had already defined his course by sending a copy of Kuhio's charges to the Governor and awaiting his reply. We also pointed to the most significant silence of the Associated Press. It is pleasing to know that everything turned out as the Star and its Washington correspondent said it would and that Kuhio, whose story was denied by the White House, has been shown up as one who is not above playing the smallest of tricks upon the credulity of the Hawaiian public.

Why is the press continually attacking the board of supervisors for its expenditures and other things? Not one paper has published the figures of the banana campaign. They don't want to do that, but the press will pick out every little thing they can in the board of supervisors and play it up.—Supervisor Low.

The Supervisors are spending public money. The Citizens Sanitary Committee got some of its funds from the Shippers' Wharf Tax from which it is supposed to be drawing now to pay Judge Lymer. A citizen and taxpayer may get an accounting from the Supervisors but one could hardly demand it of the Committee, which, when it used public money got it through the Board of Health. Doubtless the Board will incorporate the outlay in its own report. The Star can assure Mr. Low that it will publish the whole banana exhibit if it can get it.

An opinion from Secretary Hille that the President is sure of renomination represents the view of the President himself, otherwise it would not have been given out. It simply means that Taft is sure of his convention strength. Kuhio may well reconsider his idea of getting an anti-Taft delegation from here, as Hawaii, having once got off wrong with Taft, at the instance of Kinney, is not going to make that misstep again at the instance of Ashford.

If eighty members of the Yorktown's crew were ill of yellow fever and are now all well, with one promising exception, they must have had the jaundice. That original cable was, however, quite suspicious and we shall watch for the coast version of it with interest, expecting to find there were eighty cases of yellow fever in the town rather than on the Yorktown.

It would be a pity to lose the Fairchild bill which simply tries to save cane land for cane-planting and to divert homesteading to the higher levels where it is needed to produce food we now get from the coast and where it would create new taxable values.

Walt Mason The Poet Philosopher

I loafed around the neighborhood and talked about the Larger Good. I talked of measures which would keep the nation from the garbage heap. I pointed out the fatal flaws in most of our existing laws, and spoke of remedies which would contribute to the Larger Good. And old Bill Wax, who lives next door, to whom I have referred before, who doesn't seem to care a cent about the country's government, who has no high thought in his block, cleaned all the snowdrifts from his walk, and on the ice some ashes threw, and people raised a howdy-do about his public spirit, then, and said he was the best of men. And I, who have for ages stood a'whooping for the Larger Good, have got no credit at the store, and folks insist that I'm a bore. It simply shows how low and base and trifling is the human race.

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LITTLE INTERVIEWS

C. S. CARLSMITH—I get many good things for my scrapbook in the Star's magazine section. MARSTON CAMPBELL—The work on the Judiciary building is progressing fast, and the steel work will soon be tackled. JACK McVEIGH—The boys of the Kailhi Home look well and happy, and they are glad to get back to their regular home. C. S. JUDD—The land that will be thrown open at Alea is the very best kind for the raising of pineapples, and there will probably be a rush for the homesteads. J. H. MAGOON—I believe that Honolulu will liberally support good boxing providing the sport is kept clean, the matches well made and the contests properly conducted. W. S. FLEMING—Things are very quiet in Shanghai just now on account of the revolution. The merchants are complaining very bitterly at the way that business is disorganized. J. LITTLEJOHN—Great interest has been shown in the Young Hotel billiard tournament. The tournament has given the local game considerable of a stimulus and I expect to see more tournaments planned after the one at present under way has been decided. A. H. DONDERO—Talk about booming! Things are just humming! There are five houses going up on my "Makiki Beautiful" tract, ranging in price from \$2000 to \$5000, and five more will be started as soon as the owners can have plans prepared. Everything's coming in a rush now in the real estate business. CAPTAIN ROSEHILL—Whatever you do in your writeups of Palmyra

HOMESTEADING (Continued from Page One.)

established upon their land, and the California Association members have already made their selections of lots among themselves, so that the drawing this morning will have nothing to do with the selection.

The following persons, who were not members of the California Association in time to get in on the drawing, have since been made members and will have a chance to take up a number of lots still vacant in the tract: Mrs. Ida M. Case, Seattle, Wash.; Mrs. Georgiana M. White, Canada; Owen Starkey, Los Angeles, and Mrs. J. J. Dowling, Honolulu. These persons will accompany the party to Maui by the Claudine this evening.

The most important homesteading project ever inaugurated in Hawaii was fairly launched this morning when Land Commissioner C. S. Judd broke the sealed box containing the applications of some thirty would-be small farmers, and formally approved their plan to take possession of some 1200 acres of government land on the island of Maui.

Comparatively few persons have heard of this particular undertaking, and still fewer probably really appreciate just what it means to the Territory. If it succeeds it will prove the contentment of those who have believed it possible for American settlers to prosper on comparatively small areas of Hawaiian lands, and to become independent and aggressive citizens of the Territory, thus "Americanizing" the islands in the biggest and broadest sense.

A Promising Experiment. If it fails, the disaster will fall not alone upon the homesteaders, but it will be a serious blow to the present administration, which fostered it, and will undoubtedly be very far-reaching in its deterrent effects upon future similar undertakings in the Territory. For this Haiku settlement is starting out under the most favorable auspices that under present conditions could be conceived. Its personnel is thoroughly American. The lands in question are believed to be the best pineapple lands in the Territory. Moreover the location is a delightful one as a place of residence, than which it would be difficult to find a more perfect one in these islands. The district is not isolated, for, be-

acquired by the Territory, for settlement on the same conditions upon which the Territory opened its holdings. Although Mr. Baldwin did not live to see the carrying out of these plans, the directors of the big interests which he founded are making active preparations for fulfilling his promises. Surveyors are at present at work, and within a few weeks it is understood that this additional private land will be homesteaded with the same class of people who have taken up the government lands. Already there are applications on file more than sufficient to take all of the fifteen or twenty lots which it will be subdivided into.

Careful Preparation. Much care has been taken in the opening of the Haiku lands. The surveys were completed more than two years ago, and it would probably have been easy to have filled the entire tract at once had it been thrown open for indiscriminate settlement. This, however, was not done, and no doubt this fact has been used against the governor by those who are now opposing his reappointment.

Governor Frear announced early in his administration that he opposed the general use of the settlement association plan of homesteading, since some of the worst forces which have burdened the Territory have been enacted under this law. However, he made it clear that he was willing to employ it when he was satisfied of the bona fides of intention of the applicants, and it was thus that finally the Haiku lands have been opened.

The settlement association plan makes it possible for six or more qualified persons to make application for lots in the same tract, and prevents others not of the association from making entry on the same tract until the association members have been accommodated. The settlers under this plan must live at least two out of three years on their lands, and have under cultivation at least twenty-five per cent of it at the end of three years, which, with other conditions complied with, entitles them to a patent.

Slow Beginning. Apparently it was not easy at first to get twenty or thirty American families to join in such a project. However, the rapid development of the pineapple industry in the past two or three years has had a great deal to do with convincing homeseekers that the proposition is a good one. A few months ago the governor, through Land Commissioner Judd, delegated S. T. Starrett, the recently appointed marketing agent of the Immigration Bureau, to recruit applicants for the Haiku lands, with the result that in a very short time Mr. Starrett had organized the "California Settlement Association," of between fifteen and twenty members, composed of an energetic and ambitious class of Americans, about half of whom are lately arrived from various points on the Coast.

In the meantime another association, known as the Lindsay Settlement Association, of some six or eight Maui citizens, was also organized, and these two associations have divided the lots available between their members. The Lindsay people have already taken possession of their property, and have made much progress toward development.

Make Journey Today. All of the members of the associations not already on the ground will leave this afternoon by the steamer Claudine for Maui, where on Monday they will take formal possession of their property, as required by law.

MEMBERSHIP MARK (Continued from page One)

experience in Y. M. C. A. work in the Orient. As the son of a high provincial official in Japan his standing among local Japanese will be assured. Recently he has been traveling in Japan, Manchuria and China, training himself for his work here. He did some very successful work in a recent membership campaign in Shanghai.

Boys Receive Flag. Theodore Richards, as chairman of the Boys' Clubs Committee of the Y. M. C. A., presented the Kakaako Boys

Club with a large American flag last night and both he and his flag were loudly cheered by the cosmopolitan membership. President John Kapakui, a Hawaiian lad, received the flag and made an impromptu speech of acceptance. The assurance with which these boys are carrying on their club work and the spontaneous oratory which is delivered in the various meetings have astonished everyone who has attended their gatherings. The president acquitted himself nobly last night in his speech without hesitation and without fear.

Building Accounts Windup. The building committee of the Y. M. C. A. met at the Pacific Club at noon today and closed all business relating to the new building. The financial reports are being audited for the last time and will be made public shortly.

ARMY MEN OUT; SOME TO RETURN

Tomorrow all of the non-commissioned officers who have been acting as inspectors and overseers in the mosquito campaign will be paid off. Their furlough expires on Monday, and most of them have to return to their posts. Still, there are a few who will, tomorrow, finish up their time in the army and get their discharge. These men will be re-engaged as inspectors, as from their experience they are valuable to the department.

The vacancies caused by the return of some fifteen soldiers to their posts will be filled by the appointment as overseers of some of the ex-soldiers who have been working as assistants with the regular overseers. The force of overseers and laborers will be put on a permanent basis this month, when the financial end of the matter will be handled by the board of health authorities.

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