

# Hawaiian Gazette

EST. 1845 IN KEEOHUA.

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TUESDAY, MAY 28, 1889.

MORE VOLCANO LITERATURE.

Wilder's Steamship Company has issued a neat pamphlet of thirty-two octavo pages, wherein Mr. J. M. Macdonald gives an interesting and detailed account of a visit to the great crater of Kilauea, via steamer Kaiman of the above named line, and the trail from Hilo, returning by the way of Keaunoh. Mr. Macdonald is a traveler who goes about with his eyes and ears open, and very few facts of any kind, which could be gathered in the course of so brief a trip, seem to have escaped his vigilant observation. In addition to the narrative of the journey to and fro, and the vivid description of Pele's pyroclastics as seen both by day and by night, a large amount of general and incidental information of various kinds likely to be interesting and useful to intelligent tourists, is contained in this publication.

Considering how much and how well the volcano has been written up, not only by our own people, but by travelers from all parts of the world, it is remarkable how little backlogged the subject has become. This is in a considerable measure due to the constant, and sometimes sudden changes, taking place within the crater. There is not only the variety incident to reports of the grand spectacle as seen by different eyes, but no two pairs of eyes ever really see the same spectacle. The old saying that "familiarity breeds contempt" does not apply to Kilauea. Not even indifference seems ever to affect those who have visited the volcano the oftener, and who are most familiar with its many and constantly changing aspects.

We hope that Wilder's Steamship Company, as the party most directly interested, will see that Mr. Macdonald's pamphlet is liberally and judiciously circulated, not only on the Pacific Coast, but elsewhere in the United States. The better our island attractions are known, the more highly they will be appreciated by the traveling public, and it is to be borne in mind that the traveling public is increasing enormously in numbers as well as in wealth and culture, every year. It is, to a great extent, the most intelligent and appreciative class of tourists who visit the Hawaiian Islands.

### PUBLIC SPIRITED CITIZENS AND THE OPPOSITE.

One of the ways in which the marked contrasts in disposition between different kinds of men is most clearly shown, is in their attitude towards projected public improvements. This Kingdom is favored in possessing a large number of liberal minded and public spirited citizens, who can be depended upon to co-operate heartily in forwarding any desirable undertaking, irrespective of its being of any personal benefit to themselves. Of course, there are a few of the other kind, who can see in the building of a railroad, the improvement of a leading thoroughfare, or any similar undertaking, only a chance of driving a sharp bargain, and taking advantage of the rest of the community. Not, of course, that private property should be taken for public uses without compensation, and fair and reasonable compensation too. For a government or corporation to squeeze private individuals, is no more justifiable than it is for the latter to take an unfair advantage of the necessities of the public. It is a rather pitiable sight however, to see a man stiffen up the narrower and meaner part of his nature, and put his selfishness like a five-barred gate square athwart the public weal.

These reflections have been prompted by some reports that have been recently made to us concerning the unreasonable and grasping disposition exhibited by a portion—probably a small portion—of the landholders along the proposed line of the Oahu Steam Railway. For instance, we have lately heard of Chinese demanding damages for rice land required by the R. R. Company, at the rate of three thousand dollars an acre. This is ten times its highest estimable market value at the present time. We have also heard of a native who claims

fifteen hundred dollars for a fraction of an acre which the railroad will cut off from one corner of a fish pond. This is not quite as bad as the claim of another native, who wants fifteen hundred dollars for about one-tenth of an acre required for a country road, and this a road which will, for the first time, make his own dwelling accessible to wheels. We wish we could say that we have heard of no reputable white citizens making similar absurd demands.

We are glad to know that some of our citizens are showing a very liberal spirit towards this important enterprise, donating what is needed of their cheaper lands, and putting the lowest valuation upon their choicer pieces. We think such men will be found, in the end, to have been wise as well as liberal. They deserve the prosperity which their enlightened and generous policy gains for them.

### THE HAWAIIANS AND THEIR FRIENDS.

The Elele continues to harp on the same string, and labors to convince the natives that they have been very badly treated. That the Advertiser should ever say a kindly or appreciative thing of the native Hawaiians, is to some people, a grievance and an offense. The wretched and conscienceless demagogues who rely upon race antipathy and class prejudice as their chief or only stock in trade, have tried to make it appear that we were the enemies of the native race, and the organ and mouthpiece of some party, or combination, or clique, who were desirous of robbing the Hawaiians of their legal and constitutional rights. Evidence of such purpose not being forthcoming, for the simple reason that no such purpose exists, reckless assertion has been made to do duty instead, and a number of scurvy tricks in the way of bogus correspondence and the like resorted to, only to recoil disastrously upon the heads of their authors. If the class of politicians we refer to choose to attitudinize as the sole, and exclusive, and only friends of native rights, of course, they are at liberty to do so. They may discover within the next twelve months, that the native is by no means so great a fool as they appear to think, and doubtless hope him to be.

The Hawaiian is one who naturally wins friendship. He has an unusual amount of attractive qualities. The native chiefs and people have always drawn to themselves a multitude of warm friends of many classes, who have grown strongly and permanently attached to them. These have often been able to render most valuable services to the Hawaiians, both socially and politically. Many such, formerly residents here, are now living abroad. To these, the sight of a Hawaiian is always a pleasant one, and from them one of our natives is always sure of welcome and assistance. It is the same with a large portion of the foreigners here. They cannot help liking the Hawaiians. There is in them a temperament, and a combination of qualities at once cheering and restful, which forms no small part of the pleasant elements of a sojourn here.

The Hawaiians win and deserve regard too, by their good-willingness; their ready ambition to be and to do whatever is praiseworthy, however much they may, like the rest of mankind, fall short in the fulfillment. Probably no people of equal numbers ever secured more or better friends than our own natives have done, and continue to do. All of these may not be wise in their advice, or beneficial in their influence, or really helpful in their ministrations, even when the same are well meant. The fact remains, that these people do enjoy the warm and attached regard of a multitude of friends, among whom we are happy to count ourselves.

Such being the case, it follows that any language insulting to Hawaiians will also be offensive to their many friends, and will be resented on their behalf. Such expressions are not only unmannerly, but they are intensely and justly repugnant to the best and most intelligent portion of the public. If such things are to be published, the least that common decency requires is that the writers should subscribe their own names, and assume the responsibility for what they write. But that would spoil the little game of charging the objectionable sentiments upon people who have no sympathy therewith, and who never heard or thought of such things until they saw them in print.

### HOMESTEAD LOTS.

The slow increase of population, and the tardy development of all kinds of agricultural enterprises in this country, outside of sugar and rice growing, are matters upon which we have already commented pretty freely. When we compare our record in these respects, with what is going on in the Pacific States of America, we have reason to feel that we are very small potatoes indeed. Of course, the fundamental difficulty is the lack of available land, obtainable in small quantities, and suitable as regards location, accessibility and so on, for the use of people of moderate means. Our climate is at once healthful and delightful. Our arable land, much of which still lies waste, is of exceptional richness, and there is a considerable home market for many products which flourish in this country, but with which we are still supplied mainly from abroad.

Some supercilious critic may possibly ask us, what are you going to do about it? Well, so far as we are personally concerned we are not going to do anything about it, except to agitate the question and endeavor to keep it before the public. It is not the business of newspapers to provide lands for the landless, any more than it is to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, or furnish free rides for the lame and tired. It is their business, however, and their duty, to call attention emphatically to existing evils, and, so far as practicable to indicate the direction in which a remedy may be sought for.

In matters of this kind, men are apt to look first to the government as the source from which relief ought to come. If this tendency is not natural and inevitable, it is at all events very common, the result perhaps of education and habit. Many people regard a government as a kind of special providence, whose function it is to provide all kinds of good and desirable things for people who are unable to provide the same for themselves. This paternal theory of government has a certain amount of reason in it, and only does much harm when carried too far. In the present instance, the help the Government can render under existing laws, is very limited, and an inquiry into the facts of the case satisfies us that what they have done, and are now doing, is all that could be reasonably asked.

A few years ago a so-called Homestead Act was passed, providing for the disposing of unoccupied Government lands in small lots to actual settlers. The law may be a somewhat lame and inadequate one, but such as it is, it is being carried out in good faith, and with results in the main satisfactory. We have taken the trouble to obtain a list of the different lots which have been offered under the provisions of this act at different times within the last year and a half. The following is the list:

In 1887, twelve lots in Nuuanu Valley, Honolulu, and thirty-seven lots at Ahualoa, Hamakua, Hawaii. These, comprising forty-nine lots in all, were well and promptly taken. In 1888 there were forty lots offered at Kaapahu, Hamakua, Hawaii, fifteen lots at Kaunamano, Hamakua, Hawaii, thirty lots at Paauilo, Hamakua, Hawaii, and so far during the present year, forty-seven lots at North Kona, Hawaii, forty-two lots at Ukumehameki, Kula, Maui, and thirty-eight lots at Kaiwiki, Hilo, Hawaii. The advertisement of the last named appeared in our previous week's issue. In addition to the above there are thirty-two lots at Waiakoa, Maui, which have been surveyed and mapped, and the advertising of which is being held back pending the settlement of some matters involving certain legal formalities.

The above lots, nearly three hundred in number, have all been care fully surveyed and mapped, and no questions concerning titles or boundaries are ever liable to arise. This, in a country where boundaries are as uncertain and titles as badly mixed as they often are here, is no small advantage. Every lot has a frontage upon some existing public road, or upon land reserved for road purposes when the lots are occupied.

The readiness with which the lots are taken up depends, of course, upon their location and desirability. This, necessarily, varies considerably. Those situated in Nuuanu Valley and Ahualoa, Hawaii, went off, as we have already remarked, very rapidly. Those at Kaapahu, Kaunamano and Paauilo are less in demand. The location is rather out of the way and some of the land

rough. For the lots at North Kona, Hawaii, and Ukumehameki, Maui, there are already plenty of seekers, and there are also abundant inquiries for those at Waiakoa, which are not yet advertised.

The total acreage included in the above, we have been unable to ascertain accurately. The size of homestead lots is limited by law to twenty acres. The effort has been to make them, while not exceeding that limit, as near to it as the size and shape of the lands from which they were cut, and the need of providing them all with road frontage, rendered possible. We suppose it is safe to say that the total area is in the neighborhood of five thousand acres. This may not seem like a very great showing, but the accurate surveying and mapping of some three hundred pieces of land is something which cannot be done in a hurry, particularly when the force at the disposal of the Department is limited.

It will be understood, of course, that the work of laying out homestead lots is not completed. It is still under way, and we are assured will be steadily prosecuted, as long as land suitable for the purpose remains, and as fast as the small available working force can do the necessary work.

The great and radical difficulty in the way of carrying out a public homestead policy upon any large scale, is that the Government has not the land to do it with. Although the amount of public land seems large when stated in acres, it is mostly of a kind which is absolutely useless for cutting up into twenty acre lots. The Government had already parted with most of its good land, long before the present Homestead Act became a law. What now remains is, with the exception of small bits here and there, such as can only be utilized to advantage in large tracts for cattle ranges, goat farms, timber growing and the like. Evidence of an intention to execute the law in its letter and spirit, and due diligence in demonstrating that intention by means of practical work, is all that can be reasonably expected. These we have.

### EDITORIAL NOTES.

Private advices received by prominent parties in Honolulu indicate a strong probability that all the Nevada and Pacific Coast aspirants for the Hawaiian mission may be left out in the cold.

In the matter of the native vote for nobles, "Justice" has failed thus far to explain how the Hawaiians have been deprived of an elective franchise which they never had, or how they can have inherited rights which none of their progenitors or predecessors ever possessed.

We published a few days ago, a foreign news item to the effect that several car loads of electric apparatus had passed through Ottawa, bound for Honolulu via Vancouver. We since learn that the Government received advices from Mr. Bartholomew by the last mail, stating that two lots of material had already arrived at Vancouver, and that a third lot was on the way. As soon as practicable after the receipt of this latter, the whole will be shipped to Honolulu. These three lots are represented as containing all the material required for completing the line from Honolulu to Hawaii.

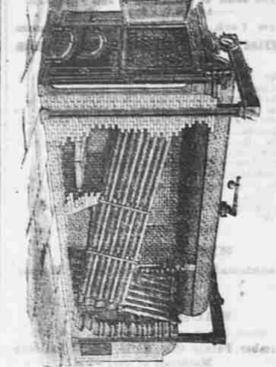
We occasionally meet some one who is supposed to be an earnest friend of good government, but who professes to deprecate the general drift of legislation during the last two sessions, as tending to concentrate all executive power in the hands of the Cabinet. To all such, we would simply say, that the executive and administrative power has got to be vested somewhere and in somebody. So long as we have the thoroughly centralized kind of government which has always existed in this country, such powers can only be vested in two places, namely, with the Cabinet who are directly responsible to the representatives of the people, or with the King, who, both theoretically and practically, is responsible to nobody. Those who in the light of the experience of the four or five years preceding the revolution, think it would be safer and better that the King should have more power, and the Cabinet less, are welcome to that opinion, and have a perfect right to advocate it, either in public or in private. For our own part, we cannot see that the interests of good government lie in that direction.

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