

As Others See Us

Letters of E. G. Lowrey, Washington correspondent of the New York Evening Post, who accompanied the Congressional Party.

HONOLULU, May 12.—In some of its aspects Honolulu is almost as much of an anachronism as would be a Roman Senator carrying a Waterbury watch in his toga. To the impressionable stranger entering her gates today she somehow suggests the half-fledged state of a man wearing evening clothes with tan shoes at an eleven o'clock breakfast. If you know a nice, prime, tidy, old New England town—Kennebunk, Me., for instance—I can make a picture of Honolulu for you by merely splicing in a little tropical scenery for a background.

Instead of the white picket fence of the New England town, put in a tall hibiscus hedge covered with heavy, brilliant crimson blossoms the size of a locouat. In place of the oaks or elms growing in the front yard substitute slender twisted cocoanut palms leaning perilously before the steady northeast trades. For the modest shrubs growing in tubs, scatter about groups of luxuriant banyans. Where the fragrant unobtrusive beds of pansies, sweet Williams, and violets grow along the edge of the piazza and about the steps, conceive great, brilliantly hued, flowering plants of the tropics, whose names I am not enough of a botanist to know.

Now, imagine, if you can, a severely plain New England house, but ornamented with the architectural gingerbread horrors of the late '80's, set in this lush magnificence of sub-tropical vegetation. The house of the banker and the county judge would have an avenue of royal palms instead of the more common cocouat. That is one impression of Honolulu. As one might say, a Salvation Army girl with her cheeks painted and her eyebrows penciled.

This is the one bill of complaint that the visiting stranger with a passion for the fitness of things can bring against the citizens of Honolulu; that when they came to build their homes they did not take advantage of their scenic environment and the rich, gay, tropical background. The omission is easily accounted for. The first white settlers who came here were missionaries from New England, and they have made a deep impression on the islands. When they came to build their homes they built the only sort of houses they knew anything about. The only concession made was in adding deep, cool, shady lanais (porches) and in subdividing the interior of the house into as few rooms as possible.

The late comers followed the example of their predecessors, and did not strike out along new lines. Unlike the gay and artistic home-builders of Victoria, B. C., they did not build for themselves rambling bungalows and bowers them with creeping roses and flowering vines. This isn't to say that Honolulu isn't a delight to the eye, for it is. But the people have not lived up to the stage setting provided by a beautiful nature. One peers about eagerly and in vain for the grass huts and semi-nude natives of the picture postcards. It is in the people, their mode of life, and the customs of their hospitality that one finds the typical island life, rather than in the houses, whose architecture has been drawn from the old "missionary spirit."

ASIATIC PREPONDERANCE.
Looked down upon from a balloon Honolulu might be any New England seaport town of 50,000 people, were it not for the background of volcanic hills and mountains and the fronds of the cocoanut palms silhouetted against the blue color of the sky. The church spires of every American town rise from the greenery. In the business section of the town there are modern shops and office buildings of the same type to be seen in every American city. The streets are macadamized and traversed by an excellent system of trolley cars. It is only in the picturesque street life and the preponderance of Asiatics that one first sees difference from things as they are at home. Delicate little adventures embroider the routine of the day.

One day an automobile taking us out to Waikiki and around Diamond Head suffered a mishap to its interior economy opposite the aquarium. I went in to see the preposterous fishes, leaving the chauffeur to see his ward alone. The aquarium building is simply two bisecting corridors with a rough-hewn stone basin full of goldfish set into the ground in the center of the building.

Seated on the low stone coping of this basin was a captivating little family party: a Chinese mother wearing brightly embroidered silk trousers and a dull green brocade coat made after the simple fashion of the jacket of a pair of pajamas. She had jade pieces set in gold about her neck. With her were two of the tiniest, clearest, most gayly bedecked little Chinese babies ever seen off the sides of a tea jar. Each of them held a huge slip of biscuit in his chubby fist, feeding crumbs to the goldfish. The woman knew a few words of English and I invited myself to the party. The little ones shared their provender with me, and cackled softly when the voracious fish would rise almost out of the water to snap at the falling crumbs. No one ever thinks of a Chinaman as laughing in enjoyment of such simple scenes, yet three who came in were reduced to audible chuckling over the play of the children and my effort to establish lingual communication with the mother.

Honolulu has about 50,000 inhabitants, of whom about only 7000 are white. The others are Japanese, Chinese, Hawaiians, Portuguese, Koreans, Porto Ricans, and various permutations and combinations thereof. There are a few negroes in the city, but I did not see one of them. Local and long-distance telephone wires are strung all about the city; there is wireless communication with the other islands of the group and cable connection with the United States.

HONOLULU NEWSPAPERS.
Three excellent daily newspapers are printed in English. They receive a cable report of one hundred words daily from the mainland; fifty words in the morning and fifty words in the afternoon. One day the principal item

in this daily news report was this striking piece of intelligence: Madrid, May 11.—The young Prince of Asturias is a blonde.

A CLEAN CITY.
Honolulu is a clean city. The surgeon-general of the United States army has declared it the second healthiest post at which regular troops are stationed. The city has learned by experience the high cost it must pay in lives for uncleanness. Diseases of the torrid zone are swift and terrible in their ravages and easily communicated. All of the ports of these islands have suffered from infections brought by ships. They have dearly purchased the knowledge of the value and necessity of sanitation.

Life is not the savage competition here that it is at home. The stream of affairs moves drowsily between pleasant banks. No one lets business interfere with pleasure. The people take plenty of time to divert themselves as one golden sunlit day and soft silvery night succeeds another. Out at Waikiki they have a wonderful curved crescent of hard white beach with blue seas booming in ceaselessly. Every day in the year the surf is full of bathers. The little children living in the cottages along the beach front spend their entire days in the milk-warm water, instead of on their green lawns. By the time they are six they move about in the water with the unconscious skill of fishes.

SURF RIDING.
At Waikiki there is practised a sport which can be found only in the southern Pacific. This is surf riding. This may be done in an outrigger canoe or on a surf board. One paddles far out beyond the line of breakers to where the great combers begin to form and uprear their crested heads. Then seizing the right moment the canoe is driven furiously towards the shore until it is caught up on the crest of a wave and driven shoreward with a dizzying velocity. It is a ride that makes a toboggan slide seem almost tame. With the surf boards the Kanaka boys spring upright as soon as they are caught up by the waves, and come sliding inshore apparently standing on the crest of the wave, like some young water god, their olive-hued bodies glistening with spray and shining in the sun.

GAY, BUT NOT "FAST."
Honolulu has the reputation of being a gay place. It is, but without being "fast." In the old days it welcomed every newcomer warmly and did not inquire too closely about his or her credentials. Steamer days are still marked with a red ring on the calendar. All the tide of travel between the Pacific Coast and the Far East and Australia halts for a day and a night at Honolulu, both going out and coming back again. There is always dancing at the hotels in the evening when a steamer comes in. There are lights and music, soft laughter and bright eyes to entertain the visitor, even though he come for but a day, for these are a pleasure loving people, and much given to a generous hospitality.

HONOLULU, May 14.—In the garden of the old Queen's palace is a keep-off-the-grass sign phrased to meet the needs of this smelter pot of the nations. The legend is "painted boldly and placarded: "More better you go round." This tells a story in itself. There is a Japanese quarter in Honolulu, and a Chinese quarter, and a big Portuguese settlement, and still another locality given over to the Porto Ricans. Significantly enough there is no Hawaiian quarter. It is only a matter of time when there will be no Hawaiians.

This is a depressing thought to those who have come to know the gentle, lovable, generous, native character. In 1872 there were in the eight islands that form the group now known as the Territory of Hawaii 49,944 natives and 1487 part Hawaiians. By 1900 the natives had dwindled to 29,787, and the part Hawaiians had increased to 7848. There has been a further decrease of natives since 1900. When Capt. James Cook discovered the islands in 1778 it is estimated that they were supporting a population of more than 400,000.

While the Hawaiians have been decreasing rapidly their places have been taken by a flood of Asiatics. In 1872 there were 1938 Chinese in the islands, and in 1900, 25,782. The Japanese, however, have outstripped all others. There is no record of their presence in the islands prior to 1884, when 116 were enumerated. Six years later their numbers had increased to 12,560, and six years after this, in 1896, there were more than 22,000 of them. The census of 1900 shows 61,115. Throughout the islands there are more than twenty different races and nationalities living in apparent peace, concord, and harmony. It is no uncommon thing to find eight or ten nationalities and five or six different peoples represented in a schoolroom of forty children.

The native-born population of the Territory is made up of Hawaiians, part Hawaiians, Caucasians, Portuguese, negroes, South Sea Islanders, Japanese and Chinese. The foreign-born people in the islands distributed according to country of birth are from the Atlantic islands, Austria, Canada, China, England, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Norway and Denmark, Pacific Islands, Portugal, Scotland, Spain, Sweden, and other countries.

THE JAPANESE QUARTER.
There are parts of Honolulu where a stranger, strolling down the street, might readily fancy himself in Nagasaki, or any one of the frequented Japanese ports. There are Japanese shops, hotels, theaters, residences, churches and what not. The people one meets in the streets are all Japanese wearing their native garb. Men go about in bare legs and flapping kimono intent on their business. Solemn-faced little children play at kites or squat gravely on the sidewalk among their Japan-made toys. Housewives go pattering about on their high wooden shoes. From the tea-houses one may hear occasionally a strain of unmelodious Japanese music, and the thin piping sing-song of the little geisha girls.

One has always heard of the Japanese as a smiling people, and much given to a formal politeness with strangers. This cannot be a general rule, for I have seen none of the smiling sort in any of the islands of the group. Driving or riding along the country roads or over the plantations we have made it a practice to greet with some effusiveness parties of Japanese. The most we have got in reply has been a stiff military salute. Customarily no heed was paid to the greeting, the little men of Nippon looking out at us evenly and incuriously through slit eyes.

Twice I remember pleasant exceptions. Once on the Island of Kauai I came upon a score of Japanese urchins looking like so many little dolls with shaven polls. In response to my salute they bowed in solemn unison like so many little mandarins, flashing one beautiful grin as their heads rose to gaze at the curious stranger. Again in a tiny little shop in Honolulu where I went to buy some Japanese shoes and stockings, I succeeded in giving the impression by my clumsy use of what native words and pidgin English I had at command that I had a Japanese wife. Once the notion was grasped the atmosphere cleared amazingly. The three little Japanese women in the shop came to my aid, offering their advice in making selections. The shopkeeper reduced his prices by more than one-half. An old man smoking one of the little Japanese pipes holding but a pinch of tobacco, and needing to be refilled after each whiff, politely got out a fresh pipe and by gestures invited me to join him.

In striking contrast with this surly demeanor and lack of civility of the average Japanese met about the islands is the friendliness of the native. Everywhere they were on the lookout for the visiting Congressmen. Everywhere one came upon them they whipped off their hats with flashing smiles and bright, eager eyes calling "aloha" to the visitors. At every stopping place, even if the pause was only for a few minutes, they had prepared leis and garlands of flowers to hang about the necks of their guests.

They are a simple people, loving flowers and music and poetry. Life has been too easy for them. The perfect climate and a prodigal nature have made the necessity of earning a livelihood one of the negligible things of life. The natives are not fitted to compete as laborers with Japanese and Chinese, or even with the Portuguese. They will not work in the cane fields. They cordially dislike hard work. With magnificent physiques and splendidly muscled bodies they lack endurance. One finds them employed now as sailors on the Inter-Island boats, as stoveboilers about the docks, and on all sorts of government work where they are given the preference over foreign-born residents.

Always great fishermen, they have permitted the Japanese to take all of the business away from them. At night one sees outside of Honolulu harbor, innumerable little night-riding lights marking the places of Japanese sampans, fishing busily all through the night. The Japanese took this trade away from the kanakas because they stuck to the work. When the native took a load of fish he would give a feast to his friends on the proceeds and loaf until he had spent all of his money. He didn't return to work until he felt the call for another supply of funds. Meanwhile the stalls in the fish market were bare of supplies.

Driving along the wonderful cliff road from Laupahoehoe to Hilo on the Island of Hawaii, we met a half a dozen or more smartly appointed wagons each drawn by two or four well-kept horses. They were driven by Japanese and carried passengers between these two points. All the passengers were Asiatic: Japanese, Chinese, or Koreans. Finally one of the men with us broke out, "Look at that, will you? That's the way the Japanese are driving the native and the American of these islands out of business. They will carry a passenger from Hilo to Laupahoehoe for one dollar while the American or the kanaka must charge five or six." You will have to fix your own moral to this tale. Personally, I find it extremely difficult to arouse any moral indignation against a hack driver, whatever his nationality, who charges me just one-fifth what his competitors demand for somewhat inferior service.

NO BASIS FOR ANTI-JAPANESE COMPLAINTS.

As a casual visitor to these islands one has no right to decided opinions, but honest impressions may be set down with impunity. This seems to be the whole basis of whatever complaint exists against the presence in these islands of a preponderating number of Japanese; that they will work for less money and perform an equal service. It must be borne in mind that if all of the Japanese in the islands were to leave today the Territory would be bankrupt unless a new supply of labor could be brought in at once. The Japanese do all the work in the cane fields, and the production of sugar is the mainstay and backbone of the country. The Japanese were brought here in such large numbers in the first place because they would work cheaply. Complaint comes because they do not stick to the cane fields where they would not compete with natives and Americans, and go into other lines of work or business.

Another complaint one hears frequently is that the Japanese are "cocky" and are carrying a chip on their shoulders since the war with Russia. "They feel that they are as good as anybody else," is one way of phrasing it. Truly, a terrible indictment to bring against anybody in an American community.

Resentment against the present "pushfulness" of the Japanese is probably sharpened by memories of the more defenceless position of the cane labor system under the old contract labor in the fields was bound by a long term contract to the plantation where he was employed. If he tried to leave the plantation he was pursued, captured, and brought back by the sheriff. In a manner of speaking, he was a prisoner, and the long arm of the law could be exercised to keep him where he belonged. It can be easily imagined that this did not make for the most considerate and thoughtful treatment from the field bosses. Unless all the stories one hears are lies, they used

to knock the men around a bit when they were displeased, or at the very least "cuss 'em out." Curious as it may seem, the present-day Japanese doesn't relish this sort of treatment, even though he be a coolie.

This problem of the races sketchily outlined here is one that Hawaii is engaged in solving. In all the transmutations and changes, the old-time native Hawaiian is losing his identity and disappearing.

HONOLULU, May 16.—Why San Francisco raised such an uproar over the presence in her public schools of half a score of Japanese children is more of a mystery than ever after visiting the public schools of Honolulu and the chief cities of the other islands. Here red, yellow, brown, and white children are taught side by side in one room. A little Chinese boy occupies the same seat with a bullet-headed lad who answers to the name McTavish. On another bench one finds a Korean and a Scandinavian studying from the same book; again, the Japanese and the Portuguese, share their luncheons and playthings. On one school here (the Kailani), where six hundred children are being taught, there is only one white child enrolled as a pupil—a little, fair-haired, blue-eyed American girl. In another school I came upon a young teacher of Hawaiian and Chinese parentage who told me that the forty children in her charge comprised eight races and nationalities. In all the schools the same conditions hold true.

Of all the agencies now engaged in Americanizing the islands of the Hawaiian group, the school impresses the casual analyst as the most potent factor for good. The schools leave a deeper impression on the mind of a visiting stranger than any of the other island institutions one has seen. The schools teach patriotism. Patriotic exercises are a part of each day's routine. A uniform exercise to teach the children love of country and love of flag has been devised by Miss Emma Lyons, a public-school teacher of Honolulu, and is used in all the schools throughout the island. At several of the schools visited the children were assembled in front of the school, the classes forming a circle about the flagpole. When the principal gave the order "Attention!" the boys removed their hats and all faced the flag as it was hoisted to the top of the pole. Then at a signal the children repeated in concert the following salutation, with right hand upraised and pointed toward the flag: "We give our heads and our hearts to God and our country! One country! One language! One flag!"

The sight is one to make the average American's blood run a little faster and stiffen his backbone. It is difficult to keep in check elation and pride, when one sees four or five hundred little Orientals, dressed for the most part in their native garb, repeating this salutation to the flag in a clear, childish treble, and with every indication of understanding the significance and meaning of the words they utter.

STATISTICS OF THE ISLAND SCHOOLS.

There is a uniform system of instruction in all of the public schools in the island. The latest reports available show that at the end of December, 1906, there were 151 public schools in the Territory, attended by 16,651 children, and sixty-two private schools, with a total enrollment of 5239. These 21,890 children comprised eleven distinct nationalities in addition to 199 pupils grouped under the head of "other foreigners."

At Wailuku, on the island of Maui, the members of the Congressional party were welcomed by a little Chinese girl, Ah Ing, who is but eleven years old. She wrote her own speech, and this is what she said:

"The teachers and pupils of the Wailuku school welcome you to our little island. We are glad that you take enough interest in us to come so many thousands of miles to see us. We hope that you will enjoy your visit with us, and that you will carry home pleasant recollections of Hawaii and the Hawaiians. Our parents are of many nationalities, but we are all good Americans. We are here in school not only studying reading, writing and arithmetic, but also learning lessons of patriotism and good citizenship, so that when we grow we may become useful citizens of our great and glorious country, whose flag floats over our school every day."

Banked on the steps back of her as she spoke was as diverse a group of nationalities as could be gathered anywhere in the world. A little Chinese girl in embroidered silk trousers stood beside a little red-headed, freckled-faced girl whose name should have been Judy Brannigan, even if it was not. Eucalyptus little square-headed Japanese urchins followed frailer Porto Ricans, so that they might have more room and a better opportunity to gaze at the visitors.

Of all the public-school pupils, 25 per cent. are Hawaiian, 23 per cent. Japanese, 19 per cent. Portuguese, 15 per cent. part Hawaiian, 9 per cent. Chinese, and 3 per cent. American. The remaining 6 per cent. come under the heading "all other nationalities." The nationalities of the teachers are equally scattered. Of 443 teachers in the public schools in 1906, 73 were Hawaiian, 107 part Hawaiian, 171 American, 41 British, 7 German, 23 Scandinavian, 8 Portuguese, 9 Chinese, and 4 whose nationalities are not specified. The significant thing in this group is the absence of any Japanese teachers.

Careful records are kept of the nationalities and mixtures of nationalities among the pupils. Teachers ask pupils coming into a grade for the first time, "What are you?" just as they ask the name and age. A Scotchman, a cashier in a bank in Honolulu, married to a San Francisco woman, told me that when his own little boy had been called upon at the beginning of the school year to answer this question, he had replied promptly: "Three-quarters Scotch and one-quarter white."

GOOD SCHOOL BUILDINGS.

In all the schools visited on the various islands it was a matter of surprise to find architecturally handsome, well-kept buildings, with modern appointments and fittings. The buildings were usually of brick or pebble dash, set in a large lawn with flower beds. The schoolrooms were almost invariably large, cool, airy, well lighted, provided with excellent blackboards, and in most of them copies of good pictures were hanging on the wall. Taken by and large, the New York city schools, except the newest ones, are not as good as the schools in such towns as Honolulu, Hilo, and Wailuku. In Honolulu there is a normal school where American teachers are instructing native Chinese, Portuguese and part-Hawaiian girls in the elements of pedagogy. These young women are doing an admirable work.

The general spirit of the Chinese pupils in Hawaii is shown in the following extract from a school paper written by a Chinese student in the Honolulu High School, and not intended for publication:

"The democratic Constitution of the United States suggested to the world other like policies of popular government for human prosperity and general welfare. * * * Theodore Roosevelt, 'the world's greatest champion of peace,' has saved the Hague tribunal from failure; has brought about the treaty of Portsmouth, and ended the Japanese-Russian war; has whiffed away the war cloud that hovered over the Venezuelan blockade affair; has supported the neutrality of China in the Japanese-Russian war; and has reminded Russia of the wrongs done to the Jews at Kishenev. * * * Our early heroes have built the temple of liberty, have built the temple of civilization and Christianity; they have laid the foundations for the temple of peace, dying in their struggle. The present civilized age considers it our duty to live for our country; to fight, not with weapons, but against the very weapons themselves. We must live to complete the temple of peace, for which the foundations have already been laid."

CHINESE LIKED BETTER THAN JAPANESE.

The Chinese are much better liked than the Japanese in Hawaii, because they have shown themselves much more susceptible to the genius of American institutions. Residents in the island call the Chinese honest and faithful, but many declare the Japanese to be tricky. In the public schools one is told that the Chinese children quickly become impregnated with American ideas and American ideals. The Chinese children become to know the meaning of patriotism and show a patriotic spirit. It is declared that this spirit of American patriotism they take back to China with them. Bishop Restarick affirms that the officers of a Chinese institution write back: "Your boys are leaders in studies, in sports, and societies for advancement of religious and civil life. They burn with zeal for China and they impart their spirit to others. They are Americanizing the Orient."

The Japanese on the other hand do not so readily accept American ideas and teachings of American patriotism. In many Japanese families in the islands, I am told, it is the custom to send the children to a Buddhist priest for instruction in the Japanese language and patriotic principles for an hour or two each day before the public schools open, and after they are dismissed for the day. On the road from Laupahoehoe to Hilo a specter was pointed out to us: A Japanese private school with an arm rack on the lanai filled with wooden guns, in plain view from the road.

EXPECTATION OF WAR WITH JAPAN.

Nearly every one in Hawaii seems to feel that the United States will have a war with Japan in the coming five or ten years. Nearly every man you meet professes to believe that Japan has designs on Hawaii, and that at the first signs of hostilities the Japanese on the islands will rise and take possession of the towns and fortifications and of the islands. This prevalent belief accounts in large part for what feeling exists against the Japanese. To quote Bishop Restarick again, from an article in the Independent:

"Still the Japanese are influenced, the women especially impressed, with the conditions of women here. 'I like Hawaii,' I heard one Japanese woman say to my wife. 'In Japan, he up high, woman down low; in Hawaii, woman she up high, too, all same man.' The children also, when they go back to Japan, as perhaps most of them do, will take some of the Americanizing which they have gained here, and it will not be lost. What makes all our work so important here is that under peculiarly favorable conditions we have an opportunity of teaching the Orientals something which they could not gain in their own lands. It will all tell, and is telling, in the uplifting of the race."

The first white people who went from the United States to Hawaii were of the best type of men and women produced in this country. They left their homes and made the long and dangerous journey to these islands impelled by an unselfish desire to teach and uplift the native. From the beginning their influence was for good, and is felt to this day.

HELPED JAP CELEBRATION.

Dr. Goodhue and Superintendent McVeigh contributed to the Japanese Emperor's birthday celebration at Kalaupapa, Molokai, assisting financially. The affair was an old-style function and the most interesting feature was the construction of a miniature Russian man-of-war so arranged with fireworks that it was blown up after floating a while.

Dr. Rogers was called to Maui yesterday and will return Thursday morning.

Old Sores Cured by "THE HOUSEHOLD SURGEON"
Druggists refund money if DR. PORTER'S ANTISEPTIC HEALING OIL fails.—Made by PARIS MEDICINE CO., Saint Louis, U. S. A. *

ANOTHER ISLAND TO BE LEASED

A whole island is to be offered for lease.

Land Commissioner Pratt is about to offer a lease of the island of Lehua, which is off the northwesterly point of Nihaun and distant but a short distance from it. The island contains 277 acres more or less. The lease is offered at an upset rental of \$25 a year with conditions that the lessee shall clear off the lantana, shall protect the birds there, and shall use reasonable precaution to prevent fishing by the use of dynamite in the waters around the island.

The lease is offered on the application of Gay & Robinson who own Nihaun, and complain that Japanese have been in the habit of making that island a landing place, and a base of operations against the flocks of sheep on Nihaun, descending by night on the flocks and making forays on the other live stock of Nihaun. Also, it is claimed that they kill the birds on the island for their plumage, and fish with dynamite in the surrounding waters.

HERE AT HOME

Honolulu Citizens Gladly Testify and Confidently Recommend Doan's Kidney Pills.

It is testimony like the following that has placed Doan's Backache Kidney Pills so far above competitors. When people right here at home raise their voice in praise there is no room left for doubt.

Mrs. N. Joseph living at the corner of Liliha and King streets, Honolulu, states as follows: "I was troubled for seven months with a lame back, and also suffered from occasional attacks of chills. These various complaints made my condition by no means a happy one, so that I much desired some remedy which would bring relief. This I found in Doan's Backache Kidney Pills, some of which I obtained at the Hollister Drug Co.'s store. I am pleased to say that they gave me not merely temporary but permanent relief and I have not the least hesitancy therefore in recommending Doan's Backache Kidney Pills. They are a good kidney medicine."

Doan's Backache Kidney Pills are for sale by all dealers at 50 cents per box, (six boxes \$2.50). Mailed by the Hollister Drug Co., Ltd., Honolulu, wholesale agents for the Hawaiian Islands.

TAX APPEAL COURT DECIDES IN TWO CASES

Two decisions were handed down by the Tax Appeal Court yesterday. One of them was the appeal of G. J. Walker, Mellicie Huestace, L. T. Peck, L. L. McCandless, D. Dayton, B. R. Banning, S. W. Wilcox, G. N. Wilcox, August Dreier, Bruce Cartwright, Mary E. Foster, August Ahrens, Sing Chong & Co., James B. Castle and W. R. Castle, from the assessment of their stock in the First National Bank. The decision is as follows:

"This is an appeal from the assessment made by the Tax Assessor on shares of stock of the First National Bank of Hawaii, Ltd., held by the respective stockholders named above. "Under the views set forth in decision of this court in the similar appeal of M. P. Robinson and Cecil Brown v. the Tax Assessor, which decision was sustained by the Supreme Court of the Territory on appeal, the claim of the appellants herein for exemption from taxation on their respective holdings of stock of the First National Bank of Hawaii, Ltd., is sustained."

The other decision is on the appeal of the Honolulu Rapid Transit Company from the refusal of the Assessor to allow them their claim for depreciation. The decision is as follows:

"This is an appeal by the Honolulu Rapid Transit & Land Co. from the ruling of the Tax Assessor who disallowed the amount of \$23,244, claimed by the appellant as a proper deduction from gross income under the head of depreciation. Except as to amount of depreciation the claim and issue at law is the same as represented to the Supreme Court of the Territory in the appeal of the Honolulu Rapid Transit & Land Co., decided October 17th, 1906, (18 Haw. M. P. 15), and the decision therein given that the depreciation claimed by the appellants was not deductible is followed by this court, and the deduction of \$23,244, claimed in this case, is disallowed."

A TEACHERS' ROOM.

Superintendent of Public Instruction Babbitt has arranged a teachers' room at the office of the Board of Education. Here will be kept on file the educational periodicals received by the board, as well as current issues of the local publications.

Arranged and catalogued will also be found all the books on educational subjects received by the board. The new text books, the supplementary reading matter and all such matters of interest. The room is for the use of the teachers, to keep in touch with the current literature of their profession and it is hoped that it will be freely availed of by the teachers.