

HAWAIIAN GAZETTE

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SHUSTER'S LETTER TO THE TIMES.

It was a letter to the London Times that turned the international limelight upon William Morgan Shuster, the American who, until yesterday, was filling the post of treasurer-general in Persia, and which brought down upon him the wrath of the Russian Bear.

Mr. Shuster's famous letter to The Thunderer was answered editorially by that journal. The Russian answer was sent to the writer in the shape of bayonets. His letter, in part, was:

"Much as I dislike this class of controversy, still the importance of the subject, my belief in the fair-mindedness of the British public and in the desire of your journal to be entirely just, and a slight regard for my own reputation lead me to address you this letter, with the request that you give it due publicity in your columns. It is but a relation of certain facts and incidents which have either come under my personal observation or are of official record during the past five months of my stay in Teheran.

"I arrived here on May 12 last, with three American assistants, and with but one object in view—to do a fairly creditably piece of constructive work on behalf of Persia's finances.

"On June 13 the medjlis passed a law, drafted by me, conferring on the treasurer-general plenary powers in matters fiscal. The law was a public one, voted after full and open discussion, and was manifestly designed to bring some order out of the pitiable state of chaos into which Persia's finances had fallen. The Persian cabinet and medjlis had almost unanimously approved it. One might expect that foreign Powers in interest here would gladly have done likewise. Unfortunately they did not. Direct legal proof, of course, being lacking, I nevertheless assert that there is ample documentary evidence of a circumstantial nature to show that there was a deliberate agreement between a number of foreign legations here, headed by the Russian legation, to defeat my execution of that law and to thwart the general system of centralization of collections, payments, and accounting prescribed thereunder.

He then proceeds to recite in detail the incidents which have led him to the conclusions that form the charge made against both England and Russia, but Russia comes in for the greatest part of his criticism.

The concluding part of Mr. Shuster's article is probably as much responsible for Russia's anger as the various "instances" cited. He says:

"Some one may here be tempted to ask what all this has to do with finance, and with the financial regeneration of Persia. If so, let the answer be that no one who has been in Persia a week can fail to realize that all possibility of reforming Persia's finances is absolutely dependent upon the prompt restoration of order throughout the Empire and the creation and maintenance of a strong central government, powerful enough to make itself felt and its decrees respected to the furthestmost parts of the country. So long as the present policy of thwarting the upbuilding of such a government continues—so long as it is the manifest attitude of the Powers to nullify all serious efforts on one pretext or another (but always selfish) and to ruin the government's prestige in the eyes of the Persian people themselves, meanwhile keeping the country in a state of financial collapse—just that long will any efforts at financial regeneration be as unavailing as certain documents written on the sands of temporary advantage or as promises of a neutrality which does not neutralize.

"The internal difficulties of Persia are great enough to tax her resources to the uttermost limit; they alone will retard her progress for many years. If to them we are to add flagrant bullying by outsiders, varied by 'finger-on-the-nose' diplomacy, the situation is very bad.

"If money is to be obtained for permanent improvements, it must be taken on impossible political terms; if railroads are to be built, they must be counterminous with our old friends 'the spheres of influence'; if rifles are to be bought, they must be paid for to a rich and friendly foreign government at just three times their market price; if officers of experience are to be taken into the Persian service to hasten progress, they must come from a minor Power, or prove themselves to have been of the spineless, nerveless type of which the tools of foreign interests are produced; even if they are from a minor Power, there must not be so many of them taken as to indicate a serious attempt at reform.

"Surely in these days of humanitarian principles and international comity the land of Cyrus has fallen upon evil times.

"However, even the ragged misery of the beggar and his indifference to fate does not justify us in giving him a gratuitous kick.

"The incidents and facts cited in this letter do not constitute one-third of those with which I am familiar; they are merely typical, and if any one doubts the facts the documentary evidence is available to substantiate them and many more of the same style.

"I therefore venture to hope that with the knowledge of these cases before it the Times, with that spirit of fairness for which it is noted, will withdraw the opinion expressed in its leading article of October 18 to the effect that my statements as to the attitude of certain Powers toward Persia were unjust and unfounded."

FOOLS STILL FLOURISH IN FULL FORCE.

Hawaii hasn't all the fools on earth regarding health matters, by any means. On the mainland now a number of editors are driving away about the hardship that has been inflicted on "Typhoid Mary" by keeping her imprisoned for three years and releasing her only under pledge not to resume her occupation as a cook. Heads are being held up in holy horror at the idea of having deprived a woman of freedom for three years when her only crime has been to scatter death among those who employed her, and the Constitution and the guaranteed rights of citizens and the other old familiar airs are being rebuked. "Typhoid Mary" has proved to be, although no one places the responsibility upon her personally or credits her with any harmful intention, the means of having carried death in the shape of typhoid germs into a number of homes. Her system incubated typhoid germs and she couldn't help it. She had committed no crime, but for the benefit of the public she had to be placed where she could not be a menace. Now she wants \$50,000 for false imprisonment, and, if the strict letter of the law is followed by the courts, she will probably get it.

Typhoid Mary was the sympathy of a number of newspaper writers on the mainland. If she were in Honolulu she would have the sympathy and active support of some of the local writers, who would arise to the occasion to ask with a smile for the man who has seen a typhoid germ, and demand proof that it was not Mary's little tooth which had killed the folks to death. If Mary were a lawyer, now, and here, plain to see, the marks of that deadly disease, she would get no sympathy at all, but would be greeted with a host of protest if allowed at large. But, as she carries her death in an invisible form, the medical men who have ordered her detention are denounced by the thick-skulled members of the bar as "barbaric" and "un-Christian" and "un-American."

As a part of their law, but every shift in this community who have their heads submerged in Honolulu had no idea of yellow fever in the land that there was no epidemic system and who just in their complete ignorance

because the Ad-Action, having its production on what has happened elsewhere, warned the community that an epidemic of yellow fever probably would result in twenty thousand deaths. The prevalent ideas of some have now reached the point where they rely on the fact that this paper is disappointed because the advent of yellow fever was accompanied by such fortunate circumstances and met with such promptness that all infection was prevented and not a death occurred.

To such an extent has the original folly of those who began by criticizing the citizens' committee, that one of the dailies of this city, formerly sanely edited and possessing a fair amount of prestige and influence among thinking people, has blared forth as a leader of the ignorant mobocracy, in outdoing the fishmarket blatherers in abuse of the constituted authority, has announced that it will train alongside of Kanika, Wise, Soap Box Barron, Nobby Ryan, Past Due Mills and the dupes who remain over from the Wallace and Atchafley days.

Hawaii hasn't all the fools on earth regarding health matters, by any means, but we have our full share, and the shame of it is that among them are found a few of the men of whom better things had been expected and whose defection has been a loss to the thinking part of the community working for better and saner government as a means of preserving the territorial autonomy.

HONOLULU CHINESE CABLE A STRONG PROTEST TO KNOX

An earnest Christmas Eve appeal to the government of the United States not to allow the monarchies of Asia and Europe to step in and rob the republicans of China of the fruits of their victory was cabled to Secretary of State Knox last night by the Chinese of Honolulu. The appeal they made, based on the cabled intelligence in The Advertiser that Japan and Great Britain had determined to intervene and prevent the abolishment of the Manchu Throne, is a strong one and one which should touch an answering chord in the breast of every American.

The Honolulu Chinese are intensely excited at the news from the seat of war, so excited that a mass meeting called hurriedly yesterday for last night was one of the most largely attended in the history of Honolulu Chinatown. While the rest of the nationalities of Honolulu were celebrating the coming of Christmas, with laughs and cheers, confetti and horns, the Chinese were gathered for the stern purpose of assisting their fellow republicans in war so far as they are able.

"Remember," says the cabled resolution, "that the blood shed by the Republicans in China is as sacred in the cause of liberty as the blood of the patriots shed at Bunker Hill and Bennington."

The resolution, adopted unanimously, as cabled to the Secretary of State, in full, is:

The Resolution.

"The twenty thousand Chinese residents of the Hawaiian Islands, know-

AN ENGINEER'S SHATTERED HOPES; BEING THE TALE OF A SHIN BONE

This is a yarn. Make no mistake about this. It is not a story, nor yet a narrative, nor even a tale, but because of its salty flavor it is a yarn. Also, it is true. If you doubt it ask the chief engineer of the good steamer Columbian. But be prepared to run when you ask, for he has not yet recovered from the tumbling of his hopes.

W. M. Parke, that is the engineer's name, is a seaman by vocation, an engineer by force of circumstances and an angler by avocation. In other words and without being too wordy, he fishes whenever and wherever he can grab an opportunity by the three front al hairs and make the jade gut busy. It is not that he is hungry—the American-Hawaiian boats feed well, it is said, especially in the engineer's mess—but he yearns to feel that thrill that comes over the body and bones of a true fisherman when he hauls from the briny a struggling, squirming, kicking fish.

Generally, Chief Engineer Parke has noteworthy luck. His tales of his conquests over the finny tribes are many and most, oh! most accurate. But on occasion his vaunting ambition o'erleaps itself and—but that is the yarn.

It happened at Port Allen not so many days ago. The ship was at rest so far as the engineer was concerned.

He had tasted all the delights of going ashore at Port Allen. So he went fishing. Getting out his worn tackle he proceeded to an advantageous spot on the poop deck and dropped his line into the turbid waters over side. The sun—it happened not to be raining—beat upon him and flies buzzed. The ship sweated getting on board some of its cargo of sugar, but none of these things bothered the chief engineer. Eagerly he leaned over the rail and gazed darkly and more darkly at the water. Nothing happened to his line.

But patience has its own reward—like virtue. The line tightened, a faint tug hinted at an inquiring fish. He yanked—the engineer, not the fish—but without result. Nothing gave. He yanked again. There was a slight forward movement under water. Parke yelled for help. It came. The first assistant, off watch, went to aid his chief—came then the second assistant. Another and another came. The stout line held. Slowly the 'fish' came in. Triumph beamed on the features of the chief engineer. The 'fish' was coming in fast. He paused from his labors and leaned over the side. Then he dropped back with a groan. No fish greeted his eager eyes—no fish, merely the shin bone of a beef.

And now they do say that the Columbian is the only ship that ever stayed long enough in Port Allen to ground on her own beef bones.

Rounding Cape Horn

The tried mariner alone is in a position to estimate the Panama Canal at its full value, says the Christian Science Monitor. To know that in the future Cape Horn can be avoided in hundreds of instances, where it is a question of getting to either side of the South American continent to be free from the dangers entailed in passing through the Patagonian channels, or the Fuegian archipelago; to be able to bid good-by to the strait of Magellan even, through which for three hundred years the merchantment of the world have sought passage, must be a comfort to the men who go down to the sea in ships.

There will always, of course, be considerable traffic through the forbidden waters, where, standing on its rock-hewn base, the lighthouse maintained by the Argentine government furnishes of its best in order to facilitate the passage of vessels. To the greater part of South America the negotiating of the southern channels may still be preferable where it is the aim to bring the east and west coasts into the quickest possible commercial touch by water. It is to the seamen who will continue to brave the dangers of that region that the southernmost lighthouse of the world will remain a beacon indeed.

Uninhabited except for the intrepid men who have put civilization behind them to be of service to their fellows by vigilant watch over the guiding lights in their charge, the regions surrounding Cape Horn have a history that in time may be made less unsatisfactory because there will be less need for mariners in pass that way. When railroad construction in South America becomes more general, it may even be possible to avoid the rounding of Cape Horn. Travelers who have gone as far south as the little strait town of Punta Arenas testify that even there the going track is a tedious progression.

Up to the present the rounding of the cape has exerted a certain fascination in the youthful adventurer. And it is safe to say that he, no less than the more experienced fellow voyager, will be made to realize that seeking danger is no part of the mariner's business. If the Panama Canal will bring safety to coast-to-coast navigation, those whose business it is to bring ships safely into harbor are one of the things that the larger and more trouble-some zone.

IF AMERICA AND JAPAN SHOULD EVER ENGAGE IN HOSTILITIES

Japanese Idea of the Economic Outcome and the Result From the Military Point of View

If Japan had to go to war with the United States in a just quarrel, victory would perch upon her arms, declares Heisemon Hibiya, a prominent contributor to the Japanese magazine, writing in a recent issue of the Taiyo, but her cause for war would have to be such that she could appeal to the nations of the world for financial assistance. Any hastening into a jingo-provoked war would be disastrous, he thinks.

As a critical article from the viewpoint of a Japanese student of affairs, Mr. Hibiya's article is interesting to Americans, especially as it is written with a view of warning Japanese jingos against any attempt to again inflame Japanese public opinion against America.

Capital, says Mr. Hibiya, knows no national boundaries, so it has come about that the affairs of the business world have become very complex, the result being that the causes leading to war are easily eliminated. The financial relations existing between Japan and America make war impossible, so far as these countries are concerned, and it follows that such a thing as war between Japan and America can hardly be imagined. But let us imagine what the effects would be in the event circumstances should arise leading to war.

There can be but little doubt that the economic effect would be great. The effects would depend largely upon the causes leading up to the war. The extent of the injury would depend also on the length of the war and victory and defeat. We are greatly perplexed when we come to look for any cause for war. Should there be a just cause then we might feel sure of victory and the effects might be easily explained, why should we lay stress on the point that there must be sufficient reasons when war is waged? Our country through the Chinese and Russian wars has contracted debts out of all proportion to her financial ability. In these wars we fought for our own preservation, but the after effects are still felt. As a result of these wars the people were greatly awakened, but we are severely taxed in making financial adjustments. Since we are already so hard pressed in case war should break out between the two countries it would be useless to depend on domestic loans to secure war funds. The only way to secure them would be to look to foreign capitalists. It is rather painful to experience, but the borrower, whether individual or government, must awaken the sympathies of the lender. Floating war bonds would be an impossibility unless it could be proved to the satisfaction of the lender the chance were just. Without ample war funds even a strong army and navy could accomplish nothing. Without a just cause for war we would surely invite financial failure. If, unfortunately, as some idle dreamers dream, Hawaii or the Philippines should fall into our hands, and we should secure to ourselves the control of the Pacific what would then be the effect? We would at once lose the sympathies of the Powers and have no means of securing war funds. Let us go a little further into the question. Certainly our sailors and soldiers have no equals in the world. This is no idle boasting of the Japanese. Every sailor and soldier is conscious that his life must be given for country and really, the daily training received all tends in this. Accordingly we may reasonably suppose victory would be ours, but let us suppose there were not just causes for the war, our brave soldiers might not enter upon it spiritedly. Thus we see a war whose cause was not just and did not appeal to the reason would be disastrous. War between the two countries would not destroy the entire trade, but American products necessary to our industries, such as cotton, instead of being imported directly would be imported indirectly by way of some other country, and what we export to America would be handled in the same way; but all goods classed as luxuries would not be taken and that part of the trade would suffer most. We know by our experience in the Russian war that the suffering is felt more after the war than during hostilities. The effects of the war would be more severely felt as the war continues long and as the sphere is great.

It may be useless to discuss the probable causes leading to war but it will help us in determining what the effects would be. Heretofore the problems that threatened the harmony of the two countries have been opposition to the Japanese on the Pacific Coast, economic questions and racial differences. Should we make of these a cause belli and appeal to the people of the nation that war could not be avoided we would stand a poor chance of winning the sympathies of the world. The able statements of the two countries will never allow these trivial matters to become a cause of war. Then if anyone should ask, are there not other problems that may lead to war? I do not think so. The cause of our difficulties in the diplomatic service in America is the two people which may result disastrously. If I am mistaken in this view I am mistaken indeed. It is for both nations. A few years ago I found America with the business men's party and big an opportunity to study this question at first hand, and this fact was deeply impressed upon me. What I wish to say is this: when anything happens that directly or indirectly might lead to war, it is taken up and discussed in that light. Our diplomats residing in America are for the most part young. These youths are well informed, sympathetic, and are so die-hard in their country, but these young men, I repeat to say, have not the experience and capacity to comprehend the movements of the prophetic Ameri-

can statesman. These young men are so deeply with our national spirit of individualism, and also they feel they are part of the responsibility of a just

cause power the most trivial thing attracts their attention and they expect it to the home government at once. Sometimes they lose self-control and magnify matters, misrepresent conditions, and at times make reports for their personal benefit. But when these reports are spread broadcast in our country they are considered trustworthy, and lead to a misunderstanding of the sentiments of Americans. Nothing could be more deplorable than that the people should be misled by these silly groundless reports and begin to agitate for war. The following story shows what may be expected. A certain Japanese put up a Japanese tea-house beside a park and the town authorities condemned it because it injured the beauty of the park, and ordered its removal. Our young diplomats on hearing this were greatly incensed and thinking the nation's reputation had suffered, notwithstanding the little importance of the affair, foolishly wasted much energy over it. In short, when we take into account the diplomatic relation of Japan and America these ultranationalistic diplomats could well be dispensed with. When we look at the results attained up to the present our diplomats who were responsible for good relations between the two countries seem rather to have been fabricators of war stories.

If we expect all the social antipathies to be removed in a few days or a few months we shall be greatly disappointed. Again, we congratulate ourselves on the fact that we have become a first class power, but when we view the situation from the standpoint of the general standard of living throughout the country, we have to concede the fact that we lack the qualifications of a first class power. Especially in the world of business as capitalists we cannot approach them and it may appear to us they are overbearing. When we come in contact with the Mitsui and Iwasaki although we do not take notice of their superior airs and patronizing manner still that is the tendency. We submit to the inevitable law of the superiority of the strong and the submission of the weak. Our own society does not tolerate the successful gentleman sitting at the same table with the mason and carpenter in their laboring dresses. Does this not represent the difference between the Americans and our people? We do not think of this, but only say they reject us, they look down upon us and oppress us, and invite our anger, and are lacking in friendly feeling, and then we discover the tendency among our diplomats to entertain a desire for war. Because of these misrepresentations and misunderstandings the undiscriminating masses of the two countries may become hostile and there is a danger that imaginary differences may after a while assume formidable proportions. If I am mistaken in my belief that the reports of our diplomats and their attitude towards foreigners have been imprudent it would be most fortunate. The groundless and trivial reports which appeal to public opinion will be more far reaching than to simply influence finances, they will cause the Powers to withdraw sympathy, and we would feel the want of war funds, and might drift into a most perplexing condition. From this point of view at this time, I want to urge upon our diplomats abroad the importance of exercising the greatest caution.

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HOODOO LUCK DELAYS BREAKWATER WORK

HILO, December 21.—No sooner had the snow, which sank to the bottom of Kulu Bay recently, been raised last Sunday, than the hoodoo which seems to be ever present at the breakwater got busy again, for the following day the other breakwater scow got into trouble. The sea had been rough for several days, and finally made it impossible to work. On Monday the second scow was taken out in tow of the Hukihuki, having on board about 125 tons of rock, which it was to dump on the bottom some distance beyond the point where the superstructure of the breakwater, as built by Metzger, is visible.

Here the "superstructure," which had been laid by Lord & Young, forms a kind of artificial reef over which the waves break in stormy weather. On the day in question, the breakers were lashing in at a great rate, and the deck of the scow was continually being swept by great combers.

Nevertheless the Hukihuki bucked between the swirling water, and she had just brought the scow over the superstructure, though not in the exact place where the load was to be dumped, when trouble began. The heavy scow was let down, in the trough between two big waves, to such a depth that one of her big edges struck the rock of the superstructure with such a force that the timber work splintered and broken, and the water began to pour in through the leak.

All thought of dumping the load had to be abandoned, and the Hukihuki skillfully maneuvered the disabled craft out of the breakers. The scow was, however, sinking so rapidly that it was impossible to save the load, and another scow had of good Kipho rock was borrowed.

By good seamanship the scow was towed to safety, where she is being repaired. Unfortunately the heavy water scows are so heavy that they can not be taken on the Mallow marine railway, and the load has to be carried by Hukihuki derrick, who then pitches a job over it. It is impossible to say how long it will take to get the scow into its berth, but it may be some days, though it will be necessary to have a suitable quantity of rock to keep her steady.

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