

MAINTAINS HIS STAND

Dole's Reply In Claims Court Matter.

HE ANSWERS THE COUNCIL

An Appropriation of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars Voted for The Incurable's Hospital.

The Executive Council yesterday made reply to the action of the Council of State in regard to the Court of Claims appointments. It was known beforehand that the reply would be made public and the Councilors were interested in knowing the course of action of the Executive Council in regard to Boite's resolution.

After the reading of the reply was concluded, there was a silence for several seconds, when Councilor Boite arose and asked President Dole if he had not, on January 22, made a statement which appears on the minutes of the Council of State, that the Court of Claims should be composed of business men. The President replied that at that time he may have made the statement attributed to him, although he did not remember clearly that he had. Later, however, he felt that "the difficulties in regard to the scheme were so great that he found it better, as far as he was concerned, to create a legal commission. It seems to him the larger proportion should be lawyers."

"But they are all lawyers," retorted Boite.

"Yes," said the President, after a pause, "that is true."

The report of the Executive Council was as follows:

Executive Chamber, Honolulu, H. I., April 18, 1908.

To the Council of State: The Executive Council reports upon the resolution referred to it by the Council of State, dated April 11th, as follows:

The Executive Council agrees with the preamble of the resolution of the Council of State of April 11th and with the first paragraph of the resolution, which is as follows:

"That it is the sense of the Council of State that the Hawaiian Government should pay just claims for losses caused by the action taken by the Board of Health in connection with the suppression of the bubonic plague."

It is, however, probable, judging from the discussions which have taken place in the Council of State on the Court of Claims matter, that the understanding of the Executive Council as to the meaning of the words "just claims," differs from that of the majority of the Council of State.

Our view is that an authoritative recognition of a claim as just must be in accordance with Hawaiian law. A legislature has the authority to extend the law. Neither the Executive Council nor the Council of State has this discretion.

In regard to the second paragraph of the resolution, no reasons are set forth why the present Commissioners of the Court of Claims should be dismissed, and a new court be appointed, in which a majority shall consist of impartial men acquainted with the values of property and merchandise.

The Executive Council requires that all the members of the Court shall be impartial. As to their being acquainted with values of property, there seems to be no good reason for changing the practice and precedents of all Hawaiian courts, especially as nearly all the property in question has been destroyed, and estimates of losses must be made from testimony of witnesses and not from the examination of goods and buildings.

If the Court of Claims was merely a board of appraisers to estimate the value of property by inspection, it would be desirable to have experts on the board, but as that is not the case, the greatest possible usefulness of experts is reached by using them as witnesses.

The foregoing report was this day adopted by the Executive Council.

KATE KELLEY, Clerk Executive Council.

At yesterday's session there were present President Dole, Ministers Mott-Smith, Young, and Damon, and Councilors Isenberg, Achi, Ena, Allen, Jones, Gear, Ka-ne, Gonsalves, Robinson and Kaulukou.

A petition from Hawaii regarding roads and expenditures thereon, and requests for appropriations therefor, was read by the secretary and referred to the Minister of Interior. The petition is published elsewhere in this issue.

Incurable's Hospital.

The Hospital for Incurables will receive a subsidy from the Government, action having been taken yesterday in the Council of State, appropriating \$25,000 for that purpose. The subsidy is conditioned by an amended phrase introduced by Councilor Allen, that "\$100,000 be raised by subscription on the outside." When the item was first introduced by Minister Young, the question was referred to Attorney General Cooper for an opinion as to the legality of the appropriation. As a result of his report, the Council at that time did not deem it wise to pass the item.

Councilor Kaulukou asked that the rules be suspended in order that the item could be again introduced, and spoke strongly in favor of the subsidy. Mr. Allen thought the subsidy was very necessary on account of the increase in the disease of consumption, the mortality being much greater than that occasioned by the plague epidemic. Private citizens were going ahead with the subscriptions and responding liberally for the endowment of the hospital, and he thought the Government should also contribute toward its support.

Councilor Isenberg was not ready to

vote for the item in the shape it was in at that time. He thought it would be a long time before the requisite amount was raised by subscription, although there were responding with a generous hand, and therefore the \$25,000 appropriation, conditioned as it was, would be of little benefit to those who were in need of a hospital at the present time. If the conditional amendment were removed, he would vote for the \$25,000, as he wanted the sufferers to gain immediate benefits.

Minister Damon appreciated the Councilor's generous sentiments. "In matters of this kind," said the Minister, "we must look to the practical side, and must make it a business transaction, and start right from the beginning. When Kamehameha IV, and his Queen started the Queen's Hospital, they went around and enlisted the sympathy of all classes and established a fund for the hospital and to their everlasting credit, they put it on a sound basis, and then the Government gave it a subsidy as well. The hospital has the advantage now of legacies and subscriptions, and notwithstanding the Government still continues to pay a subsidy, they receive very valuable support from the community. "I don't think there is a hospital that is so badly needed as the one for incurables, and there is not a man who is opposed to its establishment here. I know many men in this community who are ready to assist it. The Minister of the Interior has given it a great deal of thought for a number of years, and I don't think the community will see the matter suffer for want of funds."

Minister Young had worked on the matter for three or four years, and he felt certain that the amount required could be raised in a very short time, for he already had the promise of half of it.

Upon motion of Councilor Kaulukou, the item amounting to \$25,000 was passed.

Boite Asks a Question.

Boite asked that the rules be suspended as he wished to ask the Executive a question. It was in regard to the Executive's words recorded on the minute book of the Council of State wherein he was reported to have said the Court of Claims should be composed of five business men, and that he would ask President McKinley to organize the Court upon that basis.

"I don't remember saying that," said the President. He stated that he had later formed an opinion that the Court should be composed of lawyers, or at least the larger proportion should be legal men.

"Then," said the councilor, "I move the report of the Executive Committee be laid on the table."

The Council voted to do so.

Act 4 was then taken up line by line and item by item, the grand total being changed to \$1,553,291.20, which was reported by the Council. The title of the bill and its enacting clause was read and passed upon motion. The entire bill was eventually passed as read, for its first reading, and upon motion referred to the Committee of Finance to arrange and print.

Act 3 was read in a similar manner for its second reading. When the items of the Post Office Department were reached, the fixed salaries as detailed in the bill were objected to by Jones, as he thought it would be wiser to leave the question of salaries to the Postmaster General, so that if he needed two good men at higher salaries in place of three men at lower salaries, it would be in his discretion to do so. Mr. Damon reminded the Council that it was so detailed as a matter of system, that was all. Councilor Kaulukou favored Mr. Jones' suggestion. Going a little further, the councilor took occasion to say some sharp words in condemnation of certain practices in promoting men which he alleged were in vogue in the Post Office.

Attacks Postmaster-General.

"I hope the Minister of Finance will call the attention of the Postmaster General to giving better salaries to the people who have been there for a long period of time," the councilor went on. "I am informed that the people most friendly to the Postmaster General get more salary than other people who have been there for many years. I want to see justice done to the men who have been working in that department who are white, native, Portuguese, Pahe or Japanese."

Achi supported the suggestion of Councilor Jones, and argued that salaries should be placed at not less than \$50 a month. Men who are employed in the Postoffice had to be well dressed and needed such salaries to keep up appearances.

Gear thought if the matter was left to the discretion of the Postmaster, some future increment of that office might abuse his privileges.

The motion to strike out the details of the items was finally lost.

School Man Scored.

When line 64 was called by the Secretary, covering an item of \$100 for travelling expenses of the Inspector General of Schools, Councilor Isenberg created enough amusement to keep the Council in good humor while he occupied the floor. Once beyond the when the same item was up for consideration, the councilor attacked it, and yesterday he handed it without gloves.

"The Inspector General does mighty little traveling," said Mr. Isenberg, at express speed, "and I would like to ask the Minister of Public Instruction, where the Inspector does his traveling. It is my opinion that when he does travel he does mighty poor inspection. I know on hearsay, and its pretty good hearsay too, that when he travels around, he pops suddenly into a school where the school teacher is not in his favor, and with his note book in hand, asks all sorts of questions and scares the teacher nearly to death, and then he renders a report that goes against the teacher."

"What kind of an inspection do you call that. I want to go on record in making these remarks against the appropriation of this item. If the teacher is not a favored one, you may be sure there will be a mighty poor report sent in to headquarters."

When the merriment subsided, Minister Mott-Smith arose to explain the necessity of appropriating traveling expenses, no matter who the Inspector General may be. The matter of the inspection of schools was exceedingly important in the educational department, and so much so that he was

almost ready to ask that inspectors for such should be appointed.

Isenberg thought if the item was so important that it should then be increased to \$1,500. Gear seconded the motion. The first motion to strike the item out, was put, and lost. Isenberg and gear voting in favor of it. The item was finally passed as in the bill.

New items designated line 85th, operating garbage crematory, payroll, \$1,200, and 861, operating steam vessel, payroll, \$10,800, were introduced and passed.

The appropriation for pay of police, Kamal, was increased from \$5,000 to \$7,000.

Appropriation for pay of police, Oahu, increased from \$10,000 to \$25,000. The total amount of the bill amounting to \$522,916.82 was upon motion, accepted by the Council and inserted in the bill.

Sections 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 were passed as read. Section 1 and the enacting clause were passed, and the entire bill passed for its second reading. The bill will be brought in Friday and read the third time.

ALLEN TALKS OF MAINLAND IDEAS.

H. A. Allen, the well known representative of the firm of Fraser & Chalmers, of Chicago, is in Honolulu after six months' absence. He left here last October after a long tour of the islands and went directly to Chicago to get ready several consignments of pumping machinery for shipment to Honolulu. On the way there he picked up a contract for the largest pumping plant yet shipped to the gold fields at Cape Nome, Alaska. His last trip also included New York, Boston, Philadelphia and all the large cities of the East, and he is again here for a two months' stay for the purpose of installing several pumps which have arrived during his absence.

Speaking of public opinion in the east in regard to the islands since the Porto Rico tariff has brought all the island possessions of the United States into such prominence and also since war clouds have overshadowed Europe, Mr. Allen does not hesitate in saying that the people are beginning to appreciate the value of the Hawaiian Islands as a strategic point, but have not come to a full realization of their value as a commercial factor. From his own observation of people's ideas regarding the Hawaiian group he thinks that the lack of cable communication has a great deal to do with outside ignorance of their real importance.

"When the cable is put in," said Mr. Allen, "the people who have heard of the marvelous profits made in sugar will not be afraid to send capital out here, because they can then be directly in touch with their vital interests. Now they are content to buy American Biscuit or American Steel stock or anything that is gilt-edged. They can go out any time in the day and get cash on it without losing anything. With Hawaiian sugar stocks, the chances are ten to one that they would have to wait for advice from Honolulu before getting the cash price they wanted."

"What is the feeling in the East regarding the islands now that plague has put in an appearance here?" was asked. "Except as far as tourists are concerned, I don't think the bubonic plague has cut any figure," was the reply. "And, further, I think our mainland brothers generally admire the officials and people of Honolulu for using such stringent measures, and doing everything in their power, as far as money and work were concerned, to stamp it out. This, together with the manner in which the people have so peacefully passed through the transition period since first raising day, has created a very favorable impression. It is in such a marked contrast with the unsatisfactory conditions in Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines."

"As for the Hawaiian bill which has just passed Congress, I hardly think that much time will be lost by the congressional committees of the Senate and House, and councilors in the differences. For my part, I believe they will get through with this work as quickly as possible and make an end of it."

"Perhaps you would be interested in knowing what kind of a settlement was reached by the striking machinists and the trades-unions in Chicago. It is a matter which aroused the greatest interest in labor and manufacturing circles in the United States, and I presume will be appreciated here."

"There were between 10,000 and 15,000 men who struck in the great manufacturing establishments of Chicago and almost brought them to a standstill at a time when they were the busiest. The firm of Fraser & Chalmers was pretty well tied up, being affected by the absence of machinists. The men had really no cause for striking. They were called out practically to test the strength of the union all over the United States. They were being paid fifteen to twenty per cent higher wages in Chicago than anywhere else in the East, so the strike was not for wages, but for recognition of the union, and practically its right to run the business of the plants as well. They demanded a nine-hour day and the minimum wage. These two points would readily have been granted, provided, of course the same conditions would prevail throughout the United States."

"The strikers then wished to do away with helpers and restrict the age of apprentices from fifteen to twenty-one years, and wanted all the non-union men discharged, and wanted to make it impossible for manufacturers to discharge any one for incompetency. They also demanded the right to have a delegate of any trade visit the shops at any time of the day or night."

"The strikers held out for five weeks, and during that time a great many non-union workmen were assaulted, and severely beaten. The manufacturers agreed to the minimum wage and nine-hour day and the recognition of the union inasmuch that in event of differences between the employer and employee, an arbitration committee should be formed composed of two manufacturers, two union men and a fifth man to be chosen by the four, to be chosen, and no strikes were to be called, both sides agreeing to abide by the decision of this arbitration board. Further than this the manufacturers would not agree.

HERE'S A BRIGHT GENIUS THAT URGES A CABLE THROUGH THE ARCTIC REGIONS



In response to the present urgent demands for a cable across the Pacific ocean, it is more than probable that one will be laid in the near future, and it seems to be a mere matter of detail just at present, the subject of the cable itself being a foregone conclusion. Increased facilities for communication are required in view of the changed aspect of our national relations in the East, and the consummation of such a project would be of very great strategic as well as commercial value. A line by way of Hawaii, Wake and Guam to the Philippines would be a very expensive project, but it would have the advantage of being an all-American route, and would give this country an absolute control of the line. A shorter route has been proposed by a prominent engineer through the Arctic regions, which does away with many of the physical difficulties of the long deep-sea stretches of the Southern route, and, as it offers a shorter cable and telegraphic line to Europe than that by way of India, it is very probable that such a cable would direct a great deal of the business now commanded by the Atlantic and Indian cables.

The proposed southern route runs from San Francisco to Honolulu, a distance of 2,403 nautical miles; thence to Midway Island and to Guam, another stretch of 3,950 nautical miles, or else via Wake Island, and from Guam to Manila, a distance of 1,784 miles. The proposed branch to Yokohama of 1,805 miles added to this will make a grand total of 9,942 nautical miles. These figures refer to length of cable and not to distances. This route runs principally along the 20th degree of latitude. The greatest depth of sea in the world is to be found in this latitude, between Midway Island and Guam, where the sounding depth of 4,900 fathoms is found, equivalent to 29,400 feet, and requiring a single cable link 2,639 nautical miles long.

The northern route starts at Cape Flattery, the extreme northwestern point of the State of Washington, and runs to Sitka, requiring a cable 803 nautical miles long. From Sitka to Kodiak Island is 682 miles; thence to Dutch Harbor is 770 miles, and from there to Attu, the most western of the Aleutian Islands, also a United States possession, the distance is 810 miles. From Attu the cable would run to the Russian-Japanese border, at Cape Legatka in Alaska, and the Koorile Islands, belonging to Japan, a distance of 1,805 nautical miles. In order to have positive connections through Russia and Japan both, a short line of 817 miles could be run to the Russian port of Vladivostok, and from the border to the Japanese wires, 810 miles, the last link being from Formosa to the Philippines. This insures a route either through Russia or Japan, the only foreign countries which the cable touches, so that should we be at war with either of them there would still be a line of communication. This series of links aggregates 5,550 nautical miles, compared with 9,942 miles of the other route.

The character of the material demanded for the construction of these cables is entirely different, principally by reason of the fact that the water of the northern route is not nearly so deep, and it is said that the cost of the latter would be \$346 per mile, as compared with \$1,176 per mile for the other.—The Patent Record.

A WILD PROPOSITION.

Deporting 80,000 Japanese Would Be Hard Job.

It seems ridiculous to suppose that Congressman De Armond and the other Congressmen put the retroactive labor amendment into the House Hawaiian bill for any other purpose than to fling a fallacious sop to the American workingman and make him think they are his friends—and then to have it cut out in conference. The best informed and most intelligent men in this city take that view, and the late news from Washington does not seem to have affected stocks or business injuriously. Still, an imaginative man can derive amusement from figuring out the complications that would arise if the clause were to slip into the bill, through some oversight, and it should become the task of some man or man to carry out the job.

"I recall the scheme to deport all the negroes from the South to Liberia," said a planter yesterday. "The Japanese would get wind of it almost as soon as we would—there never was a trades union or a secret order that could pass the word around any more swiftly. They did not come here on an excursion. They came to settle here, and they are earning wages beyond their wildest dreams in their own country. The effort to deport them forcibly would rub them up the wrong way, and arouse every faculty to defeat it. Most of them would unquestionably find means to

get lost while the men armed with bunches of photographs were hunting for them, knowing that as soon as the scare was over they could secure work as day laborers at higher pay.

"Instead of secreting themselves, numbers might get together and defy the agents of the Immigration Bureau to take them. Thirty thousand men is a big crowd to handle; and a general riot on one of the other islands would be almost impossible to suppress. What action would Japan take meantime, in regard to this treatment of her subjects, in violation of their legal rights by contract? Where would the forty steamers be secured to carry out this amazing scheme? It looks very much as if the Government De Armond were inviting the Government at Washington to bite off more than it could chew."

MANY LIVES SAVED.

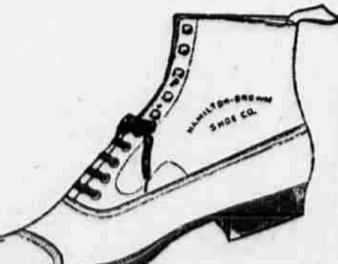
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