HAWAIIAN GAZETTE

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING,

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY

HENRY M. WHITNEY.

From the Colonies.

The Collins seems to have come in for a chapter of accidents during her temporary employment in the Australian service. After breaking crank shafts on the voyage from San Francisco to Sydney, she has now had the misfortune to drop her screw on the return passage. We have no information at present in Sydney as to whether this latter mishap was due to the screw having touched ground anywhere, or whether it was merely one of those accidents that will happen occasionally to voyages from in all services. This is not the first time that an Australian mail-ship has met with this particular misfortune, for it will be remembered that in the P. and O. Co.'s service the steamship Bombay dropped her screw between King George's Sound and Ceylon, and had to bear up for the Mauritius, leaving the friends of passengers in doubt for many weeks as to the vessel's safety. Happily in the case of the Collins, there has been no such prolonged suspense, for no sooner do we hear of the disaster than we hear of the safety of the crippled vessel.—*Sydney Herald.*

A rumor is current in Melbourne to-day that W. M. Tweed, the gigantic New York swindler, and chief of the Tammany Ring, arrived from San Francisco in the last mail steamer, and has been seen in this city. The detectives have received the information, and taken the matter in hand. The authorities have been communicated with from America in anticipation of the possibility of the "Boss" taking refuge here, and his description is to hand. W. M. Tweed is about sixty years old, with white hair and beard, which was both cropped very short when he escaped from New York. He is of middle height, stout, and rather like the Tichborne Claimant in figure, although not so heavy. He escaped from legal custody in his own clothes and not in the tiger-striped uniform of the Tombs. There is a reward of £2000 for his capture and delivery in New York.—*Melbourne Herald, March 31.*

The Government are satisfied that the Collins is not a suitable boat for the Coastal Mail Service. They had given instructions to have a survey made at Port Chalmers; but as she could not enter that harbor the survey was to have taken place at Lyttelton. Sir Julius Vogel is awaiting a reply from Sydney as to whether the Zealandia is to proceed to Auckland.

The great event of the month has been a discovery of a new and very rich gold-field by Mulligan and party, who were sent out by the Government to prospect Northern Queensland. A great many contradictory accounts have been published, but an official message received reports the discovery of a very rich gold-field, and states that it is 160 miles from Cooktown, via Byerstown, which is the nearest and best road to the diggings. The alluvial is rich but patchy, and the reefs, Mulligan states unhesitatingly, look better than he ever saw on any auriferous field; it is over thirty miles in extent, and there are large outcrops for miles showing gold in nearly every piece of stone picked up. Great excitement prevailed upon the discovery being made known, and a rush at once commenced.

Mauritius advices to February 17th state that good sugars are very scarce, and it is anticipated the market will be very bare; there are no fresh charters to the colonies.

The Premier, Sir James M'Culloch, introduced a loan bill, for £1,000,000. Of this £500,000 is intended for building schools.

A forest of sandal wood has been discovered on the banks of the Endeavor River.

Mr. Alfred Atkinson, R.A.M., who recently met 2nd Mile Tom Go Namka, fell on the Hall situation, at Melbourne. He was but 25 years of age, and his premature demise was much regretted by a large circle of friends in this city, where his family are located.

Inflation versus a Specie Basis.

The *Advertiser* publishes in its last issue a plan for the Hawaiian Government to adopt a paper currency, which is so absurd that, were it not for the fact that an equally absurd proposition was actually passed at the last session, under the title of "An Act to authorize a National Loan, and to define to what uses such Loan shall be devoted," we should pass it by without notice. What has been done at a former session may, however, be attempted again. The proposition made by our contemporary is simply a scheme to issue paper money without a specie reserve, and to loan money to agriculturists at 5 per cent., while borrowing at 8 per cent. This plan would very soon place us in the position of Hayti or Cuba—virtually bankrupt, a condition in which some would doubtless like to see this nation.

This currency question is a very simple one if we look at it rightly, and the least legislation that we have on it the better for all concerned. We should return to a gold basis as soon as possible. It can be done by adopting the American gold coinage as our standard. This should be preferred because our chief commercial relations are with San Francisco, and our currency should assimilate to hers as nearly as possible. A law, embodying the following points, will cover the whole ground, provide a solid currency, and serve the public interests:—

1—Adopt as our legal standard the American gold coins, viz: the double eagle, the eagle, half eagle and quarter eagle. All debts now due or hereafter contracted shall be payable, unless otherwise stipulated, or for small amounts, according to the above standard.

2—Adopt the American silver trade dollar, half and quarter dollar, dime and half dime as our silver currency and as a legal tender for small amounts, not exceeding one hundred dollars. (Provided that contracts for large amounts, may be made payable in silver.

3—Treasury certificates of deposit may be issued, in sums of twenty to one thousand dollars, to any parties depositing gold to their full value. This system being practically the same as now in use.

4—The Minister of Finance to be authorized to import such gold or silver coins as may be required for the public service or for the wants of trade.

5—The Minister of Finance to be authorized, at the recommendation of the Privy Council, to fix the values at which gold and silver coins in circulation, other than those named, shall be taken at the government treasury.

Adopting gold as our standard will provide for us the best and most secure money basis which we can possibly have. It is said that there are now on deposit in the Government Treasury and in the Bank at least one hundred thousand dollars in gold. The change will then be an easy one to make, and will require no additional coin other than what is now in the country. When we have again adopted a gold basis, with Treasury notes circulating as now, nothing more can be desired to give us a reliable and stable currency. It is the duty of Governments to provide money for the business wants of their people. As we have no mint, any expense incurred in providing gold and silver coins is a legitimate one, and properly falls on the whole people, for whose benefit it is incurred.

The Treasury notes which have been in circulation during the past few years are decorously popular, because they are known to be secure, dollar for dollar, in specie, and because anyone can obtain the coin on demand. Any kind of paper money, not redeemable on demand in gold or silver, will be sure to depreciate, and will prove the most expensive currency in the end. So long as we adhere to a specie currency, we remain safe; the moment we depart from it, we plunge into a mire from which we may never be released.

Opening of the Legislative Assembly, Session of 1878.

His Majesty read the following speech, first in English and then in Hawaiian:—

NOBLES AND REPRESENTATIVES:

Since the prorogation of the Legislative Assembly, in August, 1876, the Kingdom has enjoyed uninterrupted tranquillity, while Agriculture and Commerce have steadily progressed. The result is exhibited in the satisfactory condition of the country, as you will observe by the Report, which my Minister of Finance will lay before you.

Our relations with Foreign Governments continue most satisfactory.

Since the adjournment of the last Legislative Assembly, I have concluded a Treaty of Amity and Commerce with His Majesty the Emperor of Austria and Apostolic King of Hungary, and it only awaits final ratification by the Emperor.

I have also concluded a Special Convention of Reciprocity with the United States of America, from which great advantage to the Commerce of both countries is confidently anticipated. I am daily expecting to learn that the final Legislative enactment has passed the United States Congress, which will be necessary to give effect to this Convention.

The Report of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court will call your attention to some amendments in the laws which seem to be required, and to which you will no doubt give due consideration.

I must again call your earnest attention to measures which may have a beneficial influence in increasing the Hawaiian race, and in preserving the people. You will be careful that no legislation be neglected which may conduce towards this end.

I commend to your attention the various appropriations which my Ministers have estimated as necessary for carrying on the Government during the next biennial period, and I would especially call to your notice the advisability of appropriating what sums may be requisite for the encouragement of Agriculture and Immigration; for a new Inter-island Steamer, and for continuing the Survey of the country.

NOBLES AND REPRESENTATIVES:

Thankful for the blessings which this nation has enjoyed in the past, I trust that your deliberations may result in an increase of happiness and prosperity throughout the Kingdom.

We do now declare the Legislature of the Kingdom opened.

After His Majesty had retired, the Assembly was called to order by the clerk of the last Legislature, H. McFarlane Esq., the former Vice-President Hon. S. K. Kaai in the chair. On motion of Hon. S. G. Wilder, the Assembly adjourned to meet again on Monday at 10 A.M.

SECOND DAY.—MONDAY, MAY 1.

The Assembly met at 10 a. m. pursuant to adjournment. Hon. S. K. Kaai was called to the chair, and prayer was offered by the Rev. J. N. Paikuli of Waialua. The proceedings of April 29 were then read, and on motion approved. The roll being called the following representatives answered to their names:

G. W. Pilipo, K. Kamauoha, J. Nawahi, S. E. Mahoe, L. Kaina, G. W. D. Halemanu, S. Aiwohi, J. A. Nahaku, L. Abole, E. Preston, T. N. Birch, L. W. P. Kanealii, W. H. Hailstead, E. Helekunihi J. Nakaleka, D. W. Kaina, S. W. Mahelona, S. M. Nankana, J. L. Naili, G. Beremaka, H. Waterhouse, A. P. Kalauokea, E. K. Lilikalani, J. Kauai, J. W. Gay, H. J. Wana, J. Kahalia.—1 absentee—S. M. Kamakau.

On motion of Hon. S. G. Wilder a committee to consist of Messrs. Abole, Waterhouse, Kaina, Nawahi and Halemanu, was appointed to examine the credentials of the members. The committee after an absence of a few minutes, returned and reported that they found the credentials of all members in due form with the exception of those of the member from Waimea, Kauai.

His Ex. J. M. Kapena moved to adopt the report. After some discussion the report was adopted.

Hon. Mr. Abole moved to reconsider the credentials of the member from Kauai, whereupon a long and animated debate took place.

Hon. Mr. Wilder moved that Judge Kauai be retained as member from Waimea, because he had received a majority of the votes cast.

Hon. Mr. Wilder moved that one of the judges of the Supreme Court be called to administer the oath to nobles, ministers and members. Passed.

On motion, Hon. Mr. Birch was appointed as a committee to wait on the judges of the Supreme Court.

Hon. Mr. Nawahi raised the question, under what authority given in the constitution, a Cabinet Minister can be sworn in as a member of the Legislative Assembly.

After some discussion without coming to a conclusion, Judge Harris entered and administered the oath to the nobles, ministers and representatives.

Hon. Mr. Wilder moved that the Assembly proceed to the election of officers by ballot, passed, and the following officers were chosen:—

President.—Godfrey Rhodes.
Vice President.—L. Abole.
Secretary.—Godfrey Brown.
Interpreter.—W. L. Wilcox.
Sergeant-at-arms.—W. C. Parke.

The election for chaplain caused considerable discussion, some members wishing to abolish this office, while others favored retaining it. After two hours debate, the Assembly balloted for chaplain and Rev. M. Kuaea was elected.

Messenger.—C. P. Iaukea.

The Minister of Finance presented his report for two years, ending March 31, 1876.

President Rhodes administered the oath to the Secretary and Interpreter.

Hon Mr. Wilder moved that the Assembly accept the rules of 1874 as the rules for the present session.

Hon. Mr. Kaai gave notice to repeal the 21st rule.

Hon. Mr. Wilder moved that the report of the Minister of Finance be printed. Adopted.

The President stated that the report of the Supreme Court was on his desk.

Hon. Mr Kaai moved that the report be printed. Adopted.

Assembly adjourned to meet again to-morrow at 10 A. M.

THIRD DAY.—TUESDAY, MAY 2.

The Assembly met at 10 a. m. pursuant to adjournment. President Godfrey Rhodes in the chair. Prayer was offered by Rev. Mr. Kuaea. The minutes of the previous day were read and on motion approved.

Hon. Mr. Wilder read a petition from Hanakua, Hawaii, to the Board of Health. Referred to Sanitary committee.

Hon. Mr. Birch read a petition from Waiuku asking that fisheries be free to the people. Referred to Judiciary committee.

Hon. Mr. Nahaku read a petition from Waimea and Ewa, praying that the election of Hon. S. W. Mahelona from that district be set aside.

Hon. Mr. Nawahi moved that the Assembly proceed to ballot for nominees for Minister of Finance, Minister of Interior, Attorney-General, Chief Justice, Associate Judges, Circuit Judges, Minister of Foreign Relations, Minister of Public Instruction, Governor of Oahu, Governor of Maui, Governor of Hawaii, Governor of Kauai, Governor of Molokai, Governor of Lanai, Governor of Niihau, Sheriffs of Oahu, Maui, Hawaii, Kauai, Molokai, Lanai, Niihau, Collectors of Customs, Oahu, Maui, Hawaii, Kauai, Collectors of Customs, Lahaina, Kaanapali, Hilo, Kealakekua, Kawaihae, Kaunakakai, Kaneohe, Koloa, Waimea