

GOLD AND SILVER.

In yesterday's issue we said that the new Currency Law would go into operation to-day "without a jar." We regret to learn that this prophecy was not wholly realized. We have not been able to obtain testimony as to any single case involving loss to the person interested, but it is currently stated that individuals to whom money was payable have placed silver coin at a discount. By law they have a perfect right to do so, or to refuse it, altogether, for sums above ten dollars. But we do not believe they had any sound reason for it. We feel no doubt that in a very short time all this sort of thing will right itself. It is based on a mistaken apprehension that there is more silver coin still in circulation in the country than will be needed for its transactions under the new law. We have no hesitation in saying that this is a mistake. What came under the observation of the writer yesterday is of itself sufficient to confirm this and to show that the prevalent idea of there being too much silver coin here is a mere scare, founded on want of information as to the true condition of affairs.

Let it be acknowledged that some persons found themselves yesterday in the fix of having to make payments that were imperatively due, and having only silver to make them with. Such persons must have been very few in number or the enquiries we instituted would have led to our hearing particulars of at least one case, which we failed to do. The total amount involved in all such transactions put together must have been very small indeed, otherwise we should have been able to find out the facts about some of them. Meanwhile what was happening in the opposite way? Other people, including Messrs. Bishop & Co. themselves, were so short of silver that they had to go and buy it from the Treasury with gold (or its equivalent) to the tune of \$13,500. Part, perhaps all of this, was wanted for shipment to the other islands, which have been greatly drained of silver currency, on account of every one hastening to part with the foreign silver coin which ceased to be current on 30th November. Now if any one really were so unfortunate as to be unable to obtain gold for his silver yesterday it is evident that it was only for want of some suitable machinery for bringing those who wanted gold and those who wanted silver into communication so that they could exchange with one another. The Bank would not accept silver on deposit, even on the terms that it has been used to take it for so many years, viz: repayable in silver. This fact added to the sort of scare which had taken possession of some timid souls, and in them spread about like an epidemic. All this comes of the unfounded fancy that there is too much silver in circulation. Those, at least, who had to run to the Treasury for silver by thousands of dollars at a time must have had reason to know better and might have reassured their neighbors.

It is probably true that there is silver in the country in excess of the requirements of the public, but it is not in circulation and cannot legally get into circulation. It is in the Treasury, deposited to represent silver certificates, which must now, by law, be redeemed in gold, or exchanged for gold certificates. Unless it should turn out that there is more gold coin already in the country than is needed for its transactions, this silver (whether Hawaiian or not) must go away like the foreign silver which the Government has already exchanged. None of this, however, must be counted in the circulation. It is locked up, and the notes that represent it are now circulating as gold notes, and must be paid in gold at the Treasury. That silver is therefore, part of the gold circulation.

The principal thing now needed is that a reasonable amount of gold should get into circulation. A few weeks, perhaps a few days, will see this brought about in the natural course of things. The thing will be very much facilitated if our local bankers can see their way to receive all current coin indiscriminately from the customers whom they know to be receiving it in a legitimate course of trade, just as does every bank in the British Dominions, where the currency law is absolutely the same as

it is here, and where, nevertheless, the banks are glad to get customers who bring them in continually large quantities of silver. We feel sure that they will soon find that they had no reason to feel afraid. The first wages day will probably demonstrate for them the truth of our statement that there is none too much silver in circulation. Any one who has been unlucky enough to want to get silver for a \$50 bill on Saturday afternoon in this town must have discovered this for himself.

THE CENSUS.

In our By Authority column this morning will be found the names of those who have been appointed as Agents for the taking of the census for 1884 in this Kingdom. According to the plan adopted, the agents appointed for each district of the Kingdom will appoint a sufficient number of competent sub-agents in their several districts to do the work efficiently. The number of sub-agents to be appointed, to be governed principally by the nature, extent, and population of the sub-divisions of the district to be allotted to each, and the registry or enumeration of persons is to be made simultaneously in every district of the Kingdom, as of the 26th of December next.

A few days previous to the 26th of December, the sub-agents, under the direction of the agent, shall leave at each house in the district a printed blank, furnished for the purpose, and shall give all information necessary to enable the filling in of the blanks in question, in the manner required.

On Saturday, 27th of December, the day following that on which the Registry is to be made, the sub-agents will begin to collect from each house, the blanks previously left by them to be filled, carefully examining every blank as it is received by them from each householder, and causing such corrections to be made, or omissions to be supplied as shall be necessary for the proper filling of the said blanks.

As soon as each agent shall have received from the sub-agents all of the filled blanks collected by them, he will carefully summarize them in the blank form provided for the purpose; and on the completion of his summarized table, will forward the same to the Superintendent of Census, in Honolulu. To guard against the loss of returns, and to enable the correction of errors should the same be necessary; agents have been instructed to keep in their possession all the filled blanks from which the summarized tables have been made, until the receipt and acceptance of the returns shall have been acknowledged by the Superintendent, and instructions been given as to the disposition to be made of the blanks in question.

To ensure, as far as possible, correctness in the enumeration of all the nationalities represented on the islands, special blanks have been prepared with headings in Chinese characters, and in the district of Kona Mr. Akana has been authorized to make a special return of the Chinese, and Mr. Marcos one of the Portuguese. All of the agents and firms controlling inter-island shipping will be furnished with blanks in season to enable them to place one on board each vessel that is likely to be out of this port on the 26th of December, so that the proper returns can be made by their captains on that date.

To ensure correctness, all householders, heads of families, tenants in chief, and all other persons to whom a blank shall be given, should cause the same to be properly filled out "for all persons who shall have slept on the premises" on the night of Friday, December 26th; and the proprietors or managers of estates having in their employ persons unacquainted with the nature and object of a census registry, are respectfully requested to give the Board's agents such assistance as shall be of value in forwarding the object in view, and in securing as correct returns as possible.

Of the household blanks, twenty-five thousand have been distributed throughout the islands in such proportions as to enable the agents to fully carry out their instructions, and with care on the part of those who are required to fill them out, there is but little doubt that the census of 1884 will be complete and accurate.

PLANTATION ACCOUNTS.

At the late meeting of the Planters' Labor and Supply Company, held in this city, the question was discussed as to what was the best method of keeping plantation accounts, and the opinion was held by some present that no system in vogue gave absolutely correct returns in every department, and that a considerable sum must yearly go to "expense account," under which head are placed all the little sums paid out here and there, and not chargeable to any specific account—as the books are kept.

Since this question of "How to keep plantation accounts" was discussed the matter has been investigated, and methods of reports examined, and as giving the best results, i. e., bringing the smallest amount under the head of "Incidental Expenses," the plan carried out on Paia Plantation, Maui, seems to be the best.

It may be premised that this plantation has under cultivation each year about 440 acres, yielding an average of five tons of sugar per acre. That the mill, which is fitted with a "double effect," grinds the cane from Grove Ranch plantation, near at hand, as well as its own, and that the annual output is about 3000 tons of sugar, the mill making 15 tons a day. The plantation works about 225 men, principally Portuguese, and 100 Japanese are expected shortly. Transportation is carried on by an elaborate system of fluming as well as by oxen.

The monthly reports made up at Paia are tabulated as follows. Under the head of "Statement of Expenses" the following accounts are enumerated: Cleaning off Land, Plowing and Harrowing, Planting and Irrigating, Loading, Hoing and Stripping the cane.

Then comes the items of cutting cane seed, and carting it. Cutting, carting and fluming the cane. This is followed by water expenses, mill expenses, carting sugar, carting miscellaneous. "Containers," that is the cost of the bags, kegs, etc., is made a separate account, and insurance is charged under the heads, on sugar, and on buildings. Freight and lighterage is charged separately on sugar and as miscellaneous, and there is a fuel, rent and interest account, one for each item.

Horse feed has an account, as has the item of Trespass, while "Repairs" is divided amongst Tools and Implements, Buildings, Reservoirs and Ditches, Fences, Flumes and Roads and Bridges. Medical expenses comes next, followed by Books, Printing and Stationery, and finally, "Incidentals" closes the list.

Each one of these items is set opposite dollar and cents columns headed Material, Labor and Total.

Under the heading, "Abstract of Cash Account," are enumerated the Receipts and Expenditures, the former being classified as Balance, Drafts and Orders, Merchandise, Sugar, Miscellaneous. Under the latter are, Pay-Rolls, Expenses, Stock Account, Merchandise and Miscellaneous. The difference in the footing of these two columns gives "Balance Cash on Hand."

A very useful adjunct to the form described is a "Comparative Statement of Pay Roll" for (any given time). This has in the left hand column the "Rate per month" paid to (and then follow columns headed) Minors, Natives (meaning thereby Hawaiians) Portuguese, Germans, New Hebrideans, Japanese, Chinese, (a blank for other nationalities) Miscellaneous. Total Number of Employees, Total Number of Days Worked, and Average Days Worked per Employee.

From the above it will be seen that the cost of any one department of plantation labor, the repairs, and the comparative efficiency of various races can be easily ascertained. It only remains to say that as the form described above is an abstract of the books kept on the plantation, and to show that they are well kept, it may be said that the amount placed to the debit of "Incidentals" was, in a total of many thousand dollars, but the trifling sum of \$3.50.

MORTUARY STATISTICS.

The *Bulletin* attempts to prove its assertion in regard to the imperfectness of the statistics of the Board of

Health, by quoting the record of one—and that, too, an exceptional—year! It points to a difference between the report of deaths for 1881 as made by the Board of Education, and that made by the Board of Health (a difference, it says, amounting to 442) ignoring the fact that the former report includes the deaths at the smallpox hospital, and the second does not. This fact may be used as an argument to support the assertion that the Board of Health statistics are "imperfect," and so they are, but not in the sense intended by the *Bulletin* writer. The natural inference to be drawn from what he says is (taking the whole article as a guide) that the imperfectness spoken of was the result of negligence or indifference, when the fact is that it should be attributed to the time-honored custom of two bureaus receiving statistical information that belongs alone to one, and that the districts from which the reports are received are not the same.

And now for the reply to the second assertion, that Honolulu is "one of the most unhealthy cities in Christendom." This it supports by referring to the same exceptional year—1881—when it declares the death rate was nearly 62 in the thousand. How does it know that? Who knows what the population of Honolulu was in 1881, or is now? There has been no census taken for six years, and therefore the *Bulletin's* estimate is nothing but guess-work at the best, and as the *Hawaiian Monthly* is immediately referred to in this connection, it is to be concluded that it was second-hand guess-work at that.

By reference to the records of the Board of Education it will be found that the total number of deaths in the last four years—1880, '81, '82 and '83—in Honolulu was 2157, or an average of 539.25 per annum. Estimating the average population of this city at 18,000 for those four years, it will be seen that the deaths were 24.4 per thousand, which is less than or about the same as the rate in Boston, Lowell, New York, Baltimore, Charleston and London, and less than in Liverpool, Manchester, Savannah, and other cities. And this death rate ought really to be lessened by deducting from it the number of those who die annually in Honolulu in the Hospital and Asylums of diseases contracted elsewhere.

The *Bulletin* asks flippantly if we are "satisfied." Yes, we are; satisfied that the *Bulletin* writer knew nothing of the subject he wrote about. How can he when he has hardly been a dog-watch in the country; not long enough here to familiarize himself with any one subject, least of all with the health statistics of the city, and the operations of the Board of Health. We propose to let this matter now rest until the census about to be taken is completed, when we confidently predict that the *Bulletin* will make the *amende honorable*.

THE NEW ORLEANS EXHIBITION.

The article from a New Orleans paper which we publish elsewhere describing the progress made in the preparations for the World's Industrial and Cotton Centennial Exposition about to be held in that city will have given our readers some idea of the magnitude of the undertaking and the extreme interest which is being taken in it, both by Americans and the people of other nations.

Among other things reference is made to the "Government Building." The existence of such a structure is strong evidence of the enthusiastic way in which the Government of the United States has busied itself in promoting this Exposition. In point of fact that Government will be one of the principal exhibitors. The Secretary of State has called on each Diplomatic and Consular Representative of the United States to furnish him with a series of objects representing the products and manufactures of the country in which he resides. A huge globe, on which all the countries of the Earth will be delineated, is to occupy the center of the space occupied by the exhibits contributed by the Government. Grouped around this will be the articles sent by the Consuls in response to the Secretary's request. This exhibition will in itself form a representation in miniature of the commercial productions of the world, and will

probably exceed in mass anything for which the Secretary of State has dreamed of making provision.

Another Government exhibit will make a considerable figure at the Exposition. The United States will exhibit a series of all objects connected with the Postal Services, and an invitation has been sent *officially* by the Secretary of State to all civilized countries to do likewise.

A number of articles, which, united, will prevent Hawaii's corner of the Exposition from presenting a bare appearance have already been promised, and the Government is bestirring itself to be well represented there in the departments of native fibres, native drugs, kapa, etc., and we hope that every one who can give any assistance to make these exhibits more perfect will do so.

GOLD CURRENCY FOR HAWAII.

In view of the sailing of the Alameda it is pleasant to be able to state to our readers abroad, most of whom have business interests in these Islands or business connections with them, that the New Currency Act will go into full operations to-day without a jar, and without giving the slightest trouble to merchants, tradesmen or private individuals.

A few weeks ago the idea was current that there was to be a run on the Treasury for the gold in which the new law obliges the repayment of the silver certificates issued before it was passed. If any such thing were really likely to have happened it has been averted by the sound sense and earnest efforts of our local bankers Messrs. Bishop & Co. aided by Messrs W. G. Irwin & Co., agents for the embryo Hawaiian National Bank, and by Mr. Theodore H. Davies. On Saturday the Chamber of Commerce met and passed a resolution that the outstanding treasury certificates should in all transactions controlled by its members, be used instead of the gold they represent. The Government has been carefully gathering in all the foreign silver coins which to-day cease to be current here, and probably almost all those that are left in the country go forward in the "Alameda" to be exchanged for gold.

Exchange has fallen to its normal level, lower than it has been since the early part of 1883, notwithstanding the fact that the available exchange (for the present mail) appears to be rather short of the actual requirements of remitters. We have heard some complaint about this, with remarks that when the premium was high exchange could always be had. The reason seems very simple. When exchange was high, everyone who could postpone his remittances, and now these are being freely made just at a time when little sugar is going forward, and exchange is consequently scarce. There can be no doubt that by the end of the month drafts on California will be plentiful enough for all demands.

THE TELEPHONE.

There is a speck of war on the horizon of our mid ocean telephonic world, consequent upon the rapid progress made by the new line towards completion. The old line does all the business now, of course, and its managers have lately reduced the rental of instruments to a point that does not admit probably, of any further cutting. Meanwhile the cable line has a very large subscription list, and in a few weeks ought to have their central office opened and commence business.

When they do so they will immediately have some on their list that are not subscribers to the old company, and the question naturally arises what is to be done if A, who has a "Mutual" instrument in his house wishes to telephone to B who is on the "Bell" line? The answer to this may be that both A and B, as regard each other will be no better (or worse) off than if they had no telephone at all: an answer which though true, would not be very satisfactory to either party.

Again: suppose A owns stock in one company, and is offered the use of the instrument belonging to the other at a cheaper rate than he, as a stockholder, feels his company can afford to rent theirs at: what is he going to do in such a case? Is he going to rent the cheapest instrument, and