

HAWAIIAN GAZETTE

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WALTER G. SMITH, Editor.

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FRIDAY : : : : : MAY 8

A HEALTH SERMON.

By Lorrin A. Thurston.

"Give us this day our daily work."

—Text from the Philistine.

The Honolulu man, and more particularly the Honolulu woman, may well transpose this into "give us this day our daily exercise."

Exercise is the price of health in Honolulu.

It is proverbial that life in Honolulu is hard on women. To a less degree, the same is true with men from a colder climate. They lose appetite, become pale, thin, headachy, hollow-chested and bloodless, while nervous prostration stalks in the backyard, and a trip to the Coast to get a sniff of colder air is prescribed by the doctor.

A trip to the Coast is all right. A change of scene and environment is good for the soul and mind, as well as the body; but good health in Honolulu does not require going beyond the sound of the fire whistle.

Incidentally, living on the flats with their dead, stagnant night air, instead of getting back into the pure, fresh air of the valleys and foothills, is responsible for much of "that tired feeling," but that's another story.

A torpid liver is the personal devil which destroys more peace and happiness in Honolulu homes than does gin or politics, and they are bad enough.

Exercise! Intelligent and frequent exercise, is the sine qua non of good health in Honolulu!

It is a fact that there is less sickness and death among the children, who live in sanitary homes, in Honolulu, than in any other spot on the globe. Why? Because they exercise! exercise! exercise! Day in and day out the year round, they are playing, running, swimming, riding, boating, tramping mountain trails, breathing God's fresh air and keeping their livers active. As a result, they are strong, healthy, active, athletic. As swimmers, rowers and athletes, the average Honolulu boy is a thousand per cent. superior to the average boy on the mainland, primarily because of his all-the-year-round free outdoor active life.

Why are not adults, under the same conditions, as healthy as the children in Honolulu?

Is it laziness? It is not. The talk about Honolulu business men leading a dolce far niente-get-up-late-and-quit-early life is all poppycock. The average Honolulu man works harder and longer hours than the average mainland. In fact, this is the chief trouble with him. He has gotten into a rut, which runs via the street car or an automobile to his office, and back to his home. Some can stand this, but the majority cannot.

What's to be done about it?

The first thing to be done about it is to bring home to each man and woman in Honolulu a realizing sense of the fact that as to nine-tenths of them, their ills and weaknesses are their own fault.

Children exercise without thought, will or effort, because they are possessed of the life and ginger of youth, which impels them to motion in spite of themselves.

It requires more moral courage to make a man exercise in Honolulu than to make him be good in New York, or be a political agitator in St. Petersburg, and that's putting it mildly, too. But that is just what is needed. Moral courage to say, "health before wealth!" Horse sense to say, "If I spend an hour at golf to-day, I will accomplish more in an hour tomorrow than I will in two if I stay in the office"—and not only to say it, but to act on it!

The agitation which Alexander Hume Ford is carrying on in favor of outdoor exercise and sports is of the utmost value to this community. It has resulted in the formation of the Outrigger Club, with an active membership of nearly two hundred, to foster the heroic sport of surf-board and surf-scooter riding. It is now being directed toward the organization of a walking club, and the opening up of mountain trails through the incomparable beauties of our nearby mountains. All strength to Mr. Ford's elbow. That way lies health, and that means as well, wealth, progress and development—a better Honolulu and better people in it.

THE COUNTY FINANCES.

Whatever may be thought of the legislative actions of the Oahu Board of Supervisors otherwise, credit must be given the members for the satisfactory financial showing that Treasurer Trent is able to make at the end of each month, especially in view of the reports of debt and suspended public works from some of the other island counties. The month of April closed with a very satisfactory balance of cash on hand of \$38,022.53, some \$9000 less than the balance at the beginning of the month, in the general fund. In addition to this, in the special road-tax fund, there remained in the treasurer's hands \$32,429.58, credited in various amounts to the five different road districts.

The exact reason for hoarding this road money and appropriating for a part of the road work from the general fund is difficult to get at, but it is the policy conceived by Chairman Hestace and urged by him at every meeting of the Board. This money in the special fund cannot be used for any other purpose than for the road building and maintenance, and, knowing this restriction on its use, it would seem best on first thoughts to use it all and allow the general fund balance to profit, that money being available for any use, including that of road work. There might come an occasion when the county would have to slink into the balance of money available, and under the present system the Board would find itself with a large part of its funds tied up and unavailable except for the one specific purpose. There may be some very good reason for holding back a large part of the road tax money, but if there is it has been kept concealed by the ones who have knowledge of it.

THE CUBAN SUGAR CROP.

Consul-General James L. Rodgers of Havana states that the estimates on the sugar crop of Cuba have fallen below 1,000,000 tons and only the most optimistic cling to the hope of that amount. Under a recent date he reviews the market and its effect on business in part as follows:

"The great majority of planters and others vitally interested assert that 850,000 tons will represent the possible maximum and 850,000 tons the minimum. There is good reason for believing that 900,000 tons is not too low an estimate. The latest sugar crop statement, which contains absolute verification of the great deficiency, shows a falling off of nearly 40 per cent. in the 1908 shipments and stock, as compared with those of 1907 on the similar date, March 1. If the same ratio of loss is maintained, the volume of the 1908 crop would be somewhat below 900,000 tons.

"The effect of this realization of the size of the sugar crop and the knowledge that there has been little gain in price to the various producers on account of their financial necessities has already had a serious effect upon business and the revenues of the government are decreasing in sympathy, while many business men consider the general outlook uncertain and unpromising. The wholesale merchants say they are not importing in the usual volume because they have not the money and because the country storekeepers are, through caution, refusing to purchase goods. The general opinion is certainly that this will be a bad business year in Cuba, and that 1909 may be worse."

The debate on the immigration bill, in which the Delegate figured to some slight extent, is given much space in today's issue. Mr. Walker, the Advertiser's Washington correspondent, thinks the measure might have had a chance if Congressman Hepburn had not been ill. That doughty champion, whose influence is as strongly cast for Hawaii as it is for his own district, has saved many a battle for these islands and if he succeeds Cannon as speaker we shall have almost as much right as Iowa to feel good over it.

Would it not be a good plan to cable Secretary Metzger an invitation to come down here with the fleet?

WHY KOCH IS COMING.

When the brief cabled announcement was published of the plan of Dr. Robert Koch, the great bacteriologist, to come to Hawaii, there was general speculation as to the reasons for his visit. None of the local medical authorities knew of any special reason why the discoverer of the phthisis bacilli should come here, although it was generally supposed that it was to make some first-hand investigation into the leprosy question. All the guesses appear to have been wrong, however. Dr. Koch is coming to Honolulu to have a rest, where he will not be bothered by his friends, and where the newspaper reporters respect privacy and an inclination for seclusion. This is presented from the following despatch from Chicago, which told of the departure of the scientist from the Windy City for the West. It says:

CHICAGO, April 16.—"I am literally driven from Chicago, where I came on Monday for a week's rest, by ever-solicitous friends and citizens and newspaper reporters," testily declared Dr. Robert Koch, the German scientist.

He packed his five large trunks and had them shipped to St. Louis by express, tagged "Hold till called for within two or three weeks," paid his bill, bundled his wife and his brother from St. Louis into a carriage and a cab, and was driven to the Union station, where he boarded a train for Milwaukee.

Milwaukee evidently did not meet Dr. Koch's ethical requirements, hence his decision to come to Hawaii, where the wicked reporters cease from troubling, where the Chamber of Commerce never asks distinguished visitors to talk, where nobody is lionized, and the weary are at rest.

SWIMMING.

In that part of the East where the swimming season has begun, the newspapers are full of advice to learn the nautical art before you fall overboard and need it. Every time a drowning accident occurs the press harps on the same string: "Learn to swim! learn to swim! How few would ever be drowned if everyone knew how to be a top-minnow on occasion. Learn to swim!"

It is advice of moment which we never heard a Honolulu paper give. In these sea-girt islands one would as soon urge people to learn to eat as to learn to swim. It would be a work of supererogation. Swimming comes by nature in our buoyant and summer seas, and that is the reason why drowning accidents among the young are so uncommon. Who can remember one? Such things are happening all the time in country districts of the East, but the drowning accidents of Hawaii are mostly among men who wander, with uncertain steps at night on the waterfront, and who are incapacitated for swimming even if they know how. The majority of victims are sailors.

Hawaiians have been swimmers from immemorial times, and it is natural that white people, coming among them to live, should learn the art. Then, again, the climate impels one to the cool plunge, and in the safe shallows within the reef children splash about without fear, and soon catch the knack. They never have cramps. They meet no undertows. The sharks never come within the coral barrier, and all is well; and so it follows that the younger generation grows up almost as much at home in the water as on the grass and sand.

BROWN REDIVIVUS.

One of the results of the Democratic fight on Iaukea, is the recrudescence of Brown. The latter, though he has not formally placed himself in the field as a candidate for the nomination of Sheriff, has agents out among the Hawaiians getting their support. The plea is that he used to be easy with them. He saw to it that they were not arrested for small offenses, and if arrested for offenses not so small were let down nicely by the failure of police testimony to convict. Under Brown the feelings of the Tenderloin were respected; there was no ban on saloons and "games of chance," and the town was pleasantly and comfortably open. That is the sort of pabulum which is being fed the Hawaiian voters, and not without effect.

While doubtful, indeed, that Brown could make headway against Iaukea, the friends of the ex-Sheriff believe he could have a walk-over against Jarrett. They think that the independent Republicans would not vote at all in such an emergency, thus leaving the Republican machine to overcome the Democratic minority and put Brown back in that much-coveted \$175 job. And when one thinks it all over, the plea does not seem devoid of merit.

Anyway, if it came to the pass whether Republican spoilsmen or Democratic spoilsmen were to run Honolulu for all there is in it, a self-respecting voter would be in a like predicament with the hungry man who was left to choose between two rotten apples.

JAPANESE TASTES CHANGING.

There was a time, according to a recent consular report, when milk was regarded in Japan with the same abhorrence as cheese is in China, especially the pungent and strong smelling variety. Recent statistics, however, show that time has worked a great change in this respect, and milk and butter are now in great favor in Japan, whereas twenty-five years ago not more than one or two per cent. of the persons visiting a European restaurant or eating a European meal at a friend's house, would have thought of touching butter, fully forty or fifty per cent. now eat it with a relish. They are, however, quite content to do without it.

As to dairy farms, they have increased notably in recent years. Butter, however, is a by-product at these places. It is to milk that they look for their profit. Milk has a curious history in that country. Thirty or forty years ago it was abhorred. The average Japanese could not induce himself to drink it. But today many a household consumes one or two bottles of milk daily, partly because people have come to like it, and partly because the doctors have recommended it as a unique and wholesome beverage. "Milk halls," too, are now quite numerous. Butter will probably take much longer to come widely into vogue, because of its expensiveness. A pound of fresh butter costs at least one yen (49.8c gold) in Tokio today, an extremely high price for Japan.

To account for nearly sixteen months' delay in the trial of Lee Let, the Star finds that, out of more than fifty opportunities to bring the case up, three only were lost by the opponents of Lee Let. Once a witness was away with the Congressional party, once Chief Taylor asked for a postponement on behalf of his attorney, and now the Chief is at San Francisco, or on the sea, and the matter is waiting his return. The Star remembers to forget the months and months of delay chargeable to the County Attorney, and the further fact that he finally dropped the prosecution of Lee Let altogether. We have no doubt that, if the Advertiser had not kept hammering away, the case would have had the same surreptitious and pressing the Duvauchelle case received. But there is light ahead. The Attorney-General has taken the matter in hand and Lee Let will be brought to bar. Meanwhile, if the Star has any more comments to offer, it may as well make them. They won't disturb the course of justice if they are no more discerning than those already made.

While the present charge of graft in the police department amounts to nothing and if it did would not, in the slightest degree, implicate the Sheriff or the Chief of Detectives, we have already shown how easily a species of graft might be encouraged by the neglect to prosecute or the abuse of the power to mold pros. But there is still another reason for such an unfortunate result. The public will remember that, when the new police came into office the present Board of Supervisors interfered to keep Iaukea from discharging all the old force. It demanded that a large number of Republicans—Brown-Vida men—should be kept on the rolls; and, as the Supervisors had the power to withhold appropriations and otherwise to cripple Iaukea, the latter let them stay. We have always had our misgivings as to what might come of it.

Ella Wheeler Wilcox, carried away with the necessities of the occasion, in an interview with the Los Angeles Examiner recently, declared that Southern California was the one spot on this globe that she longed to dwell in, this being the dream she dreamed and the hope she hoped and a few other things. Something like this was said by the poetess concerning Honolulu not so very long ago. In fact, Honolulu is not altogether forgotten, as she qualified her praise of the Los Angeles environment by stating that "it lacks that indescribable charm that for me is found only in the tropics—like Jamaica and Honolulu."

In the face of the admitted fact that the delays in the Lee Let trial have been practically all allowed to suit the convenience of the complaining witness, Chief of Detectives Taylor, and his counsel, it is not fair to charge them against the county attorney.—Star.

Who admits it?

Bishop Harris may have been in no danger at any time but if he was, the warnings given him, both from Tokio and Honolulu, may have saved his life. They certainly brought the Bishop quick and adequate protection from the United States government and made the Koreans understand what was in store for them if they tried to assassinate him.

AMERICA'S TRADE WITH JAPANESE

(Advertiser Correspondence, Copyright by Frederic J. Haskin.)

YOKOHAMA, April 23.—War, or any other cause, which would interrupt trade relations between Japan and the United States would immediately paralyze the internal business economy of this country. The United States is Japan's best customer, and takes one-third of all it has to sell. These exports which go to American markets are almost all the product of Japanese labor, and the increasing trade with the United States means more employment at higher wages. Any interruption of this trade will spell disaster to the common people of Japan, and it is not too much to say that, in a material way, Japan's very life depends upon the maintenance of good commercial relations with the United States. The folly of a Japanese governmental policy which might tend to lessen the export business to America is too apparent to require notice.

Yokohama ranks third among the ports of the world in the amount of exports shipped to the United States, Paris being first and London second. The most important item of export is silk. This product strikingly illustrates the Japanese dependency upon the United States, because the recent Wall Street panic was more disastrous in its results in Japan than at home, owing to the falling off in demand for raw silk for the New Jersey factories. The warehouses here are choked with bales of silk that long ago should have been on their way to America. Capital to the extent of \$35,000,000 is tied up in this way.

Notwithstanding this temporary dullness, the future of the silk business in Japan is bright. If politics or war do not interrupt, the United States will renew its old demand and Japan will prosper. Domestic conditions in Japan are peculiarly adapted to the successful production of silk. In most silk countries only one crop of mulberry leaves can be obtained in a season, but in Japan there are three crops. Large tracts of rough volcanic land, entirely worthless for other purposes, are adapted to raising mulberry shrubs, and eventually will be put to this use. Much of this land is located around the base of Fujiyama, Japan's sacred mountain. Cheap labor is another advantage Japan enjoys over other silk-producing countries. Here the farmer raises silk worms as a side line, the women and children gathering the leaves and feeding the ravenous little worms that make the silk.

Tea is the second item of importance in the exports from Japan to America, but the future of this business is not so promising. For several years past there has been a marked falling off in the volume of the shipments, and there is still a general feeling of depression in the trade. The causes of this stagnation seem to be the strong competition of Ceylon and Formosa, and the unfair business methods of the Japanese firms.

Although Japanese porcelain has a market in all parts of the world, the United States is a much larger consumer than any other country; in fact, almost half the porcelain shipped from the port of Yokohama goes to America. This is another industry that probably will have a large development because of its adaptation to local conditions. The artistic temperament of the Japanese workmen makes them very skillful decorators, and wages are extremely low, because the business is conducted as a household industry. While most of the work is done by hand, one large machine plant has been installed. This modern factory employs four thousand operatives, and its entire output goes to the American market in competition with the cheap products of Germany.

Most of the tooth brushes used in the United States are made by women and girls in country homes in the vicinity of Osaka. The bone used in the manufacture of these brushes is brought from Chicago, the wood from China, and the bristles from Russia. The reason that this has become the center of such an industry, in the absence of all the raw materials needed, is the abundance of cheap labor. Workers may be had for ten cents a day.

Another branch of home industry that is steadily increasing is the manufacture of certain kinds of linen goods. The material for these articles is imported from Great Britain, sent to the country districts of Japan, where men, women and children do the embroidery and draw-work on it, after which it frequently finds its way back to the country of its origin. This work is very highly prized for ladies' waists, and the country people who tediously work out the exquisite patterns earn from five to fifteen cents a day. While this may strike an American as starvation wages, it is quite the contrary in rural Japan. The natives are very deaf in this kind of needle work and their habits of living are extremely frugal. When all the members of a large family are given employment, their total income rises to an amount that is considerable, when judged by Oriental standards. About \$2,000,000 worth of this work finds its way into the United States every year.

A new item in the exports from Japan to the United States is lumber. There are extensive forests of hard woods, both in northern and southern Japan, and lumber from them can be laid down in California in large quantities at lower cost than Oregon pine. This imported lumber is used for railroad ties, for making furniture, and also for building cars. The oak ties from the Japanese forests are far superior to the Pacific soft pine. While the importation of these hardwoods is only in its infancy it is expected that the Pacific Coast will draw quite heavily upon the Japanese supply in the future.

The principal items that the United States sells to Japan are cotton, flour, kerosene and manufactured products of iron and steel. There is no likelihood of a falling off in the demand for any of these, unless it may be flour. Although the Japanese have acquired large areas of good wheat land in Korea and Manchuria, and are buying quantities of modern milling machinery, it is a question whether their development along this line will be in excess of the increase of consumption.

When it comes to direct competition there is one point in favor of the American millers which it is claimed the Japanese cannot overcome. Sometimes American flour sells by the barrel for a price no greater than what the raw wheat costs. On its face this would seem to mean that the millers are working for nothing, but they realize a profit from utilizing the by-products of shorts and bran. The Japanese have no way of doing this, because they have no stock to feed it to. The Japanese have endeavored to equalize this condition by imposing a tariff duty on flour. At a recent exposition in Japan the Canadian millers were on hand baking bread and giving it away to the crowds as an education in the use of flour. Someone asked where were the bustling Yankees. The reply was that the demand for American flour was so great that there was no need of giving any of it away in exploitation. The enormous consumption of flour in Japan is all the more remarkable when it is remembered that thirty years ago nobody in Japan ate bread, and few had ever heard of it. There is no word in the language for bread, and one has been borrowed from France. The conversion of many of the people from rice eating to bread eating is one of the most striking sociological features of the new era in this country.

Other important items among the American imports to Japan are oil, wax, paper, leather, tools, machinery, chemicals, rubber goods, cars, wheels, leaf tobacco, drugs, electrical apparatus, engines and boilers, machine tools and watches. Thus it will be seen that the bulk of American trade in Japan is of such a character that there is no immediate possibility of a decrease in demand. In fact, the varied character of Japan's manufacturing enterprises, and the extensive scale on which they are planned, will stimulate rather than depress many lines of American goods.

One important exception must be made to the foregoing statement, however, and that is in regard to cotton goods. The Japanese undoubtedly intend to supplant the American cotton goods trade in Manchuria, Korea and North China if they can, and the American manufacturers will have to exercise the utmost vigilance to protect the great trade they have developed in this field. In their efforts to attract the Chinese trade for Japanese-made cotton yarns, the Japanese spinners have taken advantage of the great national fault of the Chinese—gambling. The cotton mills at Osaka send bales of cotton yarn into the Chinese markets with the statement that in some of these bales will be found prize tickets which will entitle the holder to a handsome sum of money. A Chinaman takes to a lottery as a duck to water, and the effect was to boom Japanese trade. But as the Chinese toasts and mandarin live altogether by the conduct of official lotteries, they scented a Japanese competitor and have forbidden the importation of cotton yarns with prize tickets attached.

Serious as the other nations may regard Japan's attempts to corner the market for her products in Chinese territory, a nation so poor in natural raw resources cannot maintain an attitude of commercial exclusion. Japan must have foreign trade to live, and nobody knows better than the Japanese business man that the United States is the biggest and most profitable factor in that life-sustaining trade. Whatever the military clique may think or do, the business men and the laboring men of Japan will oppose to the last ditch any governmental program which might result in a cessation of exports to the United States.

CHE-FA BANKERS AND RUNAWAY WIVES

Two well-known che-fa workers went over to the reef yesterday, Maruyama and Shibata being fined \$150 apiece, which they were unable to pay. Business has been poor, apparently, for the Japanese che-fa banks, neither defendant yesterday having a lawyer to look after him, the result being that both went on the stand and gave testimony in their own behalf that was termed rank perjury by Judge Andrade. Their stories were neither ingenious nor well told, one swearing that the tickets found in his house had been brought there just before the arrival of the raiding officers by some child whom he knew not and to whom he did not speak. The other told a story equally absurd, while both swore that they did not know each other nor Sagami, who is credited with being the head of the hit.

The evidence of the police officers was clear, while the riddle books, the account books and the tickets of the bank were produced in evidence.

This was the most important case of the thirty-eight with which the magistrate was called upon to deal, while the next in importance went over to May 13. This is a case in which three Chinese women and a Chinaman are concerned, two of the women being runaway wives. The women are on trial on a charge of leading vicious lives. It was at first suspected that they were being held as slaves in the dive in which they were found, but investigation has disproved that. It is probable that the two married women will have to face Federal grand jury indictments.

Frank Peterson came up to answer his twenty-seventh charge of drunkenness and was given thirty days. Johan Davis, who has some fewer convictions against him for the same offense, will keep Frank company for twenty days.

Two boys, Louis Costa and Naen Wiley, were sent to the Reform School.

STRAUS ARRIVES IN MANILA.

"Do you want Straus?" was the text of a message received by the local police yesterday from the authorities in Manila, evidence of the arrival in the Philippines capital of the Honolulu attorney ex Sherman. Straus went on board the transport here and went to sleep, according to wireless wafted back after the smoke of the steamer had been lost off Barber's Point. His arrival in the Philippines evidently created a sensation, but assurances that Straus is not wanted in Honolulu have been cabled and he is now doubtless enjoying himself after his involuntary trip.