

HAWAIIAN GAZETTE

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FRIDAY

MAY 17

THE BISHOP AND THE FARMERS.

No man can give an intelligent opinion on the subject of small farming in Hawaii until he ceases to identify minor agriculture with the methods and crops of the North Temperate zone and considers the situation from a purely tropical standpoint.

Homestead lots have been taken by many in the Hamakua district, but from personal conversation with the Portuguese there I have yet to find one who is able to make a living on a homestead by growing anything which at present can be raised.

We want these homesteads occupied, but what can the people on them raise? Coffee will not pay; they have tried it and abandoned it. Pineapples must be near a cannery, and the market may easily be overstocked.

This looks serious, but it is not a fair statement of the case. Against the fact that some Portuguese are not making a living on the land, might be put the other fact that many of them, are, according to the capital, the training and the intelligence which they have taken into the business; but on either side we know of none who have gone into tropical small farming save, perhaps, the few who are raising wine grapes on Maui and bananas elsewhere, and doing it successfully.

The Bishop says "Coffee will not pay; they have tried it and abandoned it." How about the coffee raised and marketed by the Louissons and W. W. Bruner? It pays them, despite the fact that coffee is not protected by the tariff.

Bishop Restarick admits himself that small pineapple, sisal, rubber and tobacco plantations are practicable here. Well, isn't that small farming? And what matters it if one chooses to call the small areas plantations instead of farms if they give the white and unincorporated American a chance?

BISHOP RESTARICK'S VIEWS.

Bishop Restarick is right in his complaint that the term "small farmer" for a man who may be carrying on a farm of some hundreds of acres, is misleading. But classification is not easy. The nomenclature was chosen to mark the difference between the unincorporated tiller of an average tract of land and the big plantation-owner and to leave a suitable label for the truck farmer.

Bishop Restarick contends that a farmer, with from three to five thousand dollars' capital, could not come here and succeed in any line now open to him. We think that depends, mainly, on the man and on the kind of terms he could make with the land office.

his own automobile and travels on the mainland. He and his fellows succeeded because land was given to them on an American scale of cheapness and because they had the industry and good sense which our farming requires. It is true that not all the original locators stayed put. A certain percentage of farmers the world over have the curse of the wandering foot.

In his rejoinder to the Advertiser, Bishop Restarick accounts for the success of the Louissons, in coffee, on the ground that they have good business connections on the mainland. Very well. Are there no other people in the United States who could grow coffee here and also get good business agents in the market? If there are, why not induce them to come here? Why discourage them by the statement that coffee does not pay?

Peter Lee is called a small planter, not a small farmer. But this is a mere matter of nomenclature. If the Bishop will tell his next audience that Hawaii is a good place for the small planter all will be forgiven. It matters little what the man calls himself so long as he makes a profit out of the soil.

Mr. Bruner is described as a farmer of sufficient enterprise to have a coffee mill and a pineapple cannery of his own and to have other men work for him on shares. Does this prove anything except that a farmer of vim and enterprise can do things in Hawaii as well as in other places? Does the showing not warrant other men of Mr. Bruner's capacity in coming here to engage in diversified farming?

Mr. Barnard, we are glad to learn from the Bishop's admissions, succeeds in the coffee line in spite of his having three other kinds of business to attend to. Given the right sort of a man and success in coffee culture seems to be easy despite the lack of tariff protection. Why not import more Barnards?

But enough of individual cases. We may admit the Bishop's general propositions about small results in the pioneer work of this or that industry without weakening the plea that the farm in Hawaii promises returns worth while. What of it if discouragements have been met? Did misfortunes at the start, defeat the splendid aims of the Hawaiian sugar industry? How many men among those who started the great plantations here made money at the outset? How many escaped hard times? The early history of the sugar business in these islands is a story of ill-luck and to some extent of business martyrdom.

THE LESSON OF RUEF.

The confession of Ruef, boss of San Francisco, was the most dramatic incident reported in yesterday's news. The furtive boddler, finding himself trapped, threw himself on the mercy of the court and made a clean breast of his misdoings. He promised to reform; he wept and fainted; his sentence will come in a fortnight. It looks like the beginning of the end of the execrable graft administration of which Ruef was the brains and Schmitz the coparener.

This sensational outcome of the Heney prosecution, like that which brought the Tweed ring to its knees so long ago, is full of encouragement to good citizens. It shows that, however strong a thievish political dictator may be he can not protect his vital secrets. Sooner or later too many men will know. The boss sends a man to collect blood money for him, not daring to go himself. That puts the secret in the hands of two. The victim of extortion is a third man and he cherishes a lively sense of injury. He may have partners; he generally has friends into whose ears he pours the story of his grievances. That makes a group of secret-sharers. To get into position to levy blackmail, in a municipality like San Francisco, a boss must connive and divide with the legislative and, perhaps, the executive branches of the government.

These are things to remember when the duty to fight an entrenched civic iniquity falls upon the unorganized citizenship of any city or state or territory. Formidable as a ring may look it is undermining itself all the time. It can not stand hard pressure. If it is boldly attacked and keenly investigated, its doom is certain. That has proved true many times in New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, St. Louis, New Orleans and San Francisco, not to speak of smaller places. Many San Francisco rings, including the formidable one of Boss Buckley, have proved the vulnerability of the graft system; and now comes another lesson. May its results be lasting? May San Francisco reformers realize their chance and their latent power, taking advantage of the one and never failing to exercise the other?

TERRITORIAL FINANCES.

Trans-Pacific Trade today announces that the First National Bank is exempt from Territorial taxation, under the United States statutes; although it has paid its taxes here for the past six years. An effort to be made by Treasurer Campbell, to assess stockholders individually, will probably be contested in the courts, exemption being claimed under the Revised Laws affecting personal property.

The new bank license act will probably be contested in the courts on the ground of unconstitutionality, as it is claimed that it is a tax discriminating against localities and not a tax on business. Heretofore, all banks in the Territory paid a license of \$750 per annum. Under the new law, this has been reduced in Waialua and Hilo to \$500; and in Lihue and Lahaina to \$250.

On the Pennsylvania railroad near Chicago is a station named Hegewisch. It is a rich and prosperous manufacturing community and was named for a public-spirited and wealthy Dane. An effort has been made by an esthetic Chicago real estate owner in that region to have the name changed to Burnham, a much more pleasing and euphonious name. It is also thought to be a movement in favor of conductors and brakemen, who as a class suffer from an inability to pronounce even ordinary names. Hegewisch has paralyzed them, and moral passengers traveling through the village have construed the name, as it has been shouted in their ears, as some strange and awful form of profanity.

This paper has often said that the wisest disposal of the Central American republics would be to permit Mexico to annex them. Above all, there should be no American responsibility in their future. Mexico could easily absorb the little republics and enhance their prosperity.

British coal miners at Vancouver are driving Japanese miners out. Evidently the British treaty has as much trouble in extending to Canada as the American treaty had to California.

It will be noted in passing, that Kauai let the Congressmen in. But the latter weren't looking for small farms.

These must be Ruef's days in San Francisco.

THE GOSPEL OF CLEANLINESS.

The cleaning of walks is urged in the interests of sanitation as well as good looks; and at this time of special vigilance in matters of public health, the cleaning of every place, in, around and under houses and outbuildings, is imperative. The man who keeps untidy premises is, to the extent of his carelessness, a public enemy. He may not mean to be, but he can only be judged by the effects of his neglect.

We are on the threshold of summer. We can not depend very much upon the cleansing downpours which, in the winter season, wash so much filth and germ-infection into the sea. There may be a drought as there was in the memorable summer of 1899. It is the special duty of Honolulu's people, therefore, to as far as possible, keep filth and refuse from accumulating. In the tropics eternal vigilance is the price of sanitary safety. There is nothing of the sort to be had at a lower price.

Get busy. Clean up. Keep clean. These are the points of the compass for Hawaii just now.

BACK TO HIS IDEALS.

It is a pity that Mr. Ruef had to abandon his high political ideals and "front them by taking bribes. A man in that predicament surely deserves sympathy and one naturally wonders what the powerful incentive could have been to turn a pure young publicist into a criminal. Happily Mr. Ruef explains. He loathingly made bargains with vice and crime which netted him thousands of dollars a month so as to preserve the Schmitz party machine. He sacrificed himself on the altar of Mammon for principle's sake, like the noble statesman he was. In the light of this heroic spectacle let no carping critic interrupt the natural solemnities with the remark that Ruef put the machine together in the first place to make grafting easy for himself and his friends. Let us overlook the small inconsistencies of the ex-boss's life and take his portrait as he paints it, halo, unctious, upturned eyeballs and all. Let us even be edified by the spectacle of his turning State's evidence against his fellow bribe-takers for the sake of his long buried ideals. It is an example of resurrected virtue which ought not to be lost on the young.

LOCAL BREVITIES.

(From Wednesday's Advertiser.) U. S. Commissioner George A. Davis left last night for Hawaii on a vacation trip. He expects to return in about two weeks.

From what some of the Congressmen say, there is a good chance that next session money will be appropriated for a lighthouse on Kauai.

The Honolulu Iron-Works have the contract for about \$8000 worth of cast iron pipe for the water system at the Moakala Settlement. This firm put in the only bid.

A baby girl was found yesterday morning in Thomas Square and taken to the police station. Later in the day the mother called for the child, which had strayed from home.

Among the passengers on the transport Logan was Dr. J. S. Shand, a veterinary surgeon in the Quartermaster's Department. He formerly worked for the Rapid Transit Co. in this city.

Deputy U. S. Marshal Temple left for Hawaii on the Kinau yesterday morning. He is after a Japanese who is alleged to have committed thefts on the Claudine when she was outside of the three-mile limit, thus becoming subject to the Federal and not the Territorial courts.

(From Thursday's Advertiser.) Canon Weymouth of the Church of the Holy Innocents, Lahaina, is recovering from illness at the Queen's Hospital.

Father Valentin is reported as much improved in health and expected to return from California about the end of this month.

Marshal E. R. Hendry deputized Ralph S. Johnston of the Internal Revenue office, to go to Makawao, Maui, for some arrested distillers who, according to a wireless telegram, are jailed there.

Ho San has been arrested by the Federal authorities as a Chinese unlawfully in the country. He had been some time a member of the steamer Nevada's crew. Ho San claims to be a Japanese or a Siamese.

Under the law passed by the late Legislature, transferring pounds from the Territory to the counties, there are neither pounds nor poundmasters now in commission. The Board of Supervisors of Oahu will take up the matter tomorrow evening.

It is stated as likely that a northern headland of Kauai will be selected for a first-order lighthouse instead of the western site as originally recommended. Captains of Pacific liners and inter-island steamers have been consulted on the subject, and the weight of opinion favors the northern coast as against the western.

Consul General Saito has received a cablegram from Consul Morikawa at Vancouver stating that many Japanese are out of employment there and requesting the recipient to warn Japanese here from going to Vancouver. In consequence of this message Mr. Saito has asked the Japanese local papers to publish a warning accordingly.

Sinclair and Aylmer, sons of Aubrey Robinson of Makawao, returned from school on the mainland in the Siberia. Dr. C. B. Cooper, head of the local Shrine, is the first of the Arab Patrol to return from Los Angeles. He arrived in the Siberia and he confirms the reports of Coast papers on the hit the Honoluluans made.

A fight is to be made by Ewa Plantation Co., and other corporations against the refusal of the Treasury department to allow for depreciation of property in assessments. If necessary the contest will be carried to Washington.

Miss Lishman has received a letter from her brother Percy, stating that he was improving rapidly. He expected to be out of the hospital by the time the letter was received here. Everybody was very kind to him. He would go east as soon as he left the hospital.

Mrs. Roberts, clerk of the Surveyor General's office at Sacramento, was locked in the big safe, the door swinging behind her and closing. She remembered that there was an old telephone in the vault, which she found, and called for help. She had been imprisoned an hour when rescued.

Work on the home for healthy boys of leprous parents, for which the Legislature appropriated \$15,000, will soon begin. President Pinkham says it will be in Waimea district, Hawaii, and there will be fifty boys to enter it when it is ready for occupancy. The boys will be brought up to farming. The wife of E. E. Hingley, foreman at the Honolulu Planning Mill, died at the Queen's Hospital after an operation yesterday. She leaves with her husband two daughters of seventeen and nine years respectively and a son, E. E. Hingley Jr., who is employed in the Honolulu Iron Works. The funeral will be held at 10 o'clock this morning from the house, 1459 Liliha street.

Mrs. Roosevelt, who was taking a cruise down the Potomac on the Sybil, had a narrow escape from injury by the falling of the flagstaff. The yacht passed her dock and crashed into the tug, the shock breaking the flagstaff, which fell to the deck.

BUSINESS CARDS.

F. A. SCHAEFER & CO.—Importers and Commission Merchants, Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands.

LEWERS & COOKE (Robert Lewers, F. J. Lowrey, C. M. Cooke)—Importers and dealers in lumber and building materials. Office, 414 Fort street.

HONOLULU IRON WORKS CO.—Machinery of every description made to order.

HONOLULU STOCK EXCHANGE

Honolulu, Thursday, May 16, 1907.

Table with columns: NAME OF STOCK, Capital, Paid Up, Val., Bid, Ask. Includes sections for Mercantile, Sugar, and Miscellaneous.

*23,1275 paid. 410 per cent. paid. SESSION SALES. (Morning Session.) 9 McBryde, 4.50. BETWEEN BOARDS. None.

"The Best" Obtainable IS OUR STANDING ORDER TO MANUFACTURERS OF Everything IN OUR LINE; AND WE ARE GETTING IT AT RIGHT PRICES. HOLLISTER DRUG CO. ESTABLISHED 1879.