

HAWAIIAN GAZETTE

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TUESDAY JUNE 16

THE SITUATION IN MEXICO.

"You needn't worry about not having war with Mexico. We'll have war all right, and we'll stay there for a long time too. History is simply repeating itself. The first Mexican war was a long time coming to a head; but it came eventually, and this one is traveling the same road."

So spoke one of the leading military officers now stationed in Honolulu.

This probably represents army opinion as a whole. The army in general has little use for the present attempt to settle the Mexican problem by mediation. It considers such attempt to be useless temporizing, when action is needed.

The army may be right, as to the fact that force will, ultimately, have to be used. Conflicting interests are so involved; the country is so big; the people are so ignorant and scattered, and there are such opportunities for loot and advancement by continued disturbance, that it will be a marvellous achievement if peace is secured on a permanent basis, at the first attempt.

Whether mediation is immediately successful or not, however, the attempt now being made to settle, not only the controversy between the governments of the United States and Mexico, but to bring to final adjustment the internal troubles of Mexico, is the most important happening in connection with Mexican affairs since Diaz withdrew from the presidency. If a settlement is accomplished through the A. B. C. mediation, it will be one of the most important events, in the international history of the American nations, for the following reasons:

One of the chief factors in the relations existing, and hereafter to exist, between the United States and the countries of Central and South America, is the fact that the people of those countries have a deep and abiding distrust and fear of the United States. Whether such sentiments are well or ill founded, makes but little difference. The fact that they exist, and that they fetter and control the political and commercial relations of the countries named is the important point. So long as these sentiments continue, they will vitally and injuriously affect the commerce and good feeling which should exist between neighboring nations with so many vital mutual interests.

The fact that three South American governments, Argentine, Brazil and Chile, have volunteered to try and adjust matters between the United States and a Latin-American State, and that the American government has cordially accepted the offer creates a new factor in the international relations of the Western Hemisphere. It has demonstrated to our suspicious neighbors, as no amount of protestation of the disinterestedness of our motives could have done, that we do not intend to deliberately proceed to war upon, conquer and despoil Mexico.

If this were our intention, we most certainly would not have accepted offers of attempted settlement which, if successful, will remove the provoking cause for war and conquest.

Whether mediation is successful or not, or whether war comes or not, the fact that the American government accepted the co-operation of the A. B. C. nations in an endeavor to settle all controversies, will be remembered, and will have a strong tendency to temper South American sentiment toward America and Americans in the future.

ALL CITIZENS SHOULD REGISTER.

Citizens of Oahu must make a better showing if this island is to get its proper representation in the senate and house of representatives after the next session of the legislature. It will be at the coming session that the redistribution of representation will be made as required under the Organic Act which provides that legislative representation shall be determined at the end of each ten-year period. This should have been done at the last session of the legislature. Action was deferred because of the uncertainty as to whether the representation of the different islands should be based on the total number of voters registered or the total number who voted at the last election.

It is a well known fact that at least thirty per cent of the citizens on this island did not vote at the last election, many of them not even going to the trouble to register. The census figures compared with the registration figures of two years ago show that there are fifteen hundred persons on this island entitled to suffrage who are delinquent in one of the most sacred duties they owe their country. This should not be so. Lack of attention to this duty is certainly not the sign of a good citizen.

The task of getting your name on the register is simple. The registration books are open in the office of the city clerk in the city hall. The office is open from eight o'clock to five o'clock daily except on Sunday and holidays. Less than five minutes is required to answer all the questions and get your name in the books. Five minutes' time certainly is not a heavy price to pay for the privilege of enjoying your full rights of citizenship and perhaps sharing in the work of saving a reduction in Oahu's representation in the coming legislature.

If you are among the delinquent ones, don't delay registering for another day. Do it now.

THE CHANGE IN JAPAN.

Count Okuma's recent general plea for the breaking down of suspicion between nations and particularly toward Japan receives emphasis through the announcement that the Nipponese government has decided to send missions to England and to the dominions, in order to counteract the anti-Japanese spirit which is being cultivated in Australia, New Zealand and Canada. It is quite natural, of course, that the government in Tokio should endeavor to maintain the best possible understanding between its subjects and the subjects of its closest ally, but this desire does not wholly explain the new movement. The significance lies in the fact that Tokio has come to understand the danger of its position, and that the British missions constitute only one expression of a change in its general attitude.

According to the Detroit Free Press, there is less self-sufficiency and cocksureness among the Japanese leaders in international affairs than there was a few years ago. Probably the contributing reasons are many, but it is undoubtedly a good guess that the principal one is an awakening from the delusion cherished after the Russian war, that the nation was so strong, so much the country of the future, that it needed little in the way of assistance and friendships. Wiser minds are coming to understand that mere cleverness and military and naval prowess will not suffice to insure a stable future, that there are other strong governments which could smash Japan to smithereens if they set out to do so.

The meaning of the word "civilization" is beginning to get underneath the covering of innate barbarism. The Japanese are coming to feel that they are in the civilized world but not yet altogether of it.

So we find today in many directions a distinctly conciliatory attitude where a few years ago there was an intense bumptiousness. It is scarcely too much to say that today Japan is on the defensive before the world and is asking for a charitable judgment of its shortcomings.

SEE THE HANDWRITING ON THE WALL.

Private letters from those in close touch with affairs at Washington confirm in no uncertain language the news hinted at in press despatches, namely that badly scared Democrats about these days in the National Capital. They talk of little with one another except their fears that the administration is tottering, as viewed by opinion throughout the land. Democratization stalks in their ranks. The house leaders are convinced that the party is rapidly going to the bowwows unless some way can be found to check the toboggan progress. Senate leaders concur in that lugubrious opinion. The White House has been standing firmly, indeed is standing firmly, but nevertheless has not been oblivious to the pitiful conversations that senators and representatives are bringing there.

Republican criticism of the way things have been going has been getting so deeply rooted, Democrats fear a revolution at the polls in November. They have been living in an atmosphere of assurance. The house was so overwhelmingly Democratic certainly it could not be overturned at the next election. The huge majority might be cut down but that would be something of an advantage. The senate majority is lean, but statisticians galore had figured and concluded that it could not be obliterated, at least, before 1916. The only danger these Democrats could see was in a political revolution. Not until very recent times could they see the possibility of such a revolution.

Now in their quakings for the future, the Democratic politicians at Washington are asking whether the party history of exactly twenty years ago is to repeat itself.

It will be recalled that Grover Cleveland was elected in 1892 by a very large vote. Republicans who got back to the house of representatives that year were only a handful. Matters ran along for a couple of years, with much dissension and much blundering, and in 1894 conditions were actually reversed. There was only a handful of Democratic representatives in the Fifty-fourth Congress and it was sixteen years before Democrats got control of that branch of congress again.

Now it has begun to look as though Republicans really might be coming back in 1914 and the Democratic head men are beginning to work like mad men to prevent it. One disadvantage with them is the crumbling of their good organization. The Democratic house that stood so solidly for more than a year is dividing into bitter factions. It becomes more and more evident that Speaker Clark is utterly out of accord with present conditions. He does not approve of the President's policies and is taking opportunity now and then in a mild way to demonstrate it. He has disavowed any intention of being a presidential candidate in 1916 but there are Democrats who opine that the Speaker may not have the final say as to the nomination of Mr. Wilson for another term two years from now. Majority leader Underwood is "Jayin' low," like Brer Rabbit, these spring days and saying mighty little. He need not mix up in house quarrels for he goes soon to the senate for a six years' term. But in many respects he is in accord with the Speaker rather than with the President. Thus far, to be sure, the house has responded to the President's requests for legislation but the sense of party loyalty there has been much strained in carrying out the wishes of the White House. There is a strong Democratic leadership in the house, as such matters are judged. It has generally stood with the President, save in the case of canal tolls exemption. But the rank and file of the representatives has gone with the President, out of the knowledge that Democrats would have a hard time getting reelected if they went on record against Mr. Wilson.

Now, however, it is the wrath of the country which makes Democratic Washington quiver and quake for the moment. For the first ten or twelve months the President's supposed popularity was looked upon as a great tower of party strength, but it began to appear that the President is not so very popular after all. One thing after another has indicated that people are not following him with the confidence they had during the first part of his administration, and those who have been trailing in his shadow are almost ready to bolt. At any rate they are making frantic efforts to pull themselves together for this fall's test.

THE EIGHTEENTH AMENDMENT.

Most people thought, after the income tax and senatorial election amendments had been added to the Federal Constitution, that that inflexible document could be left quietly in peace for another fifty years, says the World's Work. Few realize, therefore, that we are now rapidly approaching the Eighteenth Amendment; fewer still have any idea of the question with which it deals. The Anti-Saloon League of America is now conducting a characteristically energetic campaign to make the following clauses part of our fundamental law:

ARTICLE XVIII.

Section 1. The sale, manufacture for sale, transportation for sale, importation for sale, and exportation for sale of intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes in the United States and all territory subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are forever prohibited.

Section 2. Congress shall have power to provide for the manufacture, sale, importation, and transportation of intoxicating liquors for sacramental, medicinal, mechanical, pharmaceutical, or scientific purposes, or for the use in the arts, and shall have power to enforce this article by all lawful legislation.

What is the likelihood that this will become law? Two-thirds majority in each house of congress must pass this amendment. After that, two-thirds of the legislatures must ratify it. What signs are there that the prohibition sympathizers can command any such support?

They have recently given a striking illustration of their influence in congress. Two years ago the Kenyon-Webb bill passed both houses. This law prohibits the shipment of alcoholic liquors from one State or foreign country into another State where it is intended to be used in violation of the laws of that State. The purpose, of course, was to prevent the transportation of liquors into a prohibition State—an end which, according to the temperance advocates, is rapidly being achieved. President Taft vetoed this bill. The temperance people, however, had no difficulty in getting together the necessary two-thirds vote to pass the bill over the President's veto. Whatever the impartial citizen may think of the merits of such a law, one thing is clear enough—the enormous influence of the prohibition preachers in both branches of congress. If they can muster the same support for their favorite amendment, it will pass.

When it comes to possible influence upon the ratifying legislatures, the situation is even more striking. A map published in the last issue of the Year Book of the Anti-Saloon League shows that the greater part of the country in territorial extent—in figures 2,132,746 square miles of 2,973,890—is now under no-license laws. Of the 91,000,000 people in the country, 46,000,000 are living under no-license laws. In parts of certain states, a new generation is growing up that has never seen a saloon. The National Liquor Dealers' Journal, which is widely sounding the "alarm" against the temperance people, declares that there are twenty-seven state legislatures now ready to vote for a constitutional amendment making the outlawry of alcoholic drinks nationwide.

Inasmuch as the votes of only thirty-eight States are required, the prohibition people, at the present moment, need only eleven more legislatures to make the proposed change a reality. And the prohibition leaders, who are the most persistent, the most tireless, the most fanatical fighters, if you will, in the country, have hardly begun their campaign.

A recent United States Public Health Report says of a table on tuberculosis in the various mainland cities:

"Of particular interest in this table are the low fatality rates of Hartford, Boston and Newark, in which approximately three cases were reported for each death. These rates are in all probability due to the success of the health department in getting cases reported."

This calls vividly to mind the difficulty of the local board of health in getting local cases of this disease reported. The refusal of several nationalities to cooperate with the health authorities in this regard has resulted in four deaths being reported in Honolulu for every five cases for the past four months.

J. C. COHEN'S ANNOUNCEMENT.

J. C. Cohen, in announcing his candidacy for the Republican nomination for mayor, replies to the much repeated cry that this city needs as its executive head a business man, and as a business man he asks support. His announcement is of the kind needed and the example he has set of boldly outlining his intention, if elected, is one that may very well be followed by others. It is upon some such a platform as that outlined in the Cohen announcement that the next mayor of Honolulu should be chosen, provided always that the general reputation of the man gives credence to the views he expresses and weight to the promises he makes. That Mr. Cohen is sincere, those who know him can credit.

It is, of course, too early in the campaign for The Advertiser to come out in the support of any particular candidate. Reports are to the effect that the Republican party will be able to choose this year between at least two candidates who may be said to represent the business interests. The near future may bring a number of good men to the front, now that the way has been opened up by Senator Rice's announcement of his candidacy for Congress and Mr. Cohen's straightforward bid for the mayoral nomination.

Whatever the next few weeks may bring forth, however, the voters who desire some radical change from the hodgepodge of government that this city has been receiving will turn to some candidate with the ideas set forth by Mr. Cohen. If not to Cohen, to some one who like him announces a business policy in convincing sentences. It is the promulgation of such platforms as contained in the Cohen announcement that is going to put Honolulu politics on a plane infinitely higher than the politics of the past, when no candidate appeared to dare to say anything lest perchance he might offend someone.

THE PASSING OF ORATORY.

Now and then something happens to remind the observant person anew that oratory in the old sense has become an obsolete art. The fact is emphasized, not so much that it is passing, but that it has already passed into the limbo of antiquated and outworn manifestations. The president's recent address in New York on the occasion of the public tribute to the men slain at Vera Cruz was a conspicuous instance. He said the right thing and said it with the utmost simplicity and sincerity. Of the oratorical "eloquence" of an older day there was hardly a trace, says the Providence Journal.

Probably the new spirit in public speaking was set in motion by Lincoln's Gettysburg speech. For the first time people realized that everything necessary to the point could be expressed in a few words, and that an abundance of ornamental phraseology only tends to mar the general effect. Whether the essence of a speech be mental or sentimental, simplicity and sincerity are now much more effective than the rhetoric flowers of a flamboyant verbosity. An occasional "silver-tongued orator" still finds a warm and wide response to his overdecorated eloquence, but it is one of the gratifying signs of the times that the better speaking of the new fashion appeals most strongly to the better listeners.

A SUGGESTION.

A bit of advice offered by an exchange to the married man who drinks to excess is this: Start a saloon in your own house, be the only customer and make your wife the barkeeper. Give the wife two dollars to buy a gallon of whisky, which is sixty-nine cents. By the time it is gone she will have \$4.90 to put in the bank, plus two dollars to buy another gallon. The result of following this advice is thus pointed out:

"Should you live ten years and continue to buy booze from her and then die with snakes in your boots, she will have money enough to bury you decently, educate your children, buy a house and lot, and marry a decent man and quit thinking about you."

PASSING HOUR.

President Wilson's idea is that business is not poor, only people think it is poor. He calls it a psychological condition, a first-class definition. The next time you notice the cash register totals, think of it.

When one remembers back a few months to the time when the Territory rocked with the excitement of guarding the Hilo Bay waterfront from "predatory private interests" and the license of the Hilo Railroad to build a modern wharf was cancelled, the reversal of form now, with a Hilo move to encourage the private use of the waterfront, is remarkable, to say the least.

Wonder how Kuhio feels over the fact that Governor Frear, whom he attempted to drive from public life, is at Washington attending committee meetings and being freely consulted about Hawaiian affairs, while he, himself, is loafing the session away in "the incomparable climate of Hawaii?" Mr. Frear is doing for Hawaii without recompense and gladly, what Kuhio is being paid to do but will not, even if he could.

Already the benefits of the direct primary nomination system are being shown. Today the various candidates for nomination are coming out into the open, each candidate standing on his own feet and making plain his own position. There are to be no "dark horses" sprung on the electorate as the result of closet conferences and under-cover trades and agreements. When a candidate's name appears upon the official ballot in November it will be because there are a large number of voters who want it there, not because of any combinations in which the public and the electorate have had no share or voice.

Honolulu Wholesale Produce Market Quotations

Table with multiple columns listing various produce items such as Eggs and Poultry, Live Stock, Dressed Weight, Potatoes, Onions, Vegetables, Beans, and various fruits and grains, along with their respective prices and market status.

WOULD REOPEN HILLO WATERFRONT

Reversal of Present Policy Favored—Suggested That Territory Run Waikaeas Mill.

The business men of Hilo will probably urge upon Governor Pinkham a complete reversal of the territorial policy under which the waterfront has been withheld from private ownership. At least that is what leading merchants and officers of the board of trade are favorably discussing. It will be remembered that during the administration of his late predecessor as superintendent of public works, the entire waterfront was declared not open to purchase. Now the business men of Hilo are saying that this strangles the port, and that as long as the Territory hasn't the money to build wharves it ought to open the way for private enterprise.

HILO, June 15.—Plans to encourage the building of a coaling station and a wharf or wharves on Front street and to homestead the Waikaeas lands are the propositions regarding which Governor Pinkham will probably hear most on his visit here at the end of this month. Both are regarded as of very vital importance to Hilo, their solution meaning much to the development of the port.

Government-run Mill?

A plan that is being brought forward and may find its way into party platform, is that the government take over the Waikaeas mill and run it and homestead the lands. The Waikaeas lands amount to about 90,000 acres, and the old lease on them will expire in about four years. Of this large area about 9000 acres is good sugar land, but some of the rest is claimed to be good residence property. The Governor was quoted some time ago as stating that he disapproved of any more leases of lands to corporations, and under that policy there will soon be 9000 acres of splendid sugar land to be disposed of in some way or other.

The proposition that the government should take over the mill, or at least place it in the category of a public utility, and then attempt to homestead the lands, will undoubtedly be passed up to Governor Pinkham. But Waikaeas is a going and a profitable concern, and to homestead all its sugar lands at once would be an almost hopeless task. A compromise plan suggested is that of having the mill managed by its present owners, under government supervision, for the benefit of homesteaders.

The Wharf Matter.

The wharf and coaling station revolves largely around statements made by J. A. Kennedy, president of the Inter-Island Steam Navigation Company, when he was here recently, to the effect that his company would like to establish a coaling station here, and, possibly, build a wharf costing about a quarter of a million dollars, if a site could be obtained. It is understood that Kennedy would like to have the station and wharf somewhere along Front street.

"If there is any chance to have such a concern as the Inter-Island, or anyone else, build such a wharf and coaling station, it should be the policy of Hilo to encourage it," said E. F. Nichols, manager of the Hilo Mercantile Company. "Our waterfront has just been closed up tight, because, probably, of fear of some corporation or other getting control of it, as happened in some places in California, notably Oakland. But under proper restrictions and regulations we should give all the help we can to any concern that wants to establish a coaling station and build wharves here."

A Regular Band.

"I should like to see the whole market side of Front street cleared of buildings altogether, making it a street with buildings on one side and the sea on the other. That may come some day. As for the wharves, it has been suggested that there is suitable place for wharves in front of the Hackfeld property, and in front of the Hilo Mercantile establishment. Hilo should go out of her way to encourage any concern that is willing to put money into coaling stations and wharves."

Board of Tracts Act, 717

These matters, among others, were discussed to some extent at the meeting of the board of trade last Tuesday. Preparations were made for the presentation to the Governor of various matters which are at present giving Hiloites concern, also for suitable entertainment of the Executive while he is here. The following list of committees shows the matters which will be presented for the Governor's consideration while he is in Hilo.

Front Street Widening—Judge W. S. Wise, H. T. Forrest and N. C. Willifong.

Waialama Swamp Reclamation—Donald S. Bowman, Dr. L. L. Sexton and W. H. Boars.

Kuhio Wharf Completion and Shed—R. W. Filler, F. Mosher and C. M. L. Watson.

Wharf Approach and Road—Dr. Archer Irwin, C. E. Wright and George Willifong.

Waterfront, Coal and Oil Station—Dr. H. B. Elliot, John A. Scott and Wm. McKay.

Ponohawai Street Fill and Straightening—Harry Irwin, F. Brughelli and A. Lindsey.

Waikaeas, Tracts and Home Lots—W. H. Heen, J. M. Gouves and Dr. George Huddy.

Entertainment—C. C. Kennedy, G. H. Vlears and C. S. Crammish.

Dinner—H. D. Corbett, Roy, George Laughton and Clarence Waterman.