

REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR OF IMMIGRANTS.

To the Honorable Godfrey Rhodes, President of the Legislative Assembly:

SIR:—In reply to the Resolution introduced by the Honorable Member from North Kona, and passed by the House, and with the permission of the President of the Board of Immigration I beg to make the following report and suggestions:

Since my appointment as Inspector-General of Immigrants, I have visited all the sugar plantations on the islands of Kauai, Oahu, Maui, and Hawaii, and inspected the dwellings of the laborers, many of which I found to be in excellent condition, others were just within the limit of the law, while not a few were crowded, dirty, and unsuitable in every way for laborers to live in. I have urged upon the managers of plantations the desirability of detached cottages in place of the large barrack buildings, they being specially desirable for families, and tend to make the laborer much more contented. I am pleased to say that nearly all of my suggestions in regard to the improvement of laborers' quarters have been carried out. Taking them as a whole, the present quarters for the laborers are far superior to those of former years.

There seemed to be a general want of knowledge on the part of both master and servant, regarding Chapter 3, of the Session Laws of 1880, entitled, "An Act to provide for the Sanitary condition of Dwelling Houses." With the approval of the Board of Immigration, I had that Act printed in the Hawaiian, English, German, Norwegian, Portuguese, and Chinese languages, and sent copies to the managers of all the plantations, with the request that they should be placed in a conspicuous place, where they could be read by all interested. I would recommend that the Act be amended by striking out the word "contract;" as there are a large number of Chinese laborers not under contract, but work in gangs and companies by the day and month, living in crowded and dirty houses, who, under the present law, do not come under the supervision of the Inspector-General. By this alteration, the law would also apply to houses in Honolulu and other places on the Islands, which, in my opinion, would be for the general good.

The custom of the master, or manager, of deducting from the wages of the laborer for loss of time, or damage to property, is a frequent cause for complaint. It should only be done when agreed to by the laborer, otherwise the matter should be referred to a magistrate. There is also a want of knowledge on the part of the manager and magistrate regarding the Portuguese contracts, as in some instances Portuguese have been ordered to work at night, and refusing, have been taken before the District Judge and fined, which is entirely wrong and contrary to law.

CHINESE.

Should it be deemed necessary to admit a further immigration of Chinese, I would recommend that contracts to work for a term of years, and at the expiration of which term they should either re-engage or return to China, be made previous to their leaving their own country. By so doing, a large influx of male Chinese would be properly controlled, and at the same time the sugar planter would not be debarred from obtaining such labor when required.

SOUTH SEA ISLANDERS.

I am of the opinion that the introduction of South Sea Islanders as a means of re-population, has proved a complete failure; those who have been brought here are an inferior race to the Hawaiians, and have, at the expiration of their contracts, with few exceptions, been returned to the islands from which they were brought, at a large expense to this Government. While there cannot be any objections to the Planters' Labor & Supply Co., or to private individuals bringing South Sea Islanders (under Government regulations) to work on plantations, and returning those who wish to return at the expiration of their contracts, I could not recommend the Government to aid in their introduction.

NORWEGIANS.

The introduction of Norwegians on the whole has not by any means been

a success, though there are a few exceptions. I attribute the principal cause of their dissatisfaction, to their not being agriculturists, and unaccustomed to such work. I, in company with Commissioner Grip, a gentleman of high official standing in his own country, who was sent by his Government to examine into the condition of the Norwegian and Swedish laborers, visited the plantations on which they were engaged, and found that the reports which were circulated through the San Francisco and other papers had been grossly exaggerated. I quote a few extracts from the report made by Mr. Grip to his Government: "I have visited as far as possible, the laborers during meal times, in order to see myself the food which is given them; during working hours I have observed them in the cane fields and in the sugar mills, and, as far as I can judge, have improved every opportunity to obtain a perfect insight into their condition. The number of the male laborers whom I have questioned amounts to 256, of whom three were Swedes. Out of this number only 21 were agriculturists. As the work required was mainly agricultural work, it would have been desirable if the immigrants had been recruited mostly from among agriculturists.

On arrival, the immigrants were distributed among the various plantation owners according to the order of the contract numbers, as they happened to be; the numerous stories in our own, and especially in American newspapers, stating that the laborers had been publicly sold as slaves on this occasion, or had been disposed of by drawing lots while the merry cup was going around, are purely inventions.

In the copy from the laws existing here for laborers, with or without contract, which was sent sometime ago to your Excellency from the Consulate at this place, it is shown that these laws—which have lately been modified still more to the advantage of the workingmen, are especially humane, and that they shelter the workingmen in every respect against any injustice on the part of their employers. The latter can under no condition punish the laborers themselves, but are forced to proceed according to law.

This may be the proper place to state that slavery, nor any other kind of forced labor, does not exist on the Hawaiian Islands, and that the personal freedom on these Islands, which are being governed after American pattern, is as well guarded as in any other country.

It must be regarded as an unfortunate circumstance that the translation of the contracts, although verified by a translation under oath, does not agree in one serious particular with the English that had also been signed by the immigrants. The English version of the contract promises food for the wives of the laborers only in case they themselves work also, while the Norwegian translation promises them food in either case, whether they work or not.

My views of this matter were shared by the Government who now compensate fourteen wives of the immigrants for food; ten other wives will also receive compensation as soon as certain formalities shall have been fulfilled.

Most of the preferred complaints were concerning the food, and these were generally unjust in the highest degree.

Complaints about their dwellings I found generally unjustified.

In case all of our immigrants had belonged to the agricultural class they might have been well satisfied with their condition, but as it was, the main reason for dissatisfaction may be assigned to their desire to earn more money.

The greatest encouragement, however, was given them by the vile articles which appeared in part of the American press, and which have received a great deal more attention in our own country than they deserve.

Finally, I have to mention that there were among the immigrants a great many bad people—bummers from the breweries of Christiania and Drammen. These persons hated any kind of work, and instigated also the good people which otherwise would have kept quiet. Referring to the complaints from Mr. Hitchcock's plantation; Having obtained a clear insight into all circumstances, it is now my conviction that the laborers

would have been happy and comfortable on this plantation had they been decent people.

Although it is hardly possible that ever again labor contracts will be concluded in Norway and Sweden, I have considered it my duty to write down the experiences which I have gathered, that they may be made useful in drawing up immigrant contracts, should such a case ever occur again."

GERMANS.

I am indebted to the Hon. P. Isenberg for information in this respect. He says: "Of German laborers, about 95 are at Lihue; 30 of these arrived in 1881, and 60 in 1882; all of these are working well, and give satisfaction. There has not been any trouble or revolt of any kind on Lihue plantation. Many of them are anxious to have their relations brought to this country, and some are now on the way. The Board of Immigration have assisted by paying \$45 towards the passage of each woman, and \$20 for the passages of children. The cost of passages by sailing vessels have been from \$80 to \$90 per adult, and by steamer \$73.

The same remarks apply to the Germans as I mentioned regarding the Norwegians. I consider the success of the Germans at Lihue is attributed to their being agriculturists, and the interest taken in them by their employer. It is well known that there has been a great deal of trouble with the German laborers on the Island of Kauai.

The most unfortunate part of the immigration of this class of people is, that at the expiration of their contract term, they invariably wish to leave for the United States, where land is to be had in abundance and cheap. It will be for the Board of Immigration to decide the matter of assisting towards their further introduction.

INDIA.

India has been talked of for many years as a source from whence a most desirable class of settlers may be procured.

The experiment should have been made before.

It is well known that in many sugar growing countries they are the most desirable class of laborers, and it is to be regretted that the negotiations for the introduction of that class of immigrants were broken off with the British Government in 1877, because we then could have judged of their qualities, both as an addition to our population, and as laborers. On the other hand, it is satisfactory to note that those negotiations have been resumed through the offices of Col. Curtis P. Iauken, and bid fair to lead to a desirable result.

JAPANESE.

From the remarks made by His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs, in his Biennial Report, I am pleased to see that there is a possibility of procuring immigration from Japan; as judging from the few already in the kingdom, and of what we know about the Japanese, I consider that their introduction in numbers would be of great benefit to the kingdom.

PORTUGUESE.

Of all the immigrants introduced into this kingdom, combining the question of labor and re-population, I consider the Portuguese by far the preferable, and I would urge upon the Legislative Assembly to make a liberal appropriation towards their introduction. There may not be many requests at present from the sugar planters for them, as they cannot be procured and fed as cheaply as the Chinese; also, as a rule, having wives and large families. The Government should not hesitate to invest large sums of money in bringing them here, as I consider that the prosperity and even the independence of the Hawaiian Kingdom depends upon the introduction and permanent settlement of industrious and prolific people.

Many of the Portuguese, at the expiration of their contracts, are desirous of obtaining a small piece of land, on which to make a home, and it would be well for His Majesty's Government to devise ways and means for that purpose. In that way they become permanent settlers, and will contribute largely to the agricultural development and revenue of the country. Many applications have already been made by those whose contracts will shortly expire, to Mr.

Canavaro, Commissioner for Portugal, inquiring what prospects there were of their obtaining lands for their permanent settlements. It is by such opportunities offered to numbers of small farmers, that the country will be greatly benefited. At the same time, settlements in the neighborhood of sugar estates would be of great benefit, and furnish a constant supply of labor either by the day or on shares. This can in no other way be accomplished more promptly, effectively and economically than by the building and improvement of roads, which would render accessible a portion of the Government lands which now are not available for the purpose designated.

The arrivals and departures of immigrants during the last biennial period have been as follows:—

CHINESE.	
Arrivals.....	6998
Departures.....	2001
Excess in favor of arrivals	4997
PORTUGUESE.	
Arrived—Men.....	1633
" Women.....	1459
" Children.....	2755
Total.....	5847
OTHER NATIONALITIES.	
Arrivals.....	5243
Departures.....	4246
Excess of arrivals.....	1007
Total in favor of arrivals.	11851

DR. MOURITZ'S REPORT.

To His Excellency W. M. GIBSON, President of the Board of Health.

SIR:—In presenting my report of professional work, I must ask that due latitude be allowed for its incompleteness and many inaccuracies that, under existing conditions, are unavoidable, especially when considered together with the brief term of my appointment. I regret to add that, on reviewing my work for the past nine months, I cannot find much to congratulate myself upon.

I make due allowance for being a pioneer, and the wide difference existing between the practice of medicine as carried on amongst the whites and the Hawaiians; yet, in spite of these facts, my work is, amongst Hawaiians, so thoroughly unsystematic and unsatisfactory, and all my best efforts failing to rectify this state of things that, daily becoming more and more disheartened, I decided to abandon my appointment. Blind prejudice and uncharitable construction are my chief antagonists; and I sincerely regret too that there are persons who should know, and profess to know better, who appear to me only too anxious to foster this state of things.

In professional work, I am only too conscious that the most hopeless cases to treat are those affecting the mind. Ignorance, prejudice, and superstition exist in the minds of 90 per cent. of my patients, therefore any physician must be heavily handicapped when such ideas exist antecedently.

In the absence of any thorough system of registration, the number of births and deaths occurring in my district is not, in my mind, very reliable; and I strongly suspect that many Hawaiians die in out-of-the-way places that I never hear of. As it is, not less than 70 per cent. of deaths are unattended by any legally-qualified physician. The remaining 30 per cent., when the case is hopeless, desire the attendance of a foreign physician; and even at that late hour are not anxious to take advice or medicine.

The deaths in Waialua district for the past nine months amount to twenty-seven—a mortality averaging 36 per 1000 per annum; allowing for climate, and the conditions of life here, the death-rate should not be more 26 per 1000 per annum; and let it be understood that this is a high death-rate, and also requires a high birth-rate. Eleven males die to every seven females. The average age at death of males is 25 years, of females 33 years. Reliance must not, however be placed on these figures, as Hawaiians are not very certain of their exact age.

The daily average of persons sick, to my knowledge, is seven, and I might safely add seven more who get their medical attendance elsewhere from the *kahunas*. This is a high rate considering no infectious diseases are preva-

lent. Of 100 cases of illness I may be called on to treat—

2 will have diseases of the nervous system; 16 will have diseases of the digestive system; 14 will have diseases of the circulatory system; 68 will have diseases of the respiratory system. Under this latter head, the disease will be in 40 cases asthma and bronchitis; 10 chronic pneumonia; 18 acute pneumonia, and invariably fatal.

The Hawaiian lies down to die; the white man hopes to get better, and is buoyed up by this hope. Not so the Hawaiian, who see his friends dwindling away one by one.

The birth-rate is about 12 per 1,000 per annum. It should not be less than 28 per 1,000 per annum. Unfortunately amongst the Hawaiian women sterility is the rule, healthy fecundation the exception.

It is certainly a problem to bring about a lowering of the mortality and unattended deaths, and to increase the births; if any plan is to be followed out, the Hawaiians themselves must carry out four-fifths of it in its working, and must show ample proof of their energy in so doing without any foreign pressure or stimulus, otherwise I predict failure.

In my district I should like to see the following suggestions carried out:

1. Registration of births and deaths compulsory by law; the certificate of death signed by a duly qualified physician—otherwise illegal, and an offence punishable by fine or imprisonment; no burial to take place without a proper certificate from physician or Sheriff.

2. The leading natives to be made more responsible in giving notice to the physician of cases of illness; blank forms and books to be supplied them for this purpose. This might possibly diminish unattended deaths.

I should like to see (or have the power to order) the disinfection, or in many instances, the destruction by fire of dwellings occupied by lepers, compensation previously determined or guaranteed owner or present occupants by Board of Health.

On the question of hospital accommodation, I am not enthusiastic, for the following reasons:—

1. Excellent hospital accommodation exists in Honolulu, and the advantages derived therefrom are not partaken of; otherwise, such large numbers of unattended deaths could not occur.

2. The natural repugnance of the Hawaiian to restraint, which hospital treatment must enforce—as few visitors, regular hours, rest in bed, special diet, medicines, &c.

3. Any great mortality, although the cases admitted might be hopeless, would possibly prejudice to success of a hospital, for the Hawaiians draw hasty conclusions.

I cannot shut my eyes to the fact that the Hawaiians very generally prefer *kahunas* (so called); therefore, if there was no demand for their services, they would not exist.

The remedy of prosecution by law is, in my mind, a mere apology for the antidote to this state of affairs.

The health of the foreign element in my district calls for no special comment.

I have the honor to be,

Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR MOURITZ,
Government Physician, Waialua
and Waianae.

Waialua, March 31, 1884.

The New York Tribune has printed a series of letters, heretofore unpublished, from Charles Dickens to his friend Thomas Mitton, together with letters from Washington, Irving, Macready, Robert Browning and Tom Hood to Dickens.

The London Lancet does not approve of children's parties, and thinks that not only in winter, but at all seasons, the amusements of young children should be simple, unexciting, and as free as possible from the characteristics of the pleasures of later years.

Victor Hugo has been trying to pack the chief literary men of America into a series of epigrams but with ill-success. He told an American visitor recently that he regarded Edgar A. Poe as the "prince of American poets." He thinks that Mr. Whittier is "womanly" versifier, Mr. Lowell a "smart chatterer," and Oliver Wendell Holmes "amusingly laughable." Not even the clumsiness of these epigrams is a sufficient revenge to these exasperated subjects.