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HAWAIIAN PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.

We are glad to be able, at last, to record the formation, under the above name, of an association which promises to be of the utmost value to all engaged in the important enterprise of sugar-planting in these islands. Pursuant to an invitation sent out by the Honolulu Chamber of Commerce, a convention of persons interested in sugar-planting met on Monday last at 10 a.m., in an apartment attached to the Lodge-room of the Hawaiian Lodge of Freemasons, in the upper story of the building occupied by Messrs. W. G. Irwin & Co., corner of Queen and Fort streets. The following gentlemen were present:—Messrs. J. B. Atherton, E. P. Adams, S. L. Austin, J. Austin, S. T. Alexander, J. M. Alexander, W. F. Allen, W. H. Bailey, E. A. Burchardt, H. P. Baldwin, S. N. Castle, C. N. Cooke, Wm. H. Cornwell, Alex. J. Cartwright, A. Dreier, H. Deacon, J. E. Eldarts, H. Glade, J. Gurney, W. Forsyth Grant, C. F. Hart, A. S. Hartwell, R. Hinds, R. Halstead, G. Holmes, A. Haneberg, W. G. Irwin, P. C. Jones, jun., G. W. C. Jones, Kynnersley, Koelling, G. H. Luce, jun., P. N. Makee, H. Macfarlane, J. M'Kenzie, H. Maertens, J. S. M'Grew, R. A. Macfie, jun., C. Notley, John H. Paty, W. E. Rowell, W. H. Rickard, J. Ratard, F. A. Shaefer, Z. S. Spalding, — Soper, John D. Spreckels, A. H. Smith, W. O. Smith, L. S. Thompson, G. N. Wilcox, A. S. Wilcox, C. H. Wetmore, J. N. Wright, H. M. Whitney, T. R. Walker.

Hon. S. N. Castle was called to the chair, and, after asking the indulgence of the meeting on account of his infirm health, said that the object they had before them was a most important one, which pertained to every interest in the kingdom; for there was no merchant, no mechanic, no individual in the kingdom that did not depend upon the planting interest as the main support of his business. There was nothing in the kingdom to compare with the planting interest—more especially that of sugar-planting. He hoped they would take measures which would lead to its development.

At the Chairman's suggestion, two secretaries were appointed—Messrs. F. A. Schaefer and T. Rain Walker being chosen.

The Chairman then said that in order to start the work some of those greatly interested in it had prepared a programme, and had asked him to call on Judge Hartwell to address the meeting.

Mr. Hartwell said he would have been glad if he could have laid before them a statement of the situation more worthy of the occasion. He had drawn out a memorandum which would serve as an outline to which those present would supply the details. He then read the following address:

MR. CHAIRMAN: I appreciate the honor of being asked to address an assembly like this, and while I cannot undertake to make a full or fitting statement of the situation, and of the business to which you will give your attention, I will try to present an outline for which you will soon supply the practical details.

It was my fortune to be born and brought up in a country where public debate is as free as the air. The training which the American boy gets from the debating clubs and lyceums and from the example of the town meetings does more to make him a good citizen, and so to keep the public peace, than any quantity of military would do, for the landwehrs and landsturms of Germany are like chaff compared with a public spirited and public debating community.

Repeated attempts have been made in past years to form a Planters' Association, but with no substantial result. For the first time in the history of this country, men who may properly be said to represent the agricultural interests of these islands, laying aside their daily cares at the busiest season of the year, have assembled here in Honolulu, for the purpose of consulting together for the common good. To my mind this convention of planters is most significant of meaning. The results of its deliberations ought to be, and I think will be, important and far-reaching.

It is high time that men who desire the prosperity of this country, or who care to secure and protect whatever they may have at stake here, should meet and consult together, and devise and adopt measures which will subserve the interests of the entire community. There is wonderful power in organized and combined action. Fifty men of intelligence and good repute in a community may exert themselves for public objects with little or no effect, as long as they act separately; but acting in concert and mutual understanding, the results they can accomplish are beyond comparison with their disunited efforts.

I often call to mind the remark made by Arnold in his Lectures on Modern History, upon the unfortunate condition of that country in which the best men stand aloof from public affairs. It is as idle, as it is childish, to stand by and complain, as long as we who complain are seeking to shirk or cast upon others the responsibility of improving matters. I appeal to you, if that is not precisely what has been going on in this community? No government on earth, not even the autocracy of all the Russias, can sustain itself, still less can promote the interests of its people, unless it shall have the support of the great body of its intelligent non-office-holders. I submit to you, that we have left our affairs too much to drift as they might, or else for the government to attend to. To illustrate possibly the bad habits of its parents, or possibly the tendency here, one of my little daughters a few years since, talking about the rain coming into a new room that had been made, said, "papa, don't you think the government ought to stop that leak?" Quick to see impending dangers, ready to point out defects in the government, we have failed to formulate and present our views and suggestions in such shape as to command official attention. In other countries, even in imperial Germany, there are great parties, representing more or less fully, all classes of the people, and preserving the equilibrium of power. They are in fact the main-stay of the government itself. It is for want of such out spoken parties, that Alexander III. is to-day practically a prisoner in his own house, and is said to be contemplating abdication, as soon as he can get up courage to go through the ceremony of a public coronation. It is time then, I say, for us to lay aside the habit of placing upon governmental shoulders all the responsibility of looking after our affairs, and to undertake to attend to something more than quarterly accounts.

It may seem strange that Planters' Associations were not formed here years ago. The great industrial interests of other countries are represented and pushed forward in this manner. Who in the United States does not feel the benefit of their Agricultural and Mechanics Fairs? Not only in the new and improved methods of cultivation they bring into public notice, the stimulus they give to useful inventions and to the introduction of finer breeds of stock, but in the gain which comes from the interchange of views among those who are engaged in like avocations. The recent Convention of Cotton Planters and Manufacturers at Atlanta, Georgia, has brought together men from all parts of the United States, producers, buyers, factors and all concerned in the reinstatement of King Cotton. That convention has probably done more for the welfare of the Union than any political party could do. It will be no light thing, even in this small country, for planters and merchants to meet each other once a year for the social relaxations. But you have not now met for social pleasures. Of late, calumnies of the vilest nature have been spread broad-cast by interested or irresponsible persons, directed against the entire labor system of the country. Newspapers of a certain class abroad have not even spared the private characters of our most respected and honorable citizens. A persistent effort is making to induce the world to believe that a species of slavery is in vogue here. It has seemed useless thus far, to refute these calumnies, or to point out the infamous character of those who have pretended to recite personal experience of ill-treatment here. We know, and every one who has the means and wish to examine the matter knows, how gross these misrepresentations have been. But unless they are met by the planters acting as a body, and not by fugitive letter-writers, such reports may eventually accomplish their object, which is to damage the prospects of our Reciprocity Treaty. There is the entire labor problem upon us, and it requires concentrated, united efforts to solve. Does anyone imagine that all the sources for obtaining suitable labor have been exhausted? I am convinced, that while the friendly aid and co-operation of the government is essential, this matter of getting laborers will never ly attended to effectually, until the planters attend to it themselves. For this purpose, concert of action is necessary.

This association can also accomplish much, by its active aid in an effort to obtain a renewal of the Treaty, or the making of another Treaty of Reciprocity. Other pressing reasons for forming this association will occur to all of you. Our methods of planting and cultivating cane, and of manufacture are susceptible of immense improvement. Sugar producers and buyers, I hope, can be brought nearer together. No one pretends that our labor laws are perfect, or that their administration is free from defects. But when attempts at legislation are made, planters are not at hand to make practical suggestions. Unless they are represented by some responsible committee through whom their views can be made known to the lawmakers, there is risk of cumbersome and injurious legislation.

I will not pretend to suggest to you all the objects which ought to be accomplished by such an association as is now proposed, nor the methods by which they can be effected. That is what you have met here to deliberate upon.

The causes are plain enough why such concerted action has been so long delayed. Our diversity of nationalities may have something to do with the delay. No one hankered to assume the responsibility of initiating a move simply because of the risk of being thought self-important, or self-asserting. We have never acquired, as a community, the valuable habit of public deliberations. Self-chosen leaders are usually as unlucky as they are undesirable, and men have not until recently felt inspired with a common purpose. During the first years of the Treaty, people were so occupied in putting their new enterprises into operation, that they could ill afford time or thought for anything else. There has been a reluctance to take steps which might excite the distrust of Hawaiians, as if some political combination intended to affect them injuriously. I think this is an error. The great source of existing distrust of so-called foreigners by aboriginals is in the misrepresentation and misunderstanding of the acts and purposes of the former. This Association can do much to promote a better feeling in this matter. Foreigners were invited and encouraged to com here and make this their home. It is by the aid of such men, that the present form of government was secured, with a nationality recognized by the treaty powers. The principle of the Act of Kamehameha III opening the sale of lands is worth reciting:

"Whereas, the development of the resources of the islands depends essentially upon their agriculture. And whereas, that agriculture requires the aid of foreign capital, skill and labor: And whereas, the King desires to encourage the introduction of foreign capital and labor to the utmost extent that His rights of so ereign jurisdiction and domain will allow, therefore: Be it enacted &c."

The sometimes bitter doubts expressed of the security of capital here—hints at possible enormous taxation to be made, and for preposterous objects; of arming the entire native population for policemen. The whole thing is out of the question, for no other reason than because there are too many citizens of the United States and subjects of Great Britain and Germany here, against whose rights and interests no such invasion would ever be practicable, or would seriously be contemplated.

We have plenty of the best material for the discussion now before us. Of course perfect unanimity is neither to be expected nor desired; but a reasonable deference to the views of the majority is, I suppose, an object to be aimed at. Our work is before us, I believe it will be done. (Applause.)

Col. Spalding moved a vote of thanks to Judge Hartwell for the address which they had all enjoyed. The motion was seconded and carried with applause.

Col. Spalding then proposed that various committees be appointed and the motion having been carried, the chairman made the nominations in accordance with a list prepared beforehand. On motion some names were added to the committee on labor, and Mr. Henry Macfarlane was chosen instead of Mr. Geo. W. Macfarlane to serve on the committee on machinery, the latter gentleman being absent from the kingdom. The committees as finally selected stood as follows:

Labor—Messrs. Z. S. Spalding, J. C. Glade, W. G. Irwin, A. Unna, H. M. Whitney, S. T. Alexander, C. F. Hart, W. F. Grant, W. H. Bailey.

Collection—Messrs. H. M. Whitney, G. N. Wilcox, J. M. Alexander, J. N. Wright, E. A. Burchardt, A. S. Wilcox, Geo. Holmes, A. H. Smith, E. C. Wetmore and J. H. Soper.

Machinery—J. D. Spreckels, C. F. Hart, R. R. Hind, J. M. Lidgate, W. H. Rowell, R. Halstead, H. R. Macfarlane.

Legislation—A. S. Hartwell, P. C. Jones, Jr., J. Austin, J. Woods, J. H. Paty.

Reciprocity—S. T. Alexander, E. P. Adams, A. J. Cartwright, S. B. Dole, S. L. Austin, T. K. Clarke, C. Notley, A. Young, J. B. Atherton.

Transportation—H. A. Widemann, T. H. Hobron, W. H. Rickard, A. Dreier, W. H. Cornwell.

Manufacture of Sugar—R. A. Macfie, Jr., H. P. Baldwin, C. Koehling, A. Haneberg, P. N. Makee.

Executive—E. P. Adams, W. G. Irwin, Z. S. Spalding, A. S. Hartwell, J. H. Paty.

It was resolved that the Executive Committee be instructed to report on the question of a permanent organization. It was also proposed to make a short adjournment in order to receive the Executive Committee's report.

Mr. Walker proposed that the adjournment should be to the following morning on account of the arrival of the mail. Light might be thrown on some of the subjects with which they had to deal, by letters just received.

Mr. Adams said there was hardly time in a ten or fifteen minutes' adjournment to propose a scheme of organization. He thought all the committees should have time to report. He had just received a line from His Ex. the Minister of the Interior, saying that a telegram had arrived from Mr. Hoffnung, announcing that he had chartered a steamer to bring out emigrants from the Azores; also one from Mr Carter, saying that immigration matters were looking favorable at the Azores.

Arrangements were then made for the meetings of the several committees and the meeting adjourned to 10 a.m. on Tuesday. As those present were about to separate, Col. Allen said that he had good news to communicate. He had a letter from Judge Allen in which the latter said: "you may regard one thing as settled, the treaty will run its time to September, 1884."

The Convention re-assembled at 10 a.m. on Tue-day, 21st instant. Some of the committees not having finished their business, there was a tardy attendance on the part of their members; but almost all those who had taken part in the proceedings of the previous day eventually put in an appearance, together with the following:—Hon. A. F. Judd, His Ex. W. N. Armstrong, and Messrs. H. A. Widemann, W. W. Hall, and C. Afong.

Mr. Castle took the chair, and the minutes of the previous meeting were read by Mr. Schaefer, and duly confirmed.

On the motion of Mr. Hartwell, it was resolved that the Reports of Committees be laid on the table, and then discussed in such order as the meeting may decide. These reports were then read in the following order:—

On the Reciprocity Treaty, by Mr. S. T. Alexander.

On Transportation of Cane, by Mr. H. A. Widemann.

On Sugar Manufacture, by Mr. R. A. Macfie, Jun.

On Organization (from the Executive Committee), by Mr. E. P. Adams. [To this report were appended a suggested Constitution and By-laws for a Hawaiian Planters' Association, and the draft of the Constitution and By-laws of a Planters' Labor Supply Co., for which a charter had just been granted. Mr. Hartwell read the Charter of the company, which will be found *in extenso* in another column, and said that, to comply with the requirements of the law, the gentlemen named below had taken up shares, but without the intention of keeping them if other planters would join them on the basis that the allotment of shares should be strictly in accordance with the tonnage of sugar produced by each shareholder. The shareholders were:—W. G. Irwin & Co., C. A. Hackfeld & Co., 5,000 each, J. H. Paty, E. P. Adams, W. H. Bailey, A. S. Hartwell and S. T. Alexander 2,000 each.]

On cultivation of cane by Mr. H. M. Whitney.

On machinery by Mr. John D. Spreckels.

The report of the Committee on Labor was not ready for presentation and it was therefore proposed to take the Executive Committee's Report into consideration so as to deal at once with the question of a permanent organization. This proposition led to some discussion, there being a desire on the part of many to examine the proposed Constitution at leisure before discussing it.

Mr. Widemann proposed and Mr. Atherton seconded a motion that the Constitution and By-laws submitted by the Executive Committee be taken up and dealt with item by item.

Mr. Soper moved, as an amendment, that a committee of ten be appointed to consider the subject and report. Mr. Rickards seconded, but the amendment, on being put, was lost and the original motion was carried.

Mr. Castle here left the Chair, which was occupied during the remainder of the session by Mr. J. D. Spreckels.

Another discussion then arose as to the propriety of going on with this particular business first, but eventually it was decided to proceed.

The name—"Hawaiian Planters' Association"—was adopted, and the object of the association was defined to be the encouragement of cane-planting and sugar manufacture on the Hawaiian Islands.

The clause as to membership, as proposed by the committee, made the qualification depend on the payment of an annual fee of $5, and the actual ownership of some sugar-planting interest.

Mr. Widemann moved that the second clause be excised so as to make the association free to all who would take an interest in it, as was common with similar associations elsewhere.

Mr. Hartwell thought there should be some limitation. They were not acting for good of humanity in general, but for that of the planting interests.

The clause was carried as it stood.

The next clause, fixing what officers the association should have was, on the motion of Mr. H. M. Whitney, altered so as to provide for four vice-presidents—one for each of the larger islands. Thus amended, it defined the officers to be a president, four vice-presidents, corresponding secretary, recording secretary, treaurers, and auditor.

The duties of officers were defined, the quorum for meetings of the association was fixed at twenty, and the date of the annual meeting fixed for such day in October of each year as the chairman may appoint, four weeks' notice of the same being given.

On the motion of Mr. Spreckels, a clause was added permitting amendments of the Constitution and By-laws by a three-fourths vote at any annual meeting.

An adjournment to 1.30 p.m. was then made. Before the members separated, a committee of ten was appointed to interview Messrs. Wilder & Co., and Messrs. T. R. Foster & Co., and ask them to detain their steamers till the following day.

When the meeting re-assembled the Committee reported that so many members had decided to remain in town, that they had withdrawn the application as to detention of steamers.

Besides those already mentioned, Messrs. W. L. Green and W. N. Armstrong were present.

Col. Spalding then read the Report of the Committee on Labor (see report in another column). This report was signed by six members of the Committee—the others, viz: Captain Grant, Judge Hart and Mr. H. M. Whitney dissenting.

Mr. Whitney explained that he agreed with most of the Report, but was not prepared to join in the recommendation as to the Labor Supply Association, which required further consideration.

Mr. Schaefer intimated that the Constitution and By-Laws of the Association as adopted at the morning sitting had been written out and were ready for signature. It was resolved that they be signed at once. All the gentlemen present having signed, the meeting proceeded to the election of officers.

A motion to appoint a nominating committee of seven was put and lost.

Mr. S. T. Alexander, nominated Mr. S. L. Austin as President, and Mr. J. Austin, nominated Mr. S. N. Castle.

Mr. Castle said that on account of his age which was now almost three score and fifteen years he begged to decline the nomination, and would second that of Judge Austin. That gentleman positively declined on the ground that the President should reside in Honolulu. The appointment of Mr. Castle was then carried unanimously.

The Vice-Presidents were then chosen as follows: For Hawaii, Mr. S. L. Austin; for Maui, Mr. S. T. Alexander, (Mr. W. H. Bailey having declined the nomination); for Kauai, Mr. Geo. N. Wilcox; and for Oahu, Mr. E. P. Adams; Mr. P. C. Jones was appointed Corresponding Secertary, (Mr. T. R. Walker declining) Mr. F. A. Schaefer, Recording Secretary; Mr. J. H. Paty, Treasurer; and Mr. W. W. Hall, Auditor.

Some discussion followed as to the necessity for the appointment of a paid Secretary. A motion that the Corresponding Secretary be authorized to spend a sum not exceeding $1,000 before the next annual meeting for any assistance he required was put and negatived; ayes, 12; noes, 15; the question as to where the funds were to come from apparently influencing the vote.

Mr. Hartwell then moved that the question of finance be referred to the officers of the Association, to report the following day. The motion was carried.

Mr. Adams said that the matter of the Planters' Labor and Supply Company was misunderstood and could not be well talked over in a public meeting, he therefore invited all present to meet the Executive Committee at the British Club that evening at 7:30 p.m., when they would discuss the points which they did not desire to talk about in public.

Capt. Grant said he was a dissentient on the subject of the charter. Labor was undoubtedly wanted at once, and they were all bound to entrust to a body of gentlemen in Honolulu in this work and the funds to carry it out. At the same time the charter was not, in his opinion, definite enough.

After some further discussion the matter was dropped.

Mr. Schaefer then moved that the Committees of the Convention be re-appointed as permanent Committees of the Association until the next annual meeting. The motion was seconded and carried.

At Mr. Whitney's request his resignation from the Labor Committee was accepted, Mr. Rowell was nominated in his stead, but declined on the ground that the definition of membership which had been adopted excluded him from the Association. Mr. W. O. Smith was then elected to serve in place of Mr. Whitney.

On motion of Mr. W. P. Alexander, seconded by Dr. Wetmore, it was resolved that the officers of the Association resident in Honolulu be *ex officio* members of the Executive Committee.

It was then resolved that the Report be discussed in regular order. The Report on Labor was therefore taken up first. Mr. Castle retired from the chair which was taken by Mr. E. P. Adams.

Those having laborers from the New Hebrides being requested to give their opinion of them,

Mr. Unna said he considered them far better than Chinamen for field work. They were ambitious and peacable and obedient to orders. He was sure if they made up their minds to secure a number of them they would be satisfied. He had been informed by Capt. Tripp that they were easy to be got. The proper way was to send sailing schooners of 100 or 200 tons, and it would be best to get some one from the Fijis who was accustomed to the work. Of the South Sea Islanders he said that the young ones made excellent laborers, but the old had better go back to their cocoanuts and fish.

Mr. Dreier, confirmed what Mr. Unna had said about the New Hebrides men. They were easily satisfied as to their food so long as it was clean. If pleasantly spoken to they would do anything, and did not stick at an hour for leaving off work.

In reply to a question Mr. Unna said some of his men had acquired habits of work at Samoa before coming here. The others were not difficult to train. They stood rainy weather as well as Hawaiians.

Mr. Soper said his experience did not coincide with that of the previous speakers as to these laborers being better than Chinese. Physically they were not so, but in disposition and in willingness to work they were superior to both Chinese and natives. If wanted, they would turn out early and work till dark. They accumulated their money in his hands, and he hoped when their time was out Government would authorize some Protector to see that they were not skinned of their earnings by the Chinese before going aboard ship. He would like to have 50 or 60 more of them. A small portion of Chinese and natives would be needed on a plantation also as they were too much like children to put to some sorts of work.

Mr. W. L. Green being requested to speak said he had known of the good qualities of the New Hebrides men for ten or fifteen years, and from reports from elsewhere they appeared to be the best laborers for sugar plantations known in the world. In fact, they were not of the South Sea Island race, but were negroes. There was going to be considerable difficulty in getting them. There had been much trouble down there lately; massacres resulting from kidnapping which had undoubtedly been practised. He had been corresponding with the Consuls in Auckland, Sydney and Queensland. The Colonies had been chiefly relying on them, but now, as the difficulties in the way had increased, they considered them too expensive. He thought the only way to conduct immigration from New Hebrides would be to collect the laborers from various points at one island and have a steamer there to bring them on. The British Government only interfered to see that they were not kidnapped and after the experience they themselves had had, this Government would desire to have some one there to see that nothing of that sort occurred.

Mr. W. O. Smith would like to know how the change of feeling in regard to Japanese laborers had come about. Was it from belief in the difficulty of getting them or from dislike?

Mr. Green replied there was little doubt as to which was the cause. Government had written year after year without success. He had just received a letter from the Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Japan, who simply referred him on this subject to the reply given to His Majesty King Kalakaua when in Japan, and said when the existing treaty was revised arrangements would be made "calculated to put a stop to any misapprehensions." The wording of the letter was very vague. There appeared to be a sort of hanging back which led him to suppose that what might be done would not amount to much.

It was resolved that the Reports of Committees be printed and the meeting adjourned to the following day.

When the meeting re-assembled on Wednesday morning printed copies of the Reports were distributed. At 25 minutes past 10 the Chairman called the meeting to order and the minutes of Tuesday's meetings were read and confirmed.

The Chairman said that the Minister of Foreign Affairs had informed them that Japanese were now not called for because it was considered hopeless. He wished to express his regret at this. They had had 40 of them at Haiku and they gave great satisfaction.

Mr. Adams said he would like to move that the By-Laws be altered, so that the qualification of members might be extended to include Agents and Managers of sugar plantations. When discussed in committee, it was understood that all the agents were personally interested, but it was now ascertained that this was not so.

Mr. P. C. Jones seconded the motion, which was carried.

Mr. Hartwell was requested to speak for the Association at the reception accorded to its members by His Majesty.

Messrs. Adams, S. L. Austin and H. Glade were appointed a committee to try to secure the Armory for future meetings.

Mr. Adams presented the Report of the Executive Committee on Finance. It had been decided to advise the members to subscribe $25 each for the purpose of the Association. The recommendation was unanimous; six committee men being present and two absent.

It was resolved that the report be received and laid on the table for further consideration.

Discussion of the Labor Committee's Report was then resumed.

Mr. W. O. Smith would like to hear what objections were laid against the Portuguese.

Mr. Burchardt thought them too expensive as field laborers. At stripping and weeding they did not do more work than a Chinaman, and certainly not as much as a native.

Mr. J. N. Wright said they were not good as handlers of animals. He could not trust them without a luna. At trashing cane a South Sea Islander was almost equal to a Portuguese. For mill-work they were desirable but otherwise he preferred Chinese as more docile and less expensive. The objection to their handling animals was their temper and cruelty. He was very anxious some effort should be made to get Indian coolies. If we could get Southern negroes they were the men wanted for handling animals. Getting the cane to the mill was the most important point of all. The New Hebrides men appeared an intelligent and docile class. The Chinaman was of no account as a teamster, but for field culture the most desirable yet tried.

W. H. Bailey had tried to get negroes but found the cost of transportation too great. He found Chinamen the best mule teamsters, kind to the animals. They did not like it at first but when used to it were always ready to ship again for the same work. In his experience Portuguese were always trying to shirk doing a good day's work and flying into a passion when spoken to.

Mr. Wright reminded the last speaker that half or two-thirds of the hauling done in the country was by cattle, and many who had them were now disposed to give up mules. A Chinaman was positively useless with cattle.

Dr. Thompson said it was singular to find that different districts had different experiences. In Kohala the Portuguese were the best teamsters.

Mr. Macfie said the difference arose from the different classes of Portuguese. He had two Chinese who were most satisfactory as bullock drivers—the best they ever had.

Mr. Alexander corroborated what Mr. McFie had said.

Mr. H. T. Baldwin said the Portuguese from San Miguel were good men, those not suiting were probably from Madeira. A gang he had out of the last ship had given less trouble than any other laborers. They were stronger and stouter naturally than the Chinese. It was better to have both Chinese and Portuguese as there was then emulation between them. His Portuguese laborers could do most work, even in the field. He would give a third more for them than Chinese. They were healthier and turned out in the morning better. In the sugar house, however, the Chinaman was the more systematic.

Dr. Wetmore said that planters in his neighborhood were in favor of Portuguese. They had little trouble with them, either in the mill or among the cane.

Mr. W. H. Rickard agreed with Mr. Baldwin except as to South Sea Islanders. He had yet to have the first trouble with his lot of Portuguese; his only objection was the high rate of wages.

Mr. S. T. Alexander moved that the report be adopted. Mr. S. L. Austin seconded the motion.

Mr. Adams desired before the motion was put to have the experiences of planters as to feeding the Portuguese.

Several gentlemen gave the result of their experience, and it appeared that the most satisfactory results had been obtained by giving money allowances, which varied on different plantations from $7 to $9, with the same allowance to women who would work. In most cases it appeared that the women would not work.

Dr. Wetmore said that at Papaikou they had 40 Portuguese and wanted more. It cost them about $8 per month to board them.

Mr. Wright said of twelve that came to him ten were married and nine had families. The contract was that the women had to work, and were to be paid and and boarded. They would not work and he was ashamed to ask them because of the children. He found it was going to cost him $29 and some cents per month for one man's work. They would not agree to any propositions, he being determined to get his money back, he gave notice that on a certain day if they did not work he would have them locked up. They replied, "If you attempt that we will meet you with pistols and knives." The day before they asked to be let off work to consult, and when the time arrived came to an agreement to pay their wives' board, he allowing rations for the children. In the latter point he had been rather soft, as now a child had not been born six days before he was called on to supply a ration of food for the baby. As now arranged, he found that in wages, rations and the cost of passages, they cost him a little over $19 per month.

Mr. Burchardt said the cost of Portuguese appeared to vary much and he suggested that the committee collect statistics.

Mr. Alexander asked leave to withdraw his motion for the adoption of the report and substitute one commendatory of the efforts being made by the Government to secure Portuguese laborers from the Azores.

Mr. W. O. Smith reminded the meeting that it was time they adjourned to meet His Majesty. He felt impressed with the dignity of the occasion. The representatives of the two greatest powers in the country were about to meet the Government and the planting interest. He was sure that the King would find, if ever the occasion should come that they were the most loyal body of men in the country.

The Chairman said that they were at one with the Government to promote the best interests of the country.

Mr. S. L. Austin followed in the same strain, and then the meeting adjourned to 2 p.m.

The Chairman called the meeting to order again at 2:15 p. m. By leave of His Ex. Governor Dominis the meeting was held in the Armory.

Mr. S. L. Austin said he had employed Portuguese, Chinese and native Hawaiians and was now very well satisfied with the Portuguese as field hands. He had the universal trouble with them at first as to rations but had settled it by paying $7 per month to men and $2.50 for children over seven years of age and $5 for women when they worked. He would like to have more of them: they were prudent and saving. His hands had sent over $2,700 to St. Michaels in cash. He thought very few would reship. They were inquiring about land and their general idea was to cultivate cane for themselves. Six or seven boys out of the eighteen families he had were at work. He would like to get more Portuguese, also, if better hands were not available, more Chinese, and from what he had heard, also some New Hebrides laborers.

Mr. Burchardt moved that the Labor Committee be requested to get statistics as to the cost of Portuguese labor.

Mr. Macfie seconded the motion.

Mr. J. N. Wright said they had better decide on the spot which was best and not wait for reports. Let them decide by vote and then proceed at once to get them here. He wanted fifty men and if he could not get them should plant only 50 acres instead of 180 to 200 as he intended. The matter was most important. Where was the Government to gets its revenue from if production was impeded?

Mr. J. M. Alexander said it was one question which was the best labor and another which was the most available. He proposed that Mr. Armstrong (who was present) be requested to give the Association some information on the latter subject at his convenience.

The Chairman then put Mr. Burchard's motion which was carried.

Mr. Armstrong said the field was a very large one and he could best respond to the invitation by answering any inquiries that were put to him.

In reply to inquiries he made the following statements. The last information on the Portuguese question was that a steamer had been chartered to bring emigrants here. The experience of the agents is that if quick passages could be ensured it would be easier to secure emigrants. The change would increase the rate of passage money $10 a head. When Mr. Carter was in London matters looked rather serious. It was reported that the Portuguese Government was indisposed to permit further emigration to these islands. From his letters Mr. Carter appeared to be undecided what steps to take. From that time, February 24th, to March 10th, when the telegram as to the steamer was dispatched, there were no advices. He inferred from that that Mr. Carter had reached Lisbon, and that the obstacles had been removed. Many from the mainland wanted to come, but the experience they had had with the Fayal and Norwegian emigrants made them chary in dealing with men from towns. The new terms Mr. Carter was offering, viz; three years instead of five, the wages remaining the same viz: $8 per annum were found to be quite acceptable. It had to be remembered that they were dealing with an ignorant people among whom there were rapid changes of Government. The people were quite democratic in their tendencies and in consequence the Legislature was full of men without experience. As to the supply, two cargoes were said to be on the way and there were probably more available. The Government of Portugal was quite disposed to appoint some one in the character of a Minister Resident here. Perhaps Mr. Schaefer had information on the subject.

Mr. Schaefer "They are going to send some one."

Mr. Armstrong resumed. The Earl Dalhousie was now due. All told she carried about 500 of whom only 125 were men. Mr. Carter took with him an appropriation of £20,000. He trusted there would be legislation during the coming session to enable the Board of Immigration to pursue the work. It was a fairly debateable question whether the Government should not assume the cost of introducing women and children. In his report he had endeavored to work out some statistics on the subject. In his opinion if the planters bring in the men, the Government could afford to bring in the women and children (applause). In the United States it was reckoned that an immigrant was worth $300 and in some colonies the figure was placed at $500. In the first place when a man came into this country he paid taxes $5 per annum. That was one per cent. on $500. Some one feeds him and gets paid for doing so and also pays taxes on the transaction. Then the product of his labor yields taxes too, and his labor produces wealth for the country. Every healthy immigrant landed here, at once becomes a producer. He was not like the merchant, he was not in the category of the lawyers who produce absolutely nothing, except trouble to the community. His wife too could be looked upon as a scource of population. She consumes also, and what she consume, pays taxes too. The childern grow up and are also consumers and eventually become producers. Looking at the matter in this light, he thought every immigrant was worth a $1000 to the State. On that basis he thought he paid. It was the best investment that the Government could possibly make on these islands. He was more radical still on the subject. He thought they required to-day 4000 laborers and that the solution of the difficulty was to obtain means always to have a surplus, so that every immigrant would be looking for employment and not the employer looking anxiously for the laborer. When he came here in 1877, it seemed to him that the country was actually paralysed on the subject. They were suffering now in consequence. When men are breaking the soil they have no time to attend to other matters, but it was not wise, it was not statesmanship. If this organization had been started 3 or 5 years ago, they would by this time have settled this labor question. He thought by bringing in Portuguese they might meet the demand sufficiently, but it was not wise to rely on that. Indeed to-day he would not stand on favorable reports from Portugal but reach out in another and another direction. The returns sent in showed that about 3000 laborers were wanted and he estimated that 4000 were really wanted. Putting the cost at $100 for an adult, they might estimate $400,000 for the men and for say three women to every four men $300,000 and perhaps $100,000 more for the children. That was $800,000. If the planters paid for the men that left $400,000 for the Government to provide. Could that be done by taxation or should it be by loan? There were going to be very great demands on the Treasury. It would be necessary to reorganize the Civil Service. They would have to build more roads and bridges. There was more than ordinary feeling abroad on that subject on account of the cost of conveyance. Our roads were a test of our civilization. We must build roads; we required more than we had; $300,000 had been appropriated to this purpose during the last biennial period and it had done very little. We wanted a better organization and proper inspection of such work, but still these things would require much money and so would other things. He was sure he was right when he took the ground that it was not for the community to look to the Government but that it should be action on the part of the community, strong and unanimous action, that should move the Government. The Government wanted to feel the community backing it and not to feel itself standing alone. It was he thought one of Lord Beaconsfield's sayings that those who lead a community must in a measure follow it, and they could not lead unless they (the people) marched. That was all he could say as to Finance. As to East India it was a delicate matter to handle. He had looked into the matter carefully when accompanying His Majesty on his tour. He had found, especially in England, a great tenderness as to the treatment which coolies emigrating from India might receive. The abuses which had occured in Peru and elsewhere were well known. The East Indian Government, however, was quite willing to provide facilities for the emigration of coolies from the over populated ports. The great point has been to get them adequately protected. The elaborate laws passed in the Colonies which used this labor showed the pains that had been taken in regard to that. Had he known that these enquiries would be made he would have brought down the documents he had received from Sir Anthony Musgrave, the Governor of Jamaica. Great Britain, looking on the coolie subjects as wards, would be more than usually particular to see as to the laws they would fall under and as to the way they were administered. In her own countries she had officers to act as protectors for them. We have no such protectors here. Under certain circumstances she might insist on having an official of her own to act in that capacity. During his interview with Sir Edward Mallet, the latter had said to him: "If you wish for coolie Indians pass the necessary laws, and we will enter into a convention"; for example take the laws of our Colonies, and if our officials report satisfactorily, the matter can be arranged. There was another matter still and that was getting the emigrants. They would find that that was not an easy matter. If the Association should like to try the experiment and if it can be carried out so as not to prejudice the independence of this Government he was in favor of its being tried. As to the New Hebrides, the practical difficulties in the way were very great because of the competition of Fiji and Queensland. A certain number might be got but not what we would desire. He had examined into the matter quite carefully. The English Government require each vessel to carry a Government agent who goes in the boat with those who go ashore. But while the agent goes in one boat and sees that the things are done properly, the ship sends another boat and those who go in it do things improperly. As to the chances of Chinese immigration, they had heard the statement that the Viceroy of Canton had given orders forbidding further emigration on account of alleged misconduct of those who had conducted the emigration. The Government were taking measures. A political difficulty had also arisen in connection with this question. Our increase of Chinese laborers was looked upon with hostility in the United States. It would be a little difficult to convince the authorities at Canton, but they would have the assistance of Sir John Pope Hennessey, the Governor of Hongkong in the matter. He thought it would be better to contract with the Chinese for five years and send them positively back. He thought also that the United States could be made to understand that it was not in the interests of this people to let the place become a Chinese colony. It might perhaps be found a little difficult to make the Chinese go back at the end of five years. As to Negroes, the matter was a little difficult to handle, but he thought it was desirable that negro labor should be tried. In many parts of the Southern States they could not obtain them. But in parts of southern and western Carolina, Georgia and Louisiana they might be obtained. As to 4 or 5,000 he fancied the thing could be handled. If 500 were brought and remained a year and some were sent back, they would induce others to come. He had experimented with negro and white labor on plantations in Virginia, and was in favor of the negro. His brother was of the same opinion. But the thing must be handled in a proper way. They might remember that there were 6,000,000 of negroes in the United States and out of that number 4 or 5,000 was but a handful. One advantage in the negroes, they spoke English, and a second was that they understood laws. These were great advantages to the planter and to the country. He had sent by last mail orders for a thorough investigation of the question, and he thought that by going among those who were living in localities that were not prosperous something might be done. It was no use going among those that were prosperous. He did not expect any opposition from the Lousiana planters.

Mr. Widemann would be glad when this millennium came when they should not only have sufficient labor but a surplus, so as to create competition among laborers. He contended that the Portuguese were good, the Chinese were good, the South Sea Islanders might be good if they were driven to it. If one nationality would be enough they should choose that easiest to get. The South Sea Islander was not here a week before he knew that he was the master and that brought out every bad point that was in the man.

Mr. Rickard moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Armstrong which was duly seconded and carried and tendered by the Chairman.

Mr. Spalding said that he had heard of no other plan to put their ideas into practice than the Planters' Labor and Supply Company. By that means they wanted to push the Government and if the committee of the Company did not push the Government then the shareholders would push them. He did not know till that day that the Government wished to be pushed. He had found it otherwise in regard to some other matters. If they would decide on this point right then either one way or other; if they would put their names down as stockholders; they would adopt by-laws which would enable them to push the Government as far as they will be pushed.

The Chairman announced that there were already twenty-three or four subscribers to the Company for in all some ten or eleven thousand shares.

A discussion then arose as to what the manner of voting should obtain in the Company, whether each shares hould carry a vote or a sliding scale be adopted, and some of the remarks made by one speaker were not in harmony with the pleasant feeling which had prevaded the whole of the previous proceedings. It was suggested that money might be put together and entrusted to the Executive of the Planters' Association for the purpose of procuring labor and that by that method any continuing liability such as the shareholder incurred, could be avoided. By request Mr. Hartwell explained that in this country, as the law stood, no one need pay assessments on shares if he did not choose to do so, the only penalty being forfeitnre of the shares themselves. During the discussion

Mr. Armstrong said he might have been misunderstood. What the Government could do or could not do depended on the Legislature. Whilst the Legislature would probably make appropriations for immigration, there was still no certainty that they would do so. And again, he would say, "do not make the Government take the laboring oar." It was not the business of the Government to bring in imm