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**NATIONAL PARK
A GOOD SUGGESTION**

Locality Containing Kilauea, the Greatest Volcano of its Kind in the World, Should Be in the Keeping of the National Government—Suggestion of Oregon Visitor Meets Unanimous Approval.

By co-incidence the suggestion of Edyth Tozier Weathered that Kilauea should be made a national park, is also advocated in Washington by A. B. Loebenstein, Hilo's representative on the committee sent from the Territory to work in the interest of the Refund Bill. The Washington Post of Feb. 6 says:

"Albert B. Loebenstein, of Hilo, Hawaii, who is stopping at the New Willard, has traveled 6000 miles with the avowed object of inviting the United States government to commit the larceny of a volcano. The volcano is the property of a corporation composed of American citizens, under the terms of a lease duly executed and recorded which lease has yet six years to run. Apparently the fiery cone is dissatisfied with the terms of the lease, for it has actually moved itself bag and baggage off the leased tract, and is now serenely doing business on government land at a safe distance beyond the boundary line.

"Mr. Loebenstein wants the government to take advantage of the situation by laying claim to the volcano, because it happens to have left the reservation and wandered over onto government land, and making it the star feature of a national park. Yet a prominent lawyer in Washington says the government has no more right to the volcano than it would to a steer that had broken out of its pasture and strayed upon public lands.

"This singular situation has been developed through the sole eccentricity of what is otherwise the most ladylike and well-behaved volcano in the world. The volcano in question is the far-famed Kilauea, which stands on the southeast flank of Mauna Loa, the world's greatest volcanic mountain, on the Island of Hawaii.

"Measured from sea level, Mauna Loa is a vast, rounded dome 14,000 feet high. Measured from the bottom of the ocean it has an altitude of more than six miles, and has a base 160 miles in diameter.

"Kilauea is a separate peak, or rather it is a mere bump or excrescence on the side of the great mountain at an elevation of 3000 feet. In the top of this hump is a crater nine miles in circumference. The floor of the crater is a lake of lava that has cooled off. Inside this crater is still another crater called Halemaumau, which is a boiling seething lake of molten lava. At the present time the molten lake is 250 by 150 feet and its surface is 150 feet below the level of the larger crater, but both area and depth very greatly.

"Kilauea and, in fact, all of Mauna Loa, which has a vast crater on its summit called Mokuaweoweo is a refined volcano of irreproachable deportment, which has never been known to descend to boisterous and vulgar explosives, like Vesuvius, Stromboli, Mount Pelee, or Krakatoa, but which bubbles and seethes in a dignified manner, occasionally boiling over like a pot of mush and sending a stream of lava down the mountain side at a deliberate gait, which does no one any harm. Once a lava flow came within a mile of Hilo, the principal town of the island; but upon a deputation of natives going up to the crater and throwing the customary offering of a pig and bottle of gin into the lake of fire, the flow immediately stopped.

"Such a genteel volcano as this had great value as an attraction for tourists, which a company of enterprising Americans were shrewd enough to see. So in the days of the monarchy the Volcano House Company was organized to

acquire the volcano and make it accessible for tourists. The company leased a tract six miles square from Mrs. C. R. Bishop, a woman of royal lineage, who married an American who became one of the most prominent financiers in the Hawaiian Islands, built a hotel with accommodation for 150 guests, on the rim of the crater, constructed a railroad from Hilo to a point within an hour's drive of the Volcano House, and a bridge path to the summit of Mauna Loa. The enterprise was as successful as it was novel.

"The crater of Halemaumau, when the base was executed, stood on the tract of land called Keauhou. Since the first survey was made, in 1873, Halemaumau has moved south along the floor of Kilauea's crater 1783 feet, and has crossed the boundary line of Keauhou into Kapapala, which is not included in the lease.

"Mr. Loebenstein is able to give exact figures, because he is a civil engineer, who was recently engaged to make a topographical survey of the region. It should be understood that the inner crater of Halemaumau has not disappeared in one place and broken out in a new spot, but that it has worked itself along the floor of the outer crater foot by foot for a third of a mile.

"While I do not wish to see any private rights violated," said Mr. Loebenstein, "I should like to see Mauna Loa set aside as a national park, like Yellowstone Park. The country around Kilauea has much that magnificent and much that is freaky, though in a different way from Yellowstone Park. From the veranda of the Volcano House one can see fifty miles to the south, while from the summit of Mauna Loa one can see all the islands in the archipelago, except the two farthest to the northwest. The surroundings are majestic in outline and clothed in eternal green of many shades. The country is honeycombed with scores of miles of subterranean lava conduits, forming a series of caverns of indescribable grandeur."

SUPERINTENDENT OF BISHOP ESTATE INTERVIEWED

The national park idea, promulgated by Mrs. Weathered, has aroused much interest and enthusiastic approval in Honolulu with the newspapers and public. The Advertiser says: "The park idea is a popular one with the man on the street. Of a score of business men and others seen yesterday on the subject not one expressed himself as other than favorable to the scheme, and many gave excellent reasons why the government should adopt it."

The Advertiser quotes representatives of the Bishop estate to the following effect: "The question of the volcano being taken by the government as a national park has never been discussed by the trustees of the Bishop estate," said Frank S. Dodge, the estate superintendent, "and of course I can not say how they view the matter officially.

"The shifting of the lake of fire does not invalidate any claim we may have on it, however. The line of the Bishop estate is tied to the center of the lake and our boundaries move along with it. The description of the boundary shows that the line runs from well known points on the bluff to the center of the lake of fire, and it is a well recognized fact in the Territorial courts that a recognized fixed point has precedence over distances and bearings. This is necessary because many of the property descriptions on the islands are wrong and in cases in dispute the tie point, a

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