

THE HAWAIIAN GAZETTE

RODERICK O. MATHESON, EDITOR

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The Nebraskan Incident

AFTER the sinking unwarmed of the Lusitania, with the drowning of more than a thousand noncombatants, including fifty babies, it is difficult to grow excited over the torpedoing of the American-Hawaiian freighter Nebraskan, which was running under a British charter and which has been engaged in carrying horses for army use from the United States to France. If there could be any justification whatever for the sinking of unwarmed merchant ships, that justification would extend to the sinking of the Nebraskan.

What is highly significant in the incident, however, is that it shows so closely the barbarous attack upon the Lusitania and before the German government has even answered the American note of protest demanding that attacks upon unwarmed American ships must cease. The launching of a torpedo against the Nebraskan is an effective German answer to President Wilson's note, an answer that gives the lie to the utterances voiced by what few friends Germany has left that "the Germans want to be friendly."

Germany has answered. Her answer to the demand that there must be an end to the carrying on of war in opposition to every civilized convention and in direct contravention of her own pledges made to the world is the deliberate attempt to sink another American steamer, undoubtedly flying the Stars and Stripes and of such a rig that her identity could not have been mistaken by any seafaring man.

That is Germany's answer to America, a plain intimation that she will not swerve a hairbreadth from her plan to attack whatever sails within her announced war zone. The deaths of noncombatants is the least of the German worries, and American lives are just as unimportant to Germany as those of anyone else.

Now Encourage Trusts

AMBITION for foreign trade is voiced in a recent address at Chicago by Joseph E. Davies, chairman of the newly organized Federal Trade Commission favoring something like Germany's "cartel" methods. Critical persons have been suggesting it would be just as well for this new Trade Commission to let other people do the talking for a while. Nevertheless, the chairman's suggestion has particular significance at this time and is probably preliminary to an effort before congress next winter to have a law enacted that will permit this cartel system in foreign trade.

President Wilson said publicly months ago he would favor special legislation permitting combinations or cooperation in gaining foreign markets, provided he could be convinced this would work no injury to the Sherman anti-trust law. Many American manufacturers are comparatively new to the conquests of foreign markets and find the competition of foreign manufacturers difficult to meet. Thus far the American public has been educated to regard a "Trust" or monopoly, as indefensible. A little time will be required for the average man to learn that a Trust in operation on the home market is baneful but beneficial in international trade.

Chairman Davies is supposed to have been "pioneering" at President Wilson's suggestion and with the President's full approval. The idea of the "cartel system" has thus been launched for discussion and analysis, with prospects that it will be championed by the administration when the next annual message to congress is delivered. Explanations are already being disseminated to show that the cartel system represents consolidation rather than cooperation and that it is much more than a mere price agreement. Individual management is encouraged and "competition is effectually stifled by the assignment of certain amounts of business to each concern which becomes a part of the cartel system." Employment is standardized and there are fewer periods of reckless production followed by long periods of reaction and unemployment.

This idea, as advanced by Chairman Davies, will probably be welcomed by the manufacturing world. There has been much complaint that, under court decisions, American firms could not combine, for example, to maintain selling offices abroad. It is also another indication that the President will press at the next session of congress, now eight months away, for important legislation calculated to give added impulse to foreign trade. From many quarters the necessity for merchant ships is being emphasized and the country is being prepared for another effort to authorize the purchase and operation of ships by the federal government.

Our 'Washed-Out' Soils

DR. WILLIAM E. CROSS, director of the Tucuman, Argentina, sugar experiment station, in a recent publication tells the Argentines that "In Hawaii the soils are so easily washed out by heavy irrigation that the frequent addition of fertilizer is absolutely necessary."

He details at considerable length the fertilizer practise on the Maui and Oahu irrigated plantations but apparently misses the point entirely. Hawaii spends fortunes in fertilizers because it is a business proposition to do so, not because the soils are so "washed out" that it has to be done.

Tucuman sometimes grows a ton and a half of sugar per acre. The industry is struggling along quite comfortably under a protection of \$70 per ton which is to be reduced to \$60 by easy stages in 1921.

An Important Election

IN a little more than a month the voters of Honolulu will be called upon to elect delegates to a "charter convention," the work of which will be to draft a new charter for the city for submission to and adoption by the voters. That Honolulu needs a decided revision of her municipal organic act is admitted. That the residents are prepared to back up a modern revision appears certain, but that revision must be drawn on sternly practical lines to be acceptable to the majority.

The special election of July 6 means quite as much to Honolulu, to say the least, as any municipal election which has been held here. It is more important that we should have level headed, patriotic and able representatives in the charter convention than that we should have any particular set of men on the board of supervisors. The work of the charter convention delegates will either result in greatly improved municipal conditions, or through failure it will mean a continuance of our antiquated municipal system for years to come.

The Hawaiian press of Honolulu should take up this matter with diligence and impress upon the Hawaiian voters the significance and the importance of the July election. In this, as in every other matter dealing with the political situation here, the assistance of the Hawaiian voter must be enlisted if any good is to result. It is of the very highest importance, too, that the Hawaiian press and the Hawaiian leaders keep the Hawaiian public abreast of the work of the convention, in order that each step taken may be understood and in order that the final draft of the new charter may be plain to the majority, without the chance of demagogic misrepresentation as to meaning and motive. The proposed charter must be acceptable to the Hawaiians, else it will not be adopted.

A Commonsense Conclusion

THE practical men of the city, as represented in the chamber of commerce, have reached the conclusion preached two and three years ago by The Advertiser, that Honolulu's water problem consists not in getting more water for the city but in using what we have with some degree of judgment. It is not the water that is used in Honolulu that produces the perennial shortages, but the amount of water that is wasted.

The only sane method of selling water is by the meter system, and it is useless for those opposing this commonsense plan to talk about burned up lawns and dying flowers and, we suppose, bathless children. There is no reason why water sold by the thousand gallons is going to be any more costly than water sold now, under the present let-er-run system, but it is a certainty that water paid for by the thousand gallons will not be wasted. There will be less leaky plumbing, fewer sopping lawns and more plugs given their legitimate use in bath tubs and wash basins, while none need deprive themselves of a drop needed for legitimate use.

There is every reason to believe that under a uniform meter system, made compulsory, the water rates will be materially reduced. The large pumping bills will be cut out very largely, for one thing.

Soul Goes Marching On

HALF a century ago in the city of Portland, Maine, Neal Dow, "despised and rejected of men" championed a cause which has grown to be a great world movement, permeating all quarters of the globe and effecting all nations. No war, no politics, no invention, no literature, is so potent. As a propaganda its permeating influence effects today 1700 million human beings.

It doesn't matter whether a man is a tippler or a teetotaler, whether he is prohibitionist or a liquorite, whether he believes in the reign of John Barleycorn or his overthrow, the campaign goes on and victory is in plain sight for the followers of Neal Dow. These men and women by the way, are no longer eccentrics or cranks. Statesmen, lawyers, doctors, merchants and even kings and presidents are found in the ranks of the anti-saloon forces and are seen waging battle against the world-wide evils connected with the use of alcoholic drinks. Such a stage in the question has been reached that the life of nations and empires is involved and the vital welfare of the whole social fabric. For the solution of the problem the best statesmanship of the day is demanded and the consideration of the wisest economists.

It is no longer a question of individual opinion or personal appetite. Those of us who have taken the ground that a little alcohol does no harm and may do good, a belief which may be reasonable, must yet remember what evil alcohol loose without stint among low or unthinking men may achieve, and it is up to us to ask whether even the example of a small drink in a quiet way is not at least constructively a wrong to mankind when the abuse of these things is doing so much harm.

The individual cannot be alone in the world. He is simply a part of the great aggregate, as it were; one of the small organs of the great body. It is for each one to say for himself what his attitude shall be under these conditions. As the cause is now moving on, it would seem that individual desires and preferences must be swept away before long, and alcoholic beverages relegated to the status of ancient and abandoned evils.

College Opportunities

THE College of Hawaii offers a course in sugar technology and engineering as thorough and complete as any which can be supplied by the older universities. The training is both theoretical and practical.

Hawaii leads among all the cane sugar producing countries in the application of science to crop production. That has been the secret of success in this industry in these Islands. The slogan has been "science and business efficiency." It is the application of these two principles that has made the sugar industry so tremendous a success.

Other cane countries have richer soils and more favorable natural and climatic conditions. Other lands, many of them, have hedged sugar production with far more favorable legislative and artificial barriers—export bounties freedom from internal taxation, protective tariffs, special labor concessions, and free transportation through governmentally subsidized steamship lines.

The sugar industry of Hawaii has had less protection and less coddling than any industry of equal magnitude that has ever grown up in any country and it has grown to be what it is today because it has had to learn to stand alone. The advances made have been through the application of skill and science more than because of favor shown.

Hence, to study sugar production under the most favorable auspices, to learn the game and find out how results are accomplished, young men who choose this field of usefulness as their life work are coming to Hawaii to study sugar production.

"Practical Hawaii" is the Mecca to which the governments of competitor countries send their experts. Hardly a week passes but some specialist who is trying to solve the practical problems comes here to find out how Hawaii is managing mill, engineering, transportation, boiling house control, field cultivation, insect pest and fungus disease eradication, or how we are handling our labor problems, sanitation and the humanities.

The College of Hawaii offers the young men of Hawaii—the young men who are to take up the burden of affairs of business and state ten or twenty years hence—a free course of education in the one line which distinguishes Hawaii from all other lands, the scientific production of sugar. The state offers to show its future citizens how they can best make use of their opportunities.

Sugar has not yet reached either its maximum or its cheapest production in this field. The future holds just as much reward for the application of science to business as was within reach of the pioneers. Wealth and fame and good citizenship are to be earned tomorrow just as they were yesterday.

Suggestion For the Mayor

IF, as the Star-Bulletin suggests, Mayor Lane has offered the vacant seat on the supervisory board to R. W. Shingle, the action will bring credit to the mayor, whether Mr. Shingle accepts or does not accept. If Mr. Shingle has been offered the position, it is very much to be hoped that he will accept. He would be of immense value to the city as a member of the governing body, while his services as a supervisor would entitle him, later on, to some higher office within the gift of the people. If Mr. Shingle cannot see his way clear towards making the sacrifice that a seat upon the board would involve, why should Mayor Lane not allow the business men of the city, as represented in the chamber of commerce, to select a man for the vacant seat? It would be an excellent thing for Honolulu if the board and the chamber could be knit closer together. Supervisor Hollinger is already a member of the chamber of commerce, but his membership is incidental to his supervisoryship. He represents the board in the chamber and on the promotion committee. Now, if a representative chamber of commerce man, selected by the mayor in consultation with President Waldron of the chamber, could be nominated to the board, a direct representative of the chamber there, it would be a wonderfully effective thing in many ways.

PASSING HOUR

"There may be peace deadlier than any war," says a resolution passed yesterday at the Episcopal convention in Chicago. Maui News and other cheek turners please copy.

A physician, a few days ago, advised a tenement mother to go away for a rest and change. Where was the poor woman to go? The proposed camp at Waialua would give just such a woman the rest prescribed for her by this physician.

Mexican murderers of Americans being safe on their own side of the line, Villa appears to see no good reason why they should not be equally safe on our side of the line. At least he informs our secretary of state that the execution of five convicted Mexicans in Arizona might affect American interests in Mexico. Just as if Americans had any interests in Mexico that Villa or any other of his cutthroats had any respect for. The secretary of state fell for Villa's talk, however.

These hot days should remind everyone of the warmer weather to come, when those who can afford it will seek the coolness of the seaside and the mountains. But there are some thousands of little children in the tenement districts of Honolulu who will have no opportunity of healthful holidaying unless the generous of the city come forward to provide the fund needed for the establishment and the upkeep of the proposed summer camp at Waialua. A twenty-five-cent piece will provide transportation and keep for a tired mother

Beneficial Cooperation

IN a recent address at Philadelphia, Secretary of Commerce Redfield gave this statement as to the possible future of our country's foreign trade:

No one, I think, would be surprised to find the United States second in the world's competition, nor, if the war shall long continue, be astonished to find her first. It depends, of course, not merely on what is destructively done yonder, but on what is constructively done here. If we are willing to lay aside passion and prejudice and patriotism, to look at things with an international instead of a parochial viewpoint, to realize that effectiveness is patriotism and that inefficiency is unpatriotic; if we are ready to give up inertia and take a step forward out of ourselves to the help of others; if we remember that commerce is mutual exchange to mutual benefit and not a species of industrial war; if we can learn the lesson that the well-paid workman is the cheapest producer and that science must be applied to industry if we are to win; if these things can be done, I see no reason why, with our resources and intelligence and organization, we may not become the first among the world's great trading nations.

If the secretary of commerce is speaking for the administration, his utterance will be regarded with satisfaction, and in no place with greater satisfaction than in Hawaii. If the administration is in favor of beneficent trusts for the purpose of allowing Americans to meet the competition abroad, there should not be any objection to legitimate cooperation among Americans to meet foreign competition at home, nor steps to protect the home market for legitimate home producers.

One of the objections that have been raised concerning the Hawaiian sugar industry is that the industry is carried on by large units. Such objection Secretary Redfield meets by pointing out that the larger future of American industry depends upon the general carrying out of a business policy along the very line of what is being carried out constructively here. None familiar with the Hawaiian sugar industry will deny that constructive cooperation has created it.

Hawaiian workmen are well paid, the wage scale being equal to the best paid in any part of the world to tropical agricultural laborers, while science has been applied to industry in a greater degree than in any other corner of the globe, bar none.

It is essential that American manufacturers seize the present-day opportunity to go into the markets of the world with their products. It is equally essential that American manufacturers be allowed an equal opportunity to do business in their own country. Sugar manufacturers abroad are not only allowed to cooperate, but are encouraged in it. Bounties are paid upon exports of sugar in some instances; subsidized shipping transports some of it to the shores of the United States.

American sugar growers ask only that their selling market at home be protected equally with their purchasing market.

It must not be supposed that a disposition exists upon the part of the Hawaiian sugar growers for the formation of anything resembling a trust, or that the Hawaiian planters are either a part of or a subsidiary branch of the so-called Sugar Trust, the refiners. Hawaiian cooperation consists in a working together scientifically for the support of an experiment station, for the support of a labor bureau, for the exchange of data between managers, between engineers and between sugar chemists, that all may profit from the discoveries of each. A central marketing bureau places the greater part of the raw sugar output, but has nothing to say regarding the selling price, which is fixed in the world's market.

When a secretary of the cabinet advocates cooperation, the application of science to industry, the application of the knowledge that well paid labor is the cheapest producer, and when the chairman of the federal trade commission advocates strong combinations for the advantages of Americans in foreign markets, the time has come when the Hawaiian planters' good work should be recognized. Their's is a cooperation for production, not for the curtailment of output and the fixing of prices; their work is such as Secretary Redfield places before the nation as the ideal to be attained.

There is much to be considered, also, in the concession of Chairman Davis of the federal trade commission that the cartels and trade combinations in Europe control prices and parcel out territory. If this be so, and we know it is, how can he square it with the Democratic doctrine of free trade, and theory that the consumer in the United States will benefit to the extent of the entire amount of the duty removed?

The statement made by protectionists, when the Democrats were removing duties, was that the combinations in Europe are so well organized and so strong that, under free trade conditions, they will be the ones to say what prices the American consumer shall pay. Davis now confirms this.

Regarding sugar, and the effect of free trade upon the price thereof, Senator Lodge put it very well in a speech in 1912. He said:

With these facts before us, nothing can be clearer than that if we abolish our sugar duties we shall be left at the mercy of the signatories to the Brussels Convention. At the present time the United States is conventional territory. The signatories have nothing to do in order to get control of the American market except to declare that the United States is conventional territory, and thereby permit Russia, which possesses a great surplus of sugar, and other beet-sugar producing countries to pour their over-supply into the United States at any price they please. One year of that process would annihilate the domestic sugar industry of this country and probably reduce the production of our islands to a negligible quantity. Having thus destroyed American competition, the signatories to the convention could then declare the United States again conventional territory, divide the sugar necessary for the consumption of the United States among themselves, and sell it to us at any price they chose to fix. It is not to be supposed for a moment that anything so obvious as this would be overlooked. The consumer of the United States might have a short period of slightly lower prices and that would be followed by higher prices fixed entirely at the will of a foreign combination. The price at which bounty fed sugars can be poured into an unoccupied market is shown by what was done by the bounty-fed sugar of Europe in the English market before the Brussels agreement, and we are not left, therefore, to our unassisted imagination to foretell the outcome.

According to Jack Desha, the Erly bird got the worm. But who got the hook?

ESTABLISHES MONROE DOCTRINE

Japanese Reception of Acceptance By China of Terms of the Ultimatum Served

In view of the anti-Qing agitation now being fought out in the Japanese field, it is interesting to note the varying opinions which greeted the announcement of the acceptance by China of the Japanese demands, with the demands of the Fifth Group eliminated in the terms of the ultimatum. The Japan Times of May 15 quotes a number of representative Japanese. The Times article, in part, says:

Now that the Japanese ultimatum to China has been accepted, many opinions are expressed concerning the results of the negotiations. Those who are more or less connected with the Ministerial parties are satisfied with the achievements of our diplomacy, while others in the Opposition express dissatisfaction at what our country has gained. Takenori Kikuchi, M. P., of the Chusei-kai, hails the conclusion of the negotiations as a dawn of peace and glory for the two countries, saying that the real principle of our demands was simply to establish a sort of Monroe Doctrine in the good sense in the Far East, and that the concessions made by our country in the negotiations were a shame to the dignity of Japan. On the other hand, says the member of parliament, President Yuan should not proceed to say that he has beaten Japan in the diplomatic transactions. There are some among our politicians who devalue our military for the results of the negotiations; but they are wrong in their conception of our demands on this, for they seem to have been disappointed because we have not obtained concessions and rights enough to satisfy them. The whole truth is, however, that we have gained all necessary to the achievement of our ideals. He believes that the concessions made by our authorities do not destroy the spirit of our demands, because they are of the nature of advice to China.

Enough for a Buffer
Kazuye Shoda, formerly vice-minister of finance, is satisfied with the results of the negotiations, and says that those terms in Group 1 which have been struck out can be achieved by other means in the future to some extent. The settlement of the questions pertaining to Manchuria and Mongolia is enough to establish the peace of the Far East on a firm foundation, and it will prove a buffer against the aggression of any European power. The only mistake committed by our country in connection with the Chinese question was that of declaring war upon Germany too early. Our government has made a blunder in opening fire before he right time. The opportune time must have come after some battles had been fought between Germany and Britain in the Far East. These our work would have been more appreciated.

Promised Retrocession a Mistake
Viscount Okitomo Akimoto, a prominent figure in the house of peers, says that the results of the negotiations are below the level of diplomatic success for Japan. But his fellowship qualifies his pronouncement by saying that he cannot agree with those who declare he negotiations to have been a complete failure on the part of this country. To cite one example or two of Japan's mistakes, the proposal to return Tsingtao to China in return for other concessions was contrary to her former idea of demanding Germany to hand it over to China. Japan ought to have waited till the end of the European war for the disposition of the place. Another instance was that those questions which had been pending since the time of the late Marquis Komura, were served in the same dish as the questions which have been created by a new turn in the Chinese affairs. Baron Kato is credited with the reputation of having a very good knowledge of Britain, but one cannot help doubting if he has really grasped the true idea of Downing street on the negotiations.

Japan's White Feather
Masami Oishi, formerly a leader of the Doshikai, who is now retired from active politics, pronounces his judgment on the subject by saying that Japan has shown the white feather. "Our government seems to have had no fixed principles in proposing the demands, and opened the negotiations without any program. A perusal of the official statement of the progress of the negotiations published the other day will convince anybody that the ultimatum retains almost nothing of the original demands. All through the negotiations it is clear that Japan has been dictated to by China. Especially the manner in which the retrocession has been made at three different times was the worst kind of diplomacy. The government ought to have made the concessions of April 26 the last ones."

HAWAII BAR ASSOCIATION REELECTS ALL ITS OFFICERS

At the regular annual meeting of the bar Association of Hawaii, held on Wednesday afternoon in the rooms of the Honolulu Club, the officers of the association were reelected, as follows: Charles K. Hemenway, president; Judge John T. De Bolt, vice-president; Clarence H. Olson, treasurer, and E. White Sutton, secretary. Twenty members were present at the meeting. This was the only business taken up.

On June 3, the post exchange, under direction of Corporal Leigh of the 1st and will give the second big amateur night in the aerodrome at the fort. Circulars have been sent to all the organizations announcing this fact and stating that entries should be made without delay and that men wishing to use the stage recently constructed for practice could do so on application to Corporal Leigh. As the last amateur night was so successful, it is thought that this one will be more so, and more local talent will participate in the evening's entertainment.