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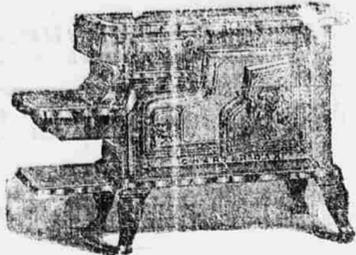
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Nov 29-90

THE LEGISLATURE.

Eighty-fourth Day.

TUESDAY, Sept. 23.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The House resumed at 2:05.

Noble Cornwell said that since the House had taken recess it had come to his knowledge that some native members said that the Hawaiian translation of the constitutional committee's report was insulting to native members...

Noble Widemann had read part of the translation without discovering anything insulting in it, and he knew a little of Hawaiian. If there was such a thing in the translation, he did not see how two Hawaiians could have signed the report.

Rep. Hookano had moved to lay the report on the table to await the minority report. Rep. Marques was here now and if he said he was not going to present a minority report there was no reason why that of the majority should not be considered now.

Rep. Paehaole was a member of committee and signed the report. When the bill for a constitutional convention was introduced he regarded it as contrary to the Constitution. He thought so all along. The committee had given a great deal of time to the matter in view of its importance. He considered it preferable to amend the Constitution by legislative enactment, even if it was necessary to amend every article. In regard to something said to the effect that the report was not the committee's production, there was no ground for such an assertion. The committee consisted of nine gentlemen, all of more or less ability. He was not averse to receiving a minority report, but if the minority signed that they were not going to render a report, the House should go on with the consideration of the majority report. He knew from proceedings in committee that the views of two of the minority were, therefore only Rep. Marques was to hear from, and if he would state his intention now the House could act accordingly. In regard to the statement that the language of the report was insulting, the word "lapawale" (corrupt) was employed but not against any member of this House. It was used describing the state of affairs prior to the adoption of the Constitution of 1887. All right-thinking people of the kingdom desired to see the government carried on orderly and peaceably, they wanted the Hawaiian flag perpetuated; but if this constitutional convention took place there was no saying what the result might be.

Rep. Marques was surprised at the state of affairs. There were four dissenting members present when the report was submitted to the committee, and it was his understanding that they were to have a meeting to consider what action to take. Returning to the House after illness he found that no meeting of the minority had been held. It would be only right to give the minority a chance to consider whether they or he should present a minority report.

Noble Widemann stated that an appointment was made for the four members of the minority to meet on the next Saturday. He was there from 11 to 12 o'clock but not a solitary other member made an appearance, nor had he heard one word since about a minority report. They had hoped to work in the fifth member and thus become the majority. Rep. Bush had taken a prominent stand in this matter. He could see nothing in the enabling act before the House that it was not in their province to enact. The native Hawaiians certainly had grievances under the present Constitution, which was forced on them by a handful of men. When the question came up in 1887 Noble Isenberg stood up for the very course now contended for, but he was hissed and hooted down. A constitutional convention would give the people a Constitution that would be satisfactory to all classes. He was sorry he had not been on that committee, so that he could have fully expressed his views there. The National Reform Party now so prominent in the House were pledged in the election to a constitutional convention. That was the only means of restoring to his people their rights. Under the present Constitution they did not even have their nominal rights to the ballot. The only place they had a free ballot at the last election was on the island of Oahu.

Rep. Rickard—Hauakua. Rep. Bush—Hauakua? I wish it was. Noble Hind—Kohala. Rep. Bush said Kohala and Hauakua were the only places that sent independent members. Maui was notorious. He had been informed that on that island the native voters were driven to the polls and compelled to hold up their ballots so that they could be seen. He appealed to foreign members in that

spirit of fairness characteristic of Anglo-Saxons to assist the Hawaiians in this effort to secure their rights. When the appointment of Nobles was taken away from the King and given to the people, it was proposed that half of the Nobles should still be appointed by the King. It was the Chief Justice who objected to this small privilege being left with His Majesty. The hon. Noble Isenberg was entitled to all credit for having stood up against the action proposed. And he was informed that the hon. Noble Baldwin protested against the course of promulgating the Constitution without first submitting it to the people. The speaker had the credit of being an agitator and he was glad to have this opportunity of standing up for the rights of his people.

Rep. R. W. Wilcox had only a few words to say now, as the question was whether the House should await the minority report. If the minority had stated that they were not going to present a report, it would be just as well to consider the majority report now. Let each side have full opportunity for discussion, and then let the losing side calmly accept the decision.

Rep. Rickard, when he made his motion to adopt the report, was not aware of any prospect of a minority report. He now asked leave to withdraw his motion.

Rep. Brown moved that the report be considered next Thursday, whether the minority report be presented or not.

Noble Parker thought it nothing but right that the minority should be given full opportunity for preparing a report. Noble Cornwell was about two months preparing his report. (Laughter.) He could say of his own knowledge that the hon. Noble had been writing on it every night for six weeks. Rep. Marques would probably have his report ready by Thursday, but if not he should have more time.

Noble Widemann repeated his statement about the minority's appointment for a meeting, which he said was last Friday week. So they could see that it wasn't he that wanted a report or prevented one being prepared.

Rep. Bush moved that the minority report be received Monday.

Noble Cornwell wanted to answer Noble Parker back.

Noble Parker—I'll apologize to the hon. Noble. (Laughter.) Noble Cornwell said he only had the report in hand for two weeks, or since the resignation of Rep. Kalua. It was ready a week ago and Rep. Marques was present when it was presented to the committee. Rep. Marques had ample time before Thursday, and the speaker was anxious to have it considered then, as he desired to get away Friday.

The amendment deferring the report till Monday carried.

RESOLUTIONS. Minister Brown read a first time by title his bill to transfer the Post office Bureau from the Department of Interior to the Department of Finance.

Noble Crabbe read a first time by title his bill to authorize the Government to contract for the construction and maintenance of submarine telegraph cables.

Rep. Baker read a first time by title his bill to license the game of pake-pio. Read a second time by title, and the introducer moved it be referred to a select committee. Carried.

Noble Crabbe, on suspension of the rules, read his cable bill a second time by title, and it was referred to the committee on commerce.

Rep. Hookano read a first time by title his bill to promote the construction of steam railroads on the Island of Hawaii. Read a second time by title and referred to a select committee.

ORDER OF THE DAY. Second reading of the light wines and beer bill, continued.

Noble Isenberg moved that the first section be rejected.

Noble Marsden moved that it pass, with the majority amendment under reconsideration struck out.

Rep. Kaneali supported indefinite postponement. There would be no assurance of the quality of wines and beers sold under the proposed law. After being tested the beverages would be doctored and fortified to make them stand the climate. The places to be licensed would be resorts of loafers and bummers, and what they sold would cause poverty and distress. A great many Hawaiian men and women were now in jail owing to strong drink. The first section was the head, and the bill should be thrown out, head, body, and tail.

Rep. Rickard would forego the pleasure and what he considered the benefit of strong drink in moderation, if it would save the Hawaiians from the evil of intemperance. But as the trade in strong drink could not be abolished, he would favor measures for mitigating its evils to immoderate users. From his observation and experience for twenty-five years on plantations, he could tell them of the determination of laborers to have some kind of drink. If they could not get anything else for their money, they would get noxious stuff such as was shown to the House the other day. He had agreed with them even to supply them with a keg of beer or a case of wine if they would only let him know when they wanted it. He would not put the license fee of \$250 against human life, but he honestly believed that this measure

would mitigate the evils of intemperance in the outer districts. Noble Barchardt wished to say a few words on the effect this bill was likely to have on the business of distilling. There was a great deal of liquor to be had from groceries and coffee shops. He could say that when the saloon was established in Kohala the business of distilling distinctly decreased. People would have liquor wherever they got it, and the closing of light wines and beers would, he thought, reduce the production and consumption of alcohol.

Noble Widemann held there was something wrong about total abstinence. Those who professed it in many cases kept strong drink behind the door, or somewhere, and took a nip on the sly. While admiring the remarks of the hon. member from Hauakua, he could not agree with him in being willing to give up drinking. For most of his lifetime he had given his neighbors the example of being temperate. This bill was a step in the direction of substituting good beer for the stinking lightning shown the House the other day.

Noble Kauihane expressed his opinion on this bill the other day. A good deal had been said about the stringent restrictions of this law. Suppose he was a drinking man and was given spirits in a little room by the licensee, how could a policeman see him come out staggering? Many people would go into these shops who would not be seen going into a saloon, and the bill would likely cause a great increase of drinking.

Rep. Paehaole moved the previous question.

Noble Walbridge said that the committee did all it could to gain information, but he wished to correct their report in regard to strength of beverages. He had there eight analyses from Mr. Geo. W. Smith, showing that three American beers ran from 3.3 to 4.3-10, and three German beers from 3 1/2 to 7 per cent alcoholic strength.

Noble Baldwin wanted to renew the majority of electors' amendment.

Rep. Rosa objected to the amendment being received, as he had been prevented from making a suggestion by the previous question.

Rep. Brown contended that the reconsideration of the former day's vote brought up all the amendments.

Noble Widemann held that the reconsideration brought up the section in the shape in which it passed the former day.

President Walker ruled that reconsideration brought the original section before the House, as the motion reconsidered was to pass the section as amended.

Rep. Rosa rose to a point of order and decorum. Members were speaking without addressing the chair. He moved the House adjourn. Lost.

Rep. White said that the previous question having carried, all that was required to stop the wrangle was to put the motion for indefinite postponement.

The section was indefinitely postponed, 21 to 16, and a motion to reconsider was lost.

The House adjourned at 4:15.

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Wm. G. Irwin & Co., Limited.

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