

THE O. S. S. COMPANY AND THE GOVERNMENT.

The statement of the Minister of the Interior in reply to Mr. Hitchcock's resolution in regard to the privileges of the Oceanic Steamship Company, is a mass of curious errors. In the first place we have the cost of sheds set down at \$7,198.22. Now where this shed comes under the head of "privileges" we fail to see. It was erected by contract, is entirely owned and controlled by the Government, and the O. S. S. Company has not an atom of right to it when its steamers are not at the wharf. It is there for the convenience of any ship that may be lying at that berth. This item should really come under the head of wharfage, and is included in the other items. The shed and wharf is simply a Government improvement, and in the same class as any other wharf or structure built along the city front.

The next item in this report reads as follows:

1. Lease to W. G. Irwin & Co. agents, of lot corner of Fort and Allen streets, Esplanade, for warehouse, for 25 years, from Sept. 13th, 1882, at \$500 per annum, value for general storage purposes, at least \$2,500 per annum, privilege, say, \$2,000.

This is indeed a remarkable business statement coming from the Interior Department. It was advertised at public auction, and purchased by W. G. Irwin & Co. at \$500 per annum, the upset price. By the terms of the lease the building reverts to the Government at its expiration. It cost the steamship Company \$25,000; it is substantially constructed of brick, with an iron roof, and solid concrete floor, and we fail to see how the Minister of the Interior can claim the lease as a privilege granted the O. S. S. Company, when it was purchased at public auction, and the transaction was purely a business one. As a matter of fact the Company virtually pays about \$1,500 per annum rent, whereas the warehouses heretofore used by the P. M. S. S. Company were built at the Government expense, and the Mail Company was allowed the free use of them.

But of all Minister Gulick's statements, the water item is the most preposterous. Here it is:

5. Water free. The water supplied by Alameda on her last trip measured by meter, 18,277 cubic feet, or 146,216 gallons, at the usual charge to shipping, 1/2 cent per gallon, \$731 per trip, 24 trips per annum, say, \$17,544.

We have not had time to go into what appears an incredible assertion. We cannot but think there must be a clerical error in this, for the estimate is simply startling, but we shall ascertain on the arrival of the Mariposa what the water consumption actually is. The only plausible assumption is that the water being furnished free, the steamers may have used large quantities of fresh water for cleansing purposes, etc., when salt water would have answered fully as well. Even with this consideration, the figures seem enormous. Why, in San Francisco, where water is one of the highest commodities, and where it is held by an iron-handed monopoly, the cost is only \$40 for each steamer per trip, or \$960 per annum for both. Looking impartially at this statement of the relations between the Government and the Company, the only loss for the former sustains by the steamers is in the wharfage question, and a few minor charges for lights, buoys, etc.

Now let us glance at the other side of the question, and see how far the O. S. S. Company has benefited the Government by increasing the exports of these islands, and by encouraging travel because of the superior facilities it affords. In this statement the Ministers would lead the public to believe that not only does the Government grant privileges amounting to \$26,000 per annum, but that it also incurs a primary loss in other ways because of this line. A few statistics will remove this impression, if, indeed, it could have any existence, and will show in what manner the country has been benefited in regard to its exports, to say nothing of the accommodation a regular semi-monthly service between this port and San Francisco affords. We shall take for example the banana industry, to which this im-

proved communication has given an astonishing impetus.

Table with 2 columns: Period, Total number bunches exported between Oct. 1, '81 and July 1, '82, etc.

Now, the last dates represent the nine months in which the Alameda and Mariposa have been running. From 19,038 to 47,115 is a big jump, and shows how immensely this industry has been stimulated. Bananas are worth to the cultivator about \$1 per bunch, thus bringing him in a handsome profit. And with this movement in the banana trade there comes the desire to reclaim marsh lands for new plantations, and add largely to the material wealth of the country. Sugar cane and betel leaves are also a growing export since the running of these steamers.

And now for the passenger trade. Taking the same dates we find the down travel from San Francisco to the Islands:

Table with 2 columns: Date, Number of passengers.

From 948 to 2,241 is certainly a gratifying increase. About two-thirds of those passengers are traveling for pleasure and will leave in this country on an average, say \$250 each, and this we consider a low estimate. We can calculate that the amount spent in these islands in 9 months by these tourists will reach an important sum. And, besides this, the native labor bill of each steamer is \$1,000 per trip.

This is a plain and fair statement of the O. S. S. Company's side of the account. There are other advantages which might be enumerated, but we prefer to confine ourselves to simple figures, as opposed to the figures the Minister of the Interior, under the head of privileges, sets before the public. In a day or two the Subsidy Bill will come up. We consider that the Company is well entitled to a subsidy from the Government, but that it should not exceed \$3,000 per month. But while the Company should get its subsidy, on the other hand it should be restricted in regard to fares and freights, so that under no circumstances should it be allowed to increase them. We believe the Company means to be thoroughly honest in this respect, but those provisions should be distinctly stated in the Subsidy Bill. While the O. S. S. Company has done, and can do in the future, a great work in developing the resources of these islands by the facilities they afford in transportation, so long as they draw support and encouragement from the Government, there must be no increase in rates on the ground of our large dependence upon them.

A BAD CUSTOM.

The proximate departure of another batch of South Sea Islanders returning to their homes recalls to mind the looseness of our laws in regard to sale and use of firearms. Whether the men who are to be shipped in the Kalua have been spending their wages as some of their fellow islanders have done in the purchase of firearms, we have not ascertained, but nothing is more likely than that they should have followed such an example. Even if visions of mastery and plunder are before their eyes, guns and ammunition are precisely the things which they are most likely to think desirable. They are also the things with which they are most likely to get into mischief when they are again domiciled in their native isles. The condition of affairs among the natives of the Gilbert and Marshall Groups appears, by all accounts to be far from a settled and peaceable one. Whatever advances Christianity may have made there, civilization has not as yet followed in its footsteps. It is very undesirable that this country should be known there through the returned laborers rather as the place where they learn the art and acquire the means of destroying their fellow-men, than as one from which the arts of peace and civilized ways and industry come to them. No one however can hinder these men who are being conveyed back to their homes under the Hawaiian flag and at the expense of the Hawaiian Government, from going there armed to the teeth. This ought not to be the case. Nor is it merely on account of these Islanders that a law controlling the sale and use of firearms should be

enacted. There are plenty of domestic reasons for it, here as elsewhere.

This is the only one among the archipelagoes of the Pacific which are under civilized government in which such a law is wanting. With our mixed population in which the aliens bid fair to outnumber the native and naturalized citizens, we have every reason for taking the same precautions as are freely taken in places where the danger is less.

We have before us the revised regulations on this subject which have lately been proclaimed by the French administration in Tahiti. Arms and ammunition cannot be landed on any of the islands of the Oceania without permits which are obtainable only from the Executive government. Dealers are not allowed to sell arms except to persons who have previously obtained permits to purchase. Each dealer has to keep an exact record of his stock and how he disposes of it and periodical inspections are made to ascertain that the law is observed. When anyone wants to buy a gun he must first obtain a certificate from the local official that he is a proper person to be allowed to possess firearms, and the use which he intends to make of the arms has also to be set forth. With this certificate the would-be purchaser applies to the Director of the Interior, if he be at Papeete, or to the Resident if in any other island than Tahiti. If the permit to purchase be granted to him he has still to obtain a permit to carry arms unless he has that right already. The same formalities have to be gone through to obtain this permit as in the case of a purchase and it is moreover subject to renewal every year. All this precaution may sound preposterous to those who have been accustomed to the complete freedom of action that has been allowed here, but when once such a system is established it is not found to be particularly onerous. The populous British Colony of New Zealand submits to one equally onerous. Not even a few cartridges can be purchased there without a permit from the authorities, and the right to carry a gun involves the payment of an annual license fee of five dollars. We should like to see some similar system to that of Tahiti in force here, at least in regard to firearms. Because there is no appearance of any trouble here at the present time, it must not be taken for granted that nothing of the sort is within the range of probability. If however there were no domestic reason for such a law the particular case of our returning South Sea Island laborers is one that needs providing for and which ought to have immediate attention.

More "Charmed" Circles Than One.

Jenny June asks, is it true that all wives and all daughters wear silks and satins and thousands of dollars' worth of gems? Is it true that all entertainments represent a fortune in flowers and the luxuries of the table? Is it true that all brides wear duchesse lace and all weddings are as alike as two peas—interiors, toilets, wedding presents and personages? Doubtless within the limits of a certain circle it is true that one social or domestic event is a copy of another, but why should this monotonous little ring be considered a "charmed," or only circle worth entering? There is more variety and more of individuality among the "million" and quite as much material for the study of historic art and the picturesque in dress and fashion.

The poor girl who makes her own broussau after day's work is done, who wears the silver cross her grandmother gave her above her modest stuff gown, has more of poetry and sympathy in her few belongings than can be found in several large trunks full of shop-made lingerie. George Eliot finds a source of "delicious sympathy" in faithful pictures of a homely existence which has been, and is, the fate of so many more among mortals than a life of pomp and display and she "gladly turns from pictures of cloudborne angels and rapt symbols to an old woman bending over her knitting or her flower-pot, or to a rustic wedding where an awkward bridegroom stands beside a high-shouldered and broad-faced bride, while elderly and not handsome friends look on, with possibly a quart jug in their hands, but unmistakable good-will in their faces."

AMERICA'S HOLIDAY.

A Grand Observance in this City.

The fourth of July was celebrated in a most impressive manner in this city. The decorations of the Hotel grounds, where the exercises took place, were in admirable taste. The large platform was draped with flags, the grounds were hung with flags, and from numbers of trees the stars and stripes waved in the breeze. The music was excellent, and made up for whatever shortcomings there might be in the voluntary chorus. After an invocation by Rev. George Wallace, His Excellency Rollin M. Daggett made the following eloquent introductory remarks:

THE MINISTER'S REMARKS.

Friends and fellow countrymen—Away back in the past, when Europe was emerging from feudal barbarism, and before the Pilgrim Fathers had landed on the coast of New England and dedicated a continent to political and religious freedom, Lono, the King of the Island of Hawaii, and grandson of the great Umi, from whom His Majesty King Kalakaua draws his royal strain, was paying a visit in disguise to the King of Oahu, whose court had been established at that time at Kailua, on the northeastern side of the island. This was three centuries ago. Let us gild the legend a little for the occasion, and say that it was just three hundred years ago this 4th day of July, 1884, Lono had left the island of Molokai a few weeks before in a fit of jealous frenzy, and had wildly paddled and sailed his great double canoe to the coast of Oahu, and hauled it up on the beach of Kailua. As he approached, a chief who had been in the service of his father, recognized in the trappings of the canoe, some indications of the royal state of Hawaii, and so informed his sovereign; but Lono disclaimed any title to royalty, and, enjoying secrecy upon his attendant, landed and was courteously received simply as a distinguished chief—for his bearing showed him to be that, at least—and was hospitably provided for by the King.

To find oblivion for his thoughts, he plunged into the pastimes and excesses of the Court, and in wrestling, running, hurling and warding weapons and other manly exercises, he found no equal among the chiefs of Oahu. And he had more than his share of the smiles of the many handsome women at the Oahu Court; but he heeded them not, for his heart was with his Queen whom he had left bleeding on the beach at Kalanapapa. His prowess aroused the envy of some of the chiefs, one of whom took occasion to stigmatize him as a "nameless chief." Looking down upon the offender in wrath, he promised to pay him alive should he ever meet him beyond the protection of his King, and then, striding to his canoe, drawn up on the shore, took from it a large calabash containing the bones of the six rebellious district chiefs of Hawaii, killed in battle by his father, and in the presence of Court chanted the names the slain and the achievements of his ancestors in a voice that echoed through the surrounding hills.

In imitation and warrant of this pardonable desire in Lono to defend his birthright and glorify his ancestors, and of the permission for him to do so, graciously accorded by the King, a goodly number of Americans are assembled here to-day to speak some words of praise of their fathers and of the land ennobled by their valor and made glorious by their sacrifices. And, like Lono, they are not without authority in their own land, albeit they claim no privileges here not accorded to the humblest citizen. In their own right they are sovereigns, every one—uncrowned and untitled sovereigns—whose throne is the ballot-box, whose scepter is the ballot, and whose strong citadels of defense are the school houses that dot their broad heritage thick as the stars of heaven that smile down upon them. They are the joint and equal rulers of the mightiest national domain that ever stretched its peaceful mantle of green across the zones since God set his bow of promise above the brow of Ararat; the joint and equal rulers of a country where with the birth of every male child, a possible President of the Republic is born, and with his death is translated another soul from the political peevage of earth to the broader and more perfect equality of the heavens.

But they bring with them no calabashes of the bones of their enemies. They bring, instead, the brief history of a nation whose battles have been for political and religious freedom, and whose victories have been the triumphs of all mankind. Upon the tablet of the world's annals, over the records of dead empires and governments founded in blood, maintained by force, and in which the people had no voice, the history of the Republic has been written with a stylus of steel, and has become the hope and inspiration of the struggling peoples of all the earth. But great as have been its victories in arms its peaceful triumphs have been grander still. A hundred years ago, when the first Kamehameha was preparing for the conquest and consolidation of the Hawaiian group, three millions of worn and weary people were sitting beside their desolate hearths after seven years of war. Upon the garments of many of them were the blood-stains of Yorktown, and their feet were still blistered with the blains of Valley Forge. There was no corn in their granaries, and their public treasury was empty. They had few laws, and no constitution besides the old Colonial compact, which had thus far served them well. But they did not require laws, for they were just and peaceful; they scarcely required money, for in their poverty and self-sacrifice they had learned to live without it. They trusted in God and their own strength. They had achieved the greatest victory of all time. In their blood they had established the equality of all men before God and the law, and their right of, and capacity for self-government. Into a constitution these principles were crystallized and under their beneficent action a nation has grown greater and greater every year, until the world now stands amazed at its progress and awed at its overshadowing future.

The growth of the Republic had indeed been marvelous even to those who have watched it day by day. At the close of the War of Independence its area was but little more than 800,000 square miles, and its western boundary was the Mississippi river. It purchased Florida from Spain; Louisiana, and with it Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota, Kansas, Nebraska and the great West, from France; the lower Pacific States and Territories, from Mexico; and, finally, Alaska from Russia. And it paid each for all, and will continue to pay each for all, although it need but stretch forth a mailed hand to take and hold a continent—yes, a hemisphere. And so, by purchase, the acres of the Republic have been multiplied by four, while its population has been multiplied by twenty, and its wealth and resources by thousands. The geographical center of the United States has in less than a century been transferred from Ohio to the mouth of the Columbia, in Oregon, and two hours after the sun bids good night to the icy cañons of western Alaska, with its morning beams it gilds the bay of Passamaquoddy, in Maine.

During the past twenty months an empire has grown up in the Territories north of the forty-third meridian, along the com-

pleted line of the Northern Pacific Railroad. Every where, from the great lakes, which some one has called the "unsalted seas," to the Pacific Ocean, the air is filled with rising rafters, and the sound of the hammer and steam whistle never ceases. New states are being hewn from the wilderness, and new cities are springing up as if by enchantment—the enchantment of equal privileges to all. So great is the progress of the Republic from year to year, from day to day, from hour to hour, that he who would speak of it must do so curtly, lest the statements at the beginning of his discourse will need correction at the end.

The wealth and strength of the Republic can be expressed only in figures whose aggregates almost bewildering. It has 175,000,000 acres of land under cultivation, and 1,500,000,000 that have never been marked by the plow. It has 124,000 miles of railway—enough to wind six times around the earth, and telegraph wires sufficient to stretch in double lines to the moon. Its grain yield last year was 2,600,000,000 bushels, worth \$2,000,000,000. Its commerce amounts to \$1,600,000,000 annually, and the balance of trade in its favor has been over \$1,000,000,000 in the last ten years. Its aggregate wealth is \$55,000,000,000—\$10,000,000,000 more than the wealth of the United Kingdom of Great Britain, and \$18,000,000,000 more than that of France, and the days of the years of our national pilgrimage have been but a hundred years.

But I will not trespass upon the regular exercises of the day. A poet has asked:

"What was the song that Miriam sang, or to what metre the lines were framed. But she did sing a song of deliverance, and tens of thousands of voices joined in the chorus. And David sang and danced before the recovered ark of the covenant. The Declaration of Independence is the ark of our covenant with mankind and ourselves, and we are here to-day to exalt and glorify it. And the Hawaiians, too, should rejoice that in the Republic they have a great, peaceful and magnanimous friend. Therefore, with the inspiring rhetoric of music and eloquence born of devotion to country, we will proceed to celebrate the beginning of the one hundred and ninth year of the birth of political and religious freedom on earth.

At the conclusion of Mr. Daggett's speech, Mr. Daniel O'Connell read the following original poem:

Glancing proudly at the record of her rich and fruitful years, The youngest of the nations lifts her head among her peers, Pointing backward to the patriots that mark her country's side, With the laurel on her fair brow, she names their deeds with pride:

And the old theme that so often has been told, and read and sung, How the great bell of the State House from its ponderous brazen tongue

Sonorous rang its tidings—with quick pulse and moistened eye Was hailed a Nation's birthday in Memorial July But never can the story be too often wreathed in verse, And never can historians too oft the tale rehearse;

For the old to bid them gladden and be strong and stout of heart; For the young to let the future see them act as well their part;

A requiem for the warriors whose blood baptized the sod; For the statesmen whose wise counsels broke British rule and rod.

In the belfry stand the ringers—hangs above the silent bell— Their arms are bared, their eyes gleam, they love their duty well.

Without the eager people sway and murmur like the sea; Within, the statesman listened to the words that set them free.

The noonday sun is blazing; but greater than its heat And fiercer is the fire within those hearts upon the street.

So grave and so determined, with bent brows and lips compressed, Toward the meeting house the eager mass with steady purpose pressed.

Maid and matron, age and childhood gaze with anxious look on high Where the massive tower gigantic looms against the summer sky.

Ah! this weary expectation; how the minutes drag along! Hush! good friends, you'll be rewarded with the richest, rarest song

Ever rung from brass and iron. Hush! be still and hold your breath; On the swinging of yon metal hangs our country's life or death.

"Have they signed it?" Not all—hear them—they are still in hot debate; Oh! pass on, you sluggish moments, and let us know our fate.

Then the waiting throng is silenced—over all a stillness fell, When clang! clang! from the belfry peals the thunder of the bell.

Hear its grand reverberations! swelling o'er the silent town, Bringing joy to all the people, bringing sorrow to the Crown.

Hand grasps hand with eager pressure. "Bing out, ringers well and strong! Ring in the joys of Freedom, ring out the woes of wrong!"

Ring out and never weary—the great pledge signed to-day, Shall be sealed with freemen's best blood in many a fiery fray!"

Ring right lustily, my brave boys, for children yet unborn Shall bless the glorious music you've made for us this morn.

No sooner was the peal stilled than burst the bell in twain; After such a glorious message it could ring no meaner strain.

O'er a hundred years 'tis silent, but the memory of that chime

