

Hawaiian Gazette. SEMI-WEEKLY. PUBLISHED TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS. WALTER G. SMITH, EDITOR. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1899.

GOING OUT AND COMING IN.

(From Wednesday's Daily.) With this issue of the Advertiser, the present editor of it retires, and his place hereafter will be occupied by another. The Advertiser is always "in commission" as the navy men say, though commanders and pilots change. The new editor is cordially welcomed and the readers of this journal may be assured of his desire and capacity to instruct and please them. Speaking to him in a stage whisper the retiring editor ventures to say that the average intelligence of this little community is higher than that of any community with the same number of white citizens to be found on the Mainland. Distance from the American continent; isolation; infrequent mail services in past years; the absence of the quivering pulsations of modern American life throbbing through the brain; the woeful lack of diversified industries which are the best proofs of the genuine American spirit; the daily living for many years in the shadow of a unique, and anomalous political life in which the Polynesian dominated in numbers, but was supported on a scaffolding of alien intelligence and influence; and lastly the entire dependence of the Islands for prosperity upon the proverbially uncertain legislation of Congress; all of these events have served to force the life of the community into conservative channels and have partially severed its intelligence from progressive action, excepting in the matter of public education.

The incoming editor assumes the serious task of commenting upon affairs at the time of a radical and final absorption of an independent sovereignty, with an extraordinary mixture of races, by the Greater America.

The innumerable and perplexing problems forcing themselves to the front will, in a large measure, not be settled by any local influence. The supreme national power at Washington will dispose of these in its own way, and in accordance with national ideas. But there will remain local and municipal questions, involving the supply of labor, the introduction of diversified industries, the improvement of the educational system and the administration of local laws, which will deeply concern the comfort of the members of the community. In these the incoming editor will find ample opportunity to inform and aid his readers, provided he regards the philosopher Emerson's aphorism, "The truth is too simple for us; we do not like those who unmask our illusions." He will, therefore, find it politic to avoid the broadest truth. He is, indeed, the happy editor who correctly practices the maxim, "That he who leads men must in a measure follow them." For to follow only is to confirm popular errors and mistakes, while ceasing to follow, even in search of a larger truth, is to lessen the present influence.

The anomalous position of the editor and of the preacher also is, that while they find individuals thoughtful and dissatisfied with existing affairs, everywhere they find the community serene, contented and above instruction. Disraeli said, "There is no education like adversity," which is a paraphrase of the maxim that "Sweet are the uses of adversity." It is somewhat discouraging to the preacher or editor or teacher that calamity is their great superior as an instructor, but that if they should publicly invoke his aid, the people wouldynch them on a branch of the monkey-pod tree. Goethe said, "Who serves the public is a poor creature; he worries himself and no one is grateful to him for his services." But to the editor and to all sincere instructors there come occasionally manly words from manly men, and the sweetest words from womanly women which are the all-sufficient compensations for efforts which are made to improve the common weal.

WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

What then will be the future of Hawaii? What the outcome of the geographical position, of the mixture of races, of the numerical dominance of the Portuguese over the Anglo-Saxon, of the dominance numerically of the Asiatics over all? What will be the effect on Hawaii of the abandonment of the use of coal, and the substitution of electricity, so that calling and coal-mining stations will not be necessary? Will the exigencies of trade ever make this port a manufacturing centre, or make it a common exchange for the commodities of the Pacific? What will be the social life? Which race or mixture of races will finally dominate society in this isolated spot? Will what we call Americanism, absorb the alien elements, or will the alien elements absorb the American? Will there finally rise here a composite people of Latins, Asiatics, and Teutons, intelligent, active, educated under our admirable school system, and equipped with knowledge and training to finally possess all of our commerce and industries?

The political institutions will assuredly be fixed and maintained by the Federal Government. They will not change, though the majority of the people will not understand them, and a century may pass before the Americanization is completed. There are two distinct views of the evolution of Hawaii. One is that under the pressure of Federal laws the labor system will gradually change, and American and European laborers will supplant the Asiatics. This view is enforced by the fact that the Asiatics are not disposed to bring their families to these Islands, and their residence is largely temporary. With their withdrawal, the European under superior inducements will immigrate. The other view is that the Asiatics will remain, and increase, through immigration, and the birth of children. This view favors the belief that Hawaii will become finally the Asiatic outpost of the United States, just as Hongkong is the Asiatic outpost of the British, and that finally here, as in Hongkong, there will reside an intelligent, well educated and wealthy class of Asiatics, who will gradually absorb all of the industries, including that of sugar production, just as the Chinese have taken from the British merchants, the tea and silk trade of Hongkong and Singapore, and have absorbed the mining of tin in the Banca straits, and are now competing with the British in Shanghai, in the manufacturing of cotton goods. This view also holds that the practical exclusion of the small industries here, owing to the dominance of the sugar industry, discourages European immigration, just as the cotton mills of New England have discouraged the growth of an American population, by importing the French-Canadians who have lowered and fixed the price of wages. Whichever view is correct is of little consequence to the nation. A hundred thousand Asiatics in these Islands will not affect the nation's destiny. If every American now residing on these Islands disappeared today, the soil would remain American, and whoever resided here would come within the sphere of American influence and of American laws.

Moreover, the policy of Expansion is in direct opposition to the policy of Asiatic exclusion. America cannot expand and exclude at the same moment. If she takes she must give, as Great Britain gives and takes. Expansion, in its last analysis, means universal and unobstructed free trade and the right of free emigration and immigration. America in searching an outlet for her products will, in the course of time, swing into line with Great Britain, and find her advantage in the promotion of a reciprocal commerce. Hawaii as the outpost in the Pacific will quickly feel these movements directed by the national policy. She no longer shapes her own future. What will it be?

TO BEGIN WITH

The change of editorship in this paper does not imply a reversal of the local policy which has made the Advertiser acceptable in years past to the moral, thoughtful and responsible people of Hawaii. Ownership remains the same and the conservative traditions of the paper as they have come down through men like H. M. Whitney, Henry Castle and W. N. Armstrong will be respected. The undersigned, though identified with Honolulu journalism at a time when recurring national crises embittered party spirit and put newspapers as well as people in a combative mood, believes the time to have long since come for good will and helpfulness in the upbuilding of these Islands. He has no other desire than to help in this attractive work and meanwhile, as chances offer, to increase the value and if possible the popularity of the Advertiser, as a journal of the day. From time to time the public will see that an effort is being made to add to the interest, variety and scope of the news columns. Of course it is not practicable to make a metropolitan paper in Honolulu; at least not yet. But the Advertiser will still keep even pace with the growth of the city and of Hawaii's great interests and will do its best to hold the van of all the newspapers of America's lately-acquired possessions. It is now, perhaps, the largest, oldest and best-known public journal of the new "American empire" and as such it will be American in all that the term has honorably come to mean in the lexicon of patriotic men. Farther than this the incoming editor makes no promises. The paper must speak for itself.

WALTER G. SMITH

Agustinaldo, with his main army, is said to be "resting on his arms." His legs are probably tired.

THE FUTURE OF SAMOA

The report, not yet fully authenticated, that the German interests in Samoa have been exchanged for certain British interests in Micronesia follows the rumor of an attempt to dissolve the three-headed partnership in Samoa by mutual consent. If true the story may be said to prepare the way for another, touching a British offer to the United States for the remaining third. Luckily Great Britain has something to offer which might attract the American eye. Bermuda would be a fair trade though it is likely that the British Government would prefer to cede Jamaica, an island which has ceased to be a source of strength and profit to Her Majesty's empire and become an uncertain and troublesome asset. There is no mistaking the fact that Jamaica, in American hands, would, by virtue of reciprocity or the free trade which inheres with the Territorial relation, become as rich and prosperous as it was a hundred and more years ago. Then, in per capita wealth, Jamaica was what Hawaii is now, a "Jamaican fortune" being the favorite English synonym for individual opulence. As is well known the fertile West Indian island wants to come into the American system so as to revive its sugar industry; and there are many American statesmen who had rather give Pagopago to Great Britain than to let that power keep a post of the first strategic importance near Cuba, Porto Rico and Key West. The retention of Samoa in part or whole has not aroused much interest on the mainland since the annexation of Hawaii. The place counts for little there, save perhaps in the Pacific Coast States, while the primacy of the West Indies signifies a great deal.

THE HAWAIIAN BOOM.

People who have come here from the Coast expecting to find Honolulu and Hawaii in the throes of such a boom as the one that afflicted Southern California in 1886-87 are agreeably disappointed. The Southern California excitement was a speculation in dreams and futures while that of Honolulu is largely an investment in value that either exist or are sure to come of current and stable activities and plans in business. When Los Angeles and San Diego took their upward turn they had but a precarious income and their land was described as the kind upon which nothing could be raised but the price. The fling as to the unproductiveness of the soil was unjust but it described a current opinion which the prevailing methods of farming and fruit-growing did not tend to remove. Undoubtedly the boom had no good excuse and in the opinion of many well-informed men the urban development of Southern California is now out of all proportion to the resources of the section in agriculture and commerce.

But no one can truthfully say the same of the boom in Honolulu. The upward movement in business and in the values of real estate here, though sudden and startling, is a thing which would have come to pass gradually, as a healthful growth, if politics had given it a chance. In a phrase natural development was impeded by doubts as to the tenure of the government. Now that the doubts have passed away we are getting the results of natural development all at once. What boom we have—and it is certainly a remarkable one—rests on products we sell to the consuming world and upon the assurance that good government will protect the rights of real and personal property. Such a boom should last until Hawaii reaches the full measure of its commercial opportunity and though the overdoing of stock speculation may now and then cause panics, any such subsidence in real values as Southern California experienced is out of the question at least while sugar can find a remunerative sale. And considering that the United States must import sugar for many years to come on the basis of its present consumption—saying nothing of the steady increase of the consuming population—we feel justified in thinking that the present good times will abide indefinitely.

THE LOCAL WATER QUESTION

A water shortage in Honolulu, such as is now threatened, ought to be a very rare occurrence. The average rainfall of this city is, in its driest district, about the same as that of San Francisco and is double that of San Diego, yet both the California cities get along very well through a prolonged dry season, lasting in the case of San Diego for seven months. Sometimes they feel a slight pressure of drought but that is only when, after a season of limited rainfall, their reservoirs are heavily drawn upon for orchard and truck farm irrigation. In Honolulu the city reservoirs do not supply the surrounding agricultural country. They have only the city or a part of it to care for and a city at that which has an average annual rainfall on the seashore of 27.53 inches and a maximum record of 49.82 inches. At the minimum rate of 13.46 inches there ought to be plenty of drinking and

sprinkling water, inasmuch as San Diego, after allowing the orchardists to draw supplies from its distributing plants, finds that the water stored up from an annual precipitation of 12 to 14 inches is all sufficient. But San Diego has big reservoirs and Honolulu little ones.

That indicates our trouble. Rain enough falls but we do not get the full benefit of it. The reservoirs up the Nuuanu valley are too small and too shallow to hold enough water to tide over a period of slightly diminished rainfall. They do not suck, the year around, for rain, as in the valley an annual precipitation of 80 inches and more has been known; but sometimes the rain holds off awhile and then the Nuuanu supply runs down alarmingly. Were the present reservoirs made larger and deeper and new ones built on the Government reservation, a water shortage would become a thing unknown. Unless it is proposed to depend more and more on artesian wells and eventually to rely on them altogether, we think the Government ought, when practicable, to take up the question of impounding dams and settle the water question for good and all. The need of larger water resources is increasing with the growth of Honolulu's population and the money to meet it is in the Treasury waiting upon lawful appropriation. If a part of the surplus is to go into public works why not reservoirs? Nothing in the line of public improvement could be more desirable, however attractive other projects may appear.

THE COMING AUTOMOBILE.

Automobile carriages, though common enough in New York and other Atlantic coast cities are slow of introduction in the West. There are a few of these self-propelling vehicles in California, Oregon and Washington and at least one in Honolulu, though in no place West of the Rocky mountains do they figure much commercially. Some months ago a company was formed to operate automobile cabs and trucks in San Francisco and Los Angeles and great promises were made. It was said that, by the present time, trucks carrying a ton weight each would be giving an up-and-down-hill service in San Francisco at the uniform speed of ten miles an hour and that cabs would be playing the mischief with the receipts of the cable and trolley cars. But the hopes thus raised have not been realized. Various excuses are given, notably the excessive demand in the East and the great expense of the machine. No doubt automobiles are too costly though the original prices have been reduced. When the machines grow cheaper the West and these Islands will see a great many of them.

Cheapness and improved models are bound to come. The ear-ear bicycles cost \$150, yet a better wheel can now be had for \$40. When breech-loading shot guns were invented the kind that now sells for \$50 cost \$300. The price of sewing machines and parlor organs, not to mention many other utilities, has been similarly affected by progressive invention and a wider demand. So it is fair to infer that, sooner or later, the automobile will be well within reach of any man who can now afford a horse and carriage and that it will in some degree retard investment in other means of municipal public transit. A generation hence the self-propelling vehicle may monopolize the carrying trade of the streets.

Honolulu, Hilo and Hawaii generally, though by no means averse to electric railroads and the like, will be among the first of all Western communities to welcome the perfected and cheapened automobile and to make a generous use of it. Owing to extensive dooryards Honolulu is a city of magnificent distances, a fact which accounts, along with the disreputable mule-car system, for our numerous and busy hacks. These distances will never be lessened. On the contrary, as the city grows into a mid-ocean Hongkong, they will be doubled and trebled and by that token rapid transit to and from every street corner will have to come. That will be the chance of the automobile to meet a crying public want and we cannot doubt that it will not only meet it then but anticipate it for many years. We are sure to have private automobiles enough when the demand of the trans-Mississippi region begins to be supplied and in time may manufacture them. And after the private motor carriage the public one must quickly follow.

THE DANGER OF IRRIGATION

The proper use of water in irrigating the cane lands may soon become a vital question in these Islands. The Department of Agriculture in Washington through its numerous and efficient correspondents is informed that irrigation may produce large crops, but ruin the land. Ignorant farmers and ranchmen, in California and elsewhere, have failed to study the soil and the effect of water upon it. But they are now discovering as a mat-

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ter of fact that the valuable mineral constituents of the soil are leached out and entirely removed by excessive irrigation. This subject is now so forcibly pressed upon the Department of Agriculture that it is taking steps to investigate what the effect of excessive irrigation is.

It has selected Dr. Maxwell to make this investigation. This selection is fortunate because the investigations will be made here, and on our own soil. The plantations will have the immediate benefit of them.

The conclusions reached at the present time at the Experimental station, as presented in the report upon the experiments is startling. If the quantity of water for irrigation may be reduced seventy-five per cent, as the experiments tend to show, and on the other hand an excessive use of water leaches off the valuable mineral elements of the soil, it is evident enough that we are in no position to boast of our knowledge about cane cultivation. We may be far in advance of sugar planters elsewhere, but if our plantations are not conducted so as to make them permanently profitable, we are making no real progress.

The temper of our planters is, however, to avail themselves of all the knowledge on the subject which scientific study can give, and they may, and ought to keep themselves in advance of the world's best knowledge on the subject.

It is a pleasure to note that the public debt of the United States was cut down in October in the neat sum of \$2,766,199. Seeing that the country is running a costly war this showing of retrenchment is quite beyond ordinary anticipations. As a card for prosperity the Republican leaders may be trusted to make the most of it.

The South African cable has been carrying an unusual weight of woe but the chances are that its "break" occurred in the London War Office. The strong hand of the censor is at work there in the way made familiar at Washington in Spanish war times. It can "break" a cable on occasion as easily as it can turn down a correspondent.

Harper's Weekly has changed front on the issue of expansion and even goes so far as to criticize the views of its former editor Carl Schurz. The new departure is due to the Double-day-McClure management, the rugged Americanism of which is one of the best titles to popularity which the old Weekly now enjoys. Mr. Caspar Whitney whose excellent work on Hawaiian America was lately reviewed on this page probably had a hand in making the change.

Hawaiian imports for October make rather impressive totals. From the United States we took products valued at \$1,121,338.92 and from all other countries \$265,705.79. The total for ten months of the current year is \$15,654,417.31 as against \$8,959,928.50 for the same period of 1898. The increase is \$6,694,488.81, the vastly larger part of which, being to the advantage of the United States, ought to reconcile the veriest mugwump to the philosophy of expansion and new markets.

Despite the building boom the scarcity of rentable houses in Honolulu is remarked by every visitor. There would be a much larger permanent population here if every applicant for a dwelling house could get one within a reasonable time. Fortunately there is plenty of room in the inhabited suburbs for more cottages and all that is wanting is the enterprise and faith in the future which is needed to put the structures up. A good many land-owners and capitalists fear that building may be overdone, but considering that the complete annexation of the group, the cable project and the Isthmian canal idea will all help to sustain the immigration of home-seekers, it is reasonable to think that the danger-point is a long way ahead.

The Samoan settlement does not leave Great Britain in with the United States after all. It is Germany that stays in the group with a preponderating influence. As that power has nothing to trade which the United States particularly wants the chances are that the American flag will continue to wave over Pagopago harbor and that American influence will keep a footing throughout the islands.

"Glamis thou art! Cawdor thou shalt be!" The promise fits the case of James D. Phelan of San Francisco, whose third election to the office of Mayor has put him in the direct line of promotion to the United States Senatorship. The State Democracy will now bend its energies to get the Legislature and on account of the Burns-Grant scandals of last winter it may not have much trouble in winning.

When such men as Senator Cullom can go far astray in the discussion of Island affairs the wisdom of sending delegates to Washington to keep Congress properly informed needs no defense. General Hartwell and ex-Attorney General Smith will find plenty to do among the members of the Senate and House and they ought to be of invaluable service to the cause of good government here. One of their first efforts should be to put Senator Cullom on his guard against gold bricks.

The sugar crop of Australasia for the last financial year was the largest on record. Queensland produced 163,734 tons; New South Wales 28,000 tons; Fiji 34,000 tons for export and a total was had for New South Wales and Fiji of 226,034 tons. The consumption is estimated at 94½ pounds per capita. The surplus was chiefly shipped to the refineries of Canada and Hongkong. It is said the prospects for the coming year are as good as were those of any previous one.

The dogged fighting powers of the British always show best in adversity. That is now the case in South Africa, where, since the capture of the Dublin Fusiliers and the Gloucestershire regiment, General White's army has won some important successes. It is quite possible, perhaps probable, that General White will hold out until the arrival of General Buller's corps, when the Boers will be forced to take the defensive. Almost anything is predicable of the men who are making such brilliant sorties from Ladysmith.

The elections as a whole were a distinct popular indorsement of the McKinley policy. In Ohio the McLean fight was along the lines of pro-reform and anti-expansion, the result being that the Democracy was overwhelmed. Bryan saved his home State and that was about all, even Kentucky falling to elect his friend Goebel. Wherever national issues were at the fore the Administration was cordially sustained. Hence the Democracy will be forced to change front before 1900 and it will probably do its best to persuade Dewey to lead the movement. Bryan appears to be a negligible quantity for good and all.

The war in the Philippines presents a sharp contrast to the one in South Africa. In the latter the opposing forces mass and fight and decisive battles are had; in the former all the massing is done by the Americans while the enemy scatters into guerrilla squads and harasses the movements of General Otis' men without giving the latter a chance to capture or kill many of them at a time. It is doubtful if the Tagals appear anywhere a thousand strong. These tactics are characteristically Spanish and they are most difficult to deal with as Napoleon himself found out in the course of the Peninsular campaign.

The absence of Mr. W. N. Armstrong's work from these columns will not be regretted more by the Hawaiian public than by his successor in the editorial chair. By his cultivated style, his wide and thorough acquaintance with these Islands and their people, his sympathy with progress, his genial wit and his happy way of illustration Mr. Armstrong has gained a personal circle of pleased and attentive readers which includes the Advertiser staff along with the great majority of Advertiser readers. It is a common hope that Mr. Armstrong will not, while in Hawaii or out of it, neglect his standing invitation to enter the columns of this journal whenever the spirit moves him.

VIEWS FROM THE STATES.

Dwight M. Baldwin, a prominent citizen of Red Wing, Minn., and W. H. Howe, of Nashville, Tenn., who is a large operator in ice, have been in this city since the arrival of the Hongkong Maru. They will leave on the China to go around the world. Both gentlemen express themselves as charmed with the climate and scenery of Hawaii, but they think there is a crying need of diversified industries here which will permit the more general employment of young white men.