COLONEL COMING HOME TO REOPEN FIGHT ON WILSON

Roosevelt Ends His Vacation In West Indian Islands and Starts Back

MAY LEAD FIGHT AGAINST DUAL CITIZENSHIP PLANK

Many Signs Indicate Question Will Be One of His Fighting Points

(Associated Press by Federal Wireless.)

NEW YORK, March 14—Col. Theodore Roosevelt, who has been on a vacation trip to the West Indies for some time, will arrive here on March 25, according to telegraphic word today.

DUAL CITIZENSHIP STRUGGLE CERTAIN

By ERNEST G. WALKER.

(Mail Special to The Advertiser.)

WASHINGTON, March 5.—A Roosevelt an issue over dual citizenship for the forthcoming campaign is being curiously nurtured. For several months there has been a deal of more or less subterranean activity over it. Although the facts seem to show that Colonel Roosevelt, while President, was officially responsible for the same doctrines in this connection as President Wilson, through his secretary of state, has been the matter that has been persistently exploited by Roosevelt and his intimate personal and political friends.

The case of P. A. LeLong, Jr. of Louisiana, has been much featured in this matter. Hundreds of letter have been written to the state department about it. Col. John M. Parker, the well known Progressive of Louisiana, is said to have instituted the inquiry about LeLong's status. In March of last year LeLong wrote to the state department. LeLong, born in this country of French parents, his father having been a unnaturalized Frenchman, represented himself as desiring to visit France. He was an American citizen under American law, but, it develops, according to the law of France, is also a citizen of France. He wished to know whether he could be held for military service in France if he visited there. Mr. Lansing, then solicitor of the department, wrote advising against his going to France because he "appeared to have been born with a 'dual nationality.'"

Pioneers Are Warned

And in all these years, including the administration of Roosevelt the state department again and again wrote letters, such as were written to LeLong, warning inquirers that if they went back to the old country, visiting or otherwise, they took a chance of being drafted for military service. The department has never admitted that this could legally be done by France Italy or two or three other countries, but simply gave warning.

"If at any time in the future," ran a letter of May 5 last to LeLong from the department, "you should find it necessary to visit France and should there be invited upon the ground that you are a French citizen, you should inform a diplomatic or consular officer of the United States, who would report the matter to the department in order that it might take such measures in your behalf as would seem to be warranted by the peculiar facts and circumstances of your case."

Dual Citizenship Impossible

Evidence that Colonel Roosevelt purposes to use this situation for campaign attacks upon President Wilson comes from several quarters. Some months ago, Senator Lodge of Massachusetts, an intimate personal friend of Roosevelt, whom he would like to see nominated again for the Presidency, and the leading minority member of the foreign relations committee, "showed" in the controversy. Ugo Da Prato born in Boston in August, 1895, and son of a naturalized Italian, was detained for military service while in Italy studying architecture. There was not much difficulty getting Prato released but Senator Lodge, as an incident of the correspondence, declared (in line with Roosevelt's magazine pronunciamento): "I cannot assent for a moment to the proposition that such a thing as dual citizenship is possible."

By that time the state department began to "smell a mouse" and Secretary Lansing prepared a comprehensive letter to the senator, which has been made a circular. Therein Mr. Lansing said:

"Dual nationality is not a theory nor doctrine promulgated by the department, but is the unavoidable result of the conflicting laws of different countries."

Roosevelt Warning Quoted

In this he also said: "While this government holds that naturalized American citizens cannot rightfully be called upon to perform military or other obligations which has not actually accrued before their emigration, the department has always deemed it advisable to call the attention of naturalized Italians to the position in which they will be placed in case they voluntarily return to Italy. During and since the administration of President Roosevelt the department of state has accordingly issued a circular warning to them to this effect which contains the following statement: 'Naturalization of an Italian subject in a foreign country without the consent of the Italian government is no bar to liability to military service.'"

The exploitation of criticism never left the secrets in Roosevelt quarters. Gov. Hiram W. Johnson of California, who was on the Roosevelt ticket in 1912, has recently been taking it up.

ART SMITH CHARGES WIFE WITH CRUELTY

Daring Aviator Who Passed Through Honolulu For Orient Sues For Divorce

On the eve of his departure from San Francisco in the Chiyo Maru for Japan and other Oriental countries, Art Smith, the famous aviator of the Panama-Pacific Exposition, filed a suit for divorce against his young and pretty wife, alleging extreme cruelty. Smith was in Honolulu on last Wednesday, and while the Chiyo Maru was in port he created a sensation by touring the city and environs in one of the red "baby automobiles" that will race him in his air machine during his flying exhibitions in the Far East.

The mail which arrived from the Coast yesterday brought details of the divorce suit against the girl who had been Smith's companion from the time he first linked with an aeroplane until he achieved world-wide fame as the sensational aerial successor of the all storied Icarus.

Wrote Other Men is Charge

In his complaint, Smith makes a general charge of cruelty, but while no specific allegations are set forth, it is said that letters written by Mrs. Smith to men friends will figure in the case. Some of the epistles, it is said, were written by Mrs. Smith to Paul Cooley, who operated a moving-picture machine at the Exposition, and to Harry H. Hardesty.

In one letter the aviator's wife is alleged to have written: "I can't decide between Paul and Harry."

The cruelty charges is as follows: "That within two years last past, the defendant, at Fort Wayne, Indiana, and other places, has conducted herself in an extremely cruel and harsh manner toward the plaintiff, thus causing him great pain and mental anguish."

Separated in December

Smith and his wife separated in San Francisco December 27, 1915, she returning to her parents' home in Fort Wayne.

The aviator stated before his departure from the Coast for the Orient that he had observed a growing coldness on the part of his wife toward himself. Some time ago, he said, she ceased giving him a good luck kiss before he made his dangerous flights, but he was so absorbed in the work to which he has devoted and risked his life that at first he did not give serious thought to her apparent indifference.

Excerpts from some of Mrs. Smith's letters—and there is a bundle of them—indicate, it is claimed, that she was attracted by other men.

"I am having a good time here, thanks to Harry," one of the letters reads. "He took me to see 'Twin Beds' Saturday afternoon and we ran a lot with him. I will have to leave town before long or there will be some talk here."

'You Poor, Dear Kid'

"Was so sorry to hear of you getting hurt, honey. You poor, dear kid," is the reading of one letter, which caused Smith to take immediate notice of his wife's actions. The letter was written to a friend of Mrs. Smith in San Francisco.

"We are going to a party of one of our old gang who has just been married," she wrote, it is claimed, "and I don't care much about it. My Mitchell Six wanted to come after me, but nothing doing, as I would have an awful time explaining where he hailed from. So I will use the Empire tonight. His name is Harry H. Hardesty and he has black hair, brown eyes and is pretty good looking. He treats me fine and seems to think a h——l of a lot more of me than Paul does, but I like Paul best. Wish I knew just what Paul did think of me. I wouldn't encourage Harry so much if I thought there was a chance there."

Concerning the aviator's attitude, Mrs. Smith wrote, it is asserted: "Art said in his last letter to me that I should be satisfied to remain settled here for the present. He little knows how well satisfied I am. My guy with the Mitchell Six is making himself more necessary every day, but Paul is first, only I know that Paul doesn't care as much for me as Harry does."

Cooley in Chicago

Paul Cooley is a widower and thirty-six years old, it is stated, and is in Chicago and employed by an artificial limb concern, according to latest reports.

Smith, his friends say, maintained silence regarding his alleged discoveries, and at one time had in mind the idea that his wife merely was indiscreet, and that while she enjoyed lively company, she really loved him. He did not, however, permit his worries to interfere with his work, and he now is under contract to teach aviation to a group of ambitious Japanese.

Eloped in Airship

Smith and his wife, who was Aimee Cour, were schoolmates at Fort Wayne, where the romance which is now a broken memory, began. Impulsively, they eloped in an aeroplane from Fort Wayne to Hillsdale, Michigan, where they were married October 26, 1912. Objections on the part of the girl's parents, who at that time did not look upon Smith as anything more than an impractical boy, induced the young couple to fly away in the air from their home town.

Misfortune marked the sensational elopement. The machine in which they rode fell, and the girl and boy were carried in an unconscious condition to a hospital. There they remained for weeks, and there the marriage ceremony was performed. The young aviator during his rise to fame often declared his wife was the inspiration of his life. She said it was she who first suggested that he learn to fly, and that the love and affection she displayed toward him inspired him to forge ahead in his daring profession.

To dispose of the $1,750,000 territorial refunding bonds in the mainland, Col. Charles J. McCarthy, territorial treasurer, will leave in the Sierra next week for the Coast.

GEORGE R. CLARK TO BE APPOINTED IN DAVIS' PLACE

Judge Clemons Removes Clerk of United States Court, Charging Irregularities

JURIST PRAISES WORK OF FORMER OFFICIAL

Action May Be Subject of Litigation When Horace W. Vaughan Takes Office

George R. Clark, private secretary to Governor Pinkham, will be appointed by Judge Clemons this morning as clerk of the United States district court for Hawaii, succeeding Foster L. Davis, who was removed from office yesterday by Judge Clemons.

Clark was formerly a deputy in the federal court clerk's office. Following the death of Clerk A. E. Murphy Judge Clemons wanted Clark appointed to the office, it is claimed, but finally gave in to the wishes of Judge Dole, who was then in office and who insisted on the appointment of Davis, who had been Murphy's first deputy for several years.

The action taken yesterday was, naturally, by Judge Clemons alone, as the vacancy caused by the expiration of Judge Dole's term of office has not been filled and although Horace W. Vaughan's name has gone to the senate as Dole's successor, there has been no confirmation of the appointment by the senate and Mr. Vaughan, as a consequence, has been unable to qualify as the second federal judge.

Order of Removal

In the removal of Mr. Davis as clerk, Judge Clemons yesterday made the following order, which was ordered spread in the minutes of the court:

"Whereas, the court is of the opinion that the best interests of the court and particularly of the clerk's office require the retirement of the present clerk, Mr. Foster L. Davis.

"Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that Mr. Foster L. Davis be, and he is hereby removed as clerk of the court and that William L. Rosa, first deputy clerk, be and he is hereby appointed as acting clerk of this court to hold office under bond in the sum of ten thousand dollars, until his successor is appointed and qualified or until further order of court."

The removal of Foster L. Davis was brought about as the result, claim federal court officials, of an investigation of the books of the clerk's office. Irregularities discovered are said to account for the action taken yesterday. There is no charge that Davis was short in the moneys in his charge and no funds are missing, it is claimed.

Will Appoint George R. Clark

"The whole thing," said Judge Clemons yesterday, "is that Mr. Davis and I do not agree in the policy that has been in vogue in the conduct of the business of the clerk's office. I will appoint George R. Clark tomorrow as clerk of this court."

Under date of March 13 Judge Clemons wrote to Davis demanding his resignation forthwith, failing which he would dismiss the clerk instantly, he added.

In making his order of dismissal a matter of public record yesterday Judge Clemons said:

"The accounts of the clerk's office are straight as far as money is concerned. I want to express my appreciation of Mr. Davis' work and ability."

In his letter to Davis Judge Clemons said, in part:

No Shortage In Accounts

"I am very glad to say that the practice in the office during the times referred to do not show any final shortages so far as I can see, but they do show an opportunity for misuse of public moneys and a failure to report and account for public moneys, at all times, required by law.

"From the conditions and showing of the books and records in the clerk's office..... and from statements of Mr. McConnell special examiner of the department of justice..... no other course appears open to me than to order your suspension, as I hereby do, beginning this (Tuesday) morning."

Although dated March 13, Judge Clemons' letter was not received by Davis until yesterday morning, the latter claims.

Davis Makes Reply

"I do not desire the charges made to stand uncontradicted," wrote Foster L. Davis yesterday to Judge Clemons. Answering the complaint that no deposits of cash were made in the depository in Honolulu between May, 1915, and December last, Davis points out that he was only appointed Clerk on November 16, last.

"It is true that during part of this time, owing to Mr. Murphy's illness and incapacity, I to some extent shouldered the responsibility of the office, but Mr. Murphy had continued in the office, as you know, until September, 1915," adds Davis in his letter. "You should likewise be acquainted with the fact that, while he was to some extent ill from May to September, yet in all matters of accounts, etc., Mr Murphy did administer the affairs of the office.....From the time I did assume charge on November 16, 1915, to December 16, 1915, I had myself deposited regularly all funds received by me, and the large deposit I made on December 15, 1915, was all funds which had accumulated in the office before I was clerk.....

Claims Murphy Had Charge

"Subsequent to the time Mr. Murphy finally left the office I visited his house almost daily, taking with me the cash book, in order to keep him advised of the financial condition of the office. He kept insisting from day to day that he was going to the office and get the thing straightened out, and as a matter of fact, one day did start down, but fainted at the door. The failure, therefore in making the reports during that period was no fault of mine. Since I assumed the duties of the office, I am quite satisfied the records, either here or in Washington, will show that they were sent in with regularity.....

"I recognize your right in the matter, and realize that the two judges of this court can remove me without giving any reasons whatsoever. Under the circumstances, however, I feel that I cannot tender my resignation and receive vindication, and may I not in all fairness to myself, before removal takes place, request that something more definite be given me, or that, should this not seem advisable to you, you point out in what respects the explanations here given fail to clear up the matter?

Not Sure of Judge's Right

"While I am not quite clear of your right as a single judge to remove me, since it seems reasonable that as the power of appointment is vested in two judges, the power of removal could not be exercised by less than the two, yet, at this time, of course, I cannot raise this question."

Davis has retained Robert W. Breckons to represent him. It was rumored yesterday that when Vaughan is sworn in as second federal judge steps may be taken tending to nullify Judge Clemons' action in the removal of Davis as clerk. It is pointed out that the legal federal court consists of two judges, as provided for in the Organic Act which, in section 86, says: "The said district judges shall appoint a clerk of said court....."

NAVAL MILITIA WANTS A PERMANENT STATION

Location Near Or On Waterfront May Be Secured

The question of a permanent home for the newly organized naval militia is still unsettled. Several places have been suggested, the last being at the naval station, soon to be transferred by the navy to the army.

It is declared that a station near the waterfront, where the small boats for the use of the battalion may be kept is a necessity. Admiral Boush is reported to be in favor of allowing the militia to make permanent use of such part of the station as will remain in the hands of the navy department after the transfer has been ordered.

The battalion last night, went through infantry drill and the instruction in knots and splices was continued. J. E. Sheedy, militia commission, gave a lecture with practical illustration.

JAPANESE BANK MANAGER INSPECTS KONA PLANTATION

S. Awoki manager of Yokohama Specie Bank, and Acting Consul Arita left yesterday on the Mauna Loa for Kona to inspect the Kona Development Company plantation at Holualoa. This plantation was purchased about a year ago by Y. Konno and a lot of Japanese.

W. M. McQuaid, consulting sugar expert for the planters, states yesterday that the 1917 crop will amount to about 5,000 tons if the weather conditions during the next six months are as favorable as the season has been thus far. A considerable extension in area has been planned and it is anticipated that after 1918 the normal crop will be 5,000 tons or over.

Consul Arita and Mr. Awoki will return overland to Kohala and are expected back on the Mauna Kea Saturday.

PHILIPPINE DEPARTMENT TO HAVE NEW COMMANDER

According to a special order received at Department Headquarters yesterday from the war department, Brig. Gen. John F. Morrison, U. S. A., has been ordered relieved from command of the United States troops stationed in China, and is ordered to proceed to Manila, for assignment to the command of Fort William McKinley, Philippine Islands. General Morrison will relieve Brig. Gen. Hunter Liggett, U. S. A., the present commander of Fort McKinley, who is ordered to assume the command of the Philippine Department. Both the generals are well known to a number of the officers of the army stationed on Oahu.

MEAT MAKES ACHY BACKS

Meat eaters are apt to have weak kidneys and lame, achey backs. The kidneys are at work all the time, filtering uric acid out of the blood, and a heavy meat diet increases the production of uric acid so greatly that in time it is likely to overwork and weaken the kidneys.

A little meat is good, and athletes or others who do heavy physical exercise out of doors can stand a lot of it, but persons who work inside should cut down on meat as soon as they begin to feel heavy after eating, and are having backache, headache, dizzy spells, rheumatic pains, nervous troubles and irregular action of the kidneys.

Neglect of this condition leads to danger of gravel, dropsy and Bright's disease.

Don't delay.

Strengthen the kidneys by using Doan's Backache Kidneys Pills. Thousands will tell you how good they are.

"When Your Back is Lame—Remember the Name." Don't simply ask for a kidney remedy—ask distinctly for Doan's Backache Kidney Pills and take no other. Doan's Backache Kidney Pills are sold by all druggists and storekeepers at 50c. a box (six boxes $2.50) or will be mailed on receipt of price by the Hollister Drug Co., or Benson, Smith & Co., agents for the Hawaiian Islands.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANIES FILE PROFIT RETURNS

Utilities Commission Hears From Island Corporations As To Their Financial Status

FEES BEING RECEIVED AS PROVIDED BY LAW

Annual Report of Territorial Board Shows Treasury To Be In Good Condition

The public utilities commission has appointed H. Gooding Field as its auditor in the investigation of the Mutual Telephone Company's financial records and business. This is merely one of many investigations of public service corporations to be undertaken by the commission, in compliance with the law which created the board. Field is appointed for the telephone company work solely; it is understood the auditor is to be selected individually for each investigation.

At its meeting yesterday the commission received a report of the drowning near Napoopoo, Hawaii, of a Japanese seaman off the Inter-Island vessel Helene, and decided to go aboard the Helene at the dock early this morning to institute personal investigation of the affair.

Financial Statements

The board also received annual statements from utility corporations within its jurisdiction which are required to contribute to the commission's maintenance. Such statements already received from fifteen companies show there are due the commission semi-annual fees aggregating $2842.36, not including several hundred dollars from the Mutual Telephone Company, over the precise amount of which some doubt exists. There are about twenty-five such corporations, and the semi-annual income from them will be nearly $5000.

The accident case which the board is to investigate today is that of Jasuku Ono, a sailor of the steamer Helene, who fell overboard from that ship Sunday afternoon when the boat was off Fishermans Point, Hawaii, just after it had left Napoopoo. Capt. J. W. Sack reports that only one actual witness is known, and he is not aware of the cause.

Prompt Rescue Work Fails

Despite quick efforts to reach him Ono was drowned, his body disappearing from sight when the ship's boat hastening to his rescue was within fifty feet of the victim. Search was continued for the body approximately thirteen minutes, according to the captain's statement, after which the boat was drawn in and the Helene sailed again.

An opinion from the attorney-general is expected at the commission's next meeting on the question of its jurisdiction over the free alarm and time clock service of the Mutual Telephone Company. It is understood the attorney-general already has held verbally that the service is not within the legal meaning of public utility and therefore non-assessible.

Company Raises Question

In submitting the company's financial report J. A. Balch, treasurer, raises the question, saying:

"We are conducting our fire alarm system in direct competition with the service furnished by the city of Honolulu, and our time clock and time stamp system is also operated in direct competition with many makes and varieties of such instruments giving a like service. We believe, therefore, as the public is in no way forced to make use of the telephone, telegraph should come directly under the classification of luxuries or conveniences and not necessities, and should therefore not be classified by your commission as a utility."

The public utilities commission this month is receiving its semi-annual fees from the public service corporations of the Territory, these computed on a basis of one-twentieth of one percent of each company's gross income for the last year and one-fiftieth of one percent of the capital stock each corporation had outstanding at the end of 1915.

Reports From Corporations

The following reports from such corporations, showing gross income and outstanding capital stock of each, were read at the commission's meeting:

Hawaii Telephone Company, gross income, $55,699.91; outstanding stock, $150,000; fee due commission, $57.84.

Kauai Telephonic Company, gross income, $12,320.85; outstanding stock, $20,000; fee due commission, $10.16.

Kauai Railway Company, gross income, $89,834.02; outstanding stock, $500,000; fee due commission, $144.91.

Hilo Electric Light Company, gross income, $86,385.79; outstanding stock, $292,840; fee due commission, $94.75.

Waiahi Electric Company, gross receipts, $1,277; outstanding stock, $10,000; fee due commission, $2.63.

Kahului Railroad Company, gross income, $287,996.56; outstanding stock, $300,000; fee due commission, $204.

Oahu Shipping Company, gross income, $20,417.68; outstanding stock, $25,000; fee due commission, $15.20.

Other Statements Recorded

Honolulu Gas Company, gross income, $169,751.10; outstanding stock $400,000; fee due commission 164.87.

Honolulu Rapid Transit and Land Company, gross income, $586,588.20; outstanding stock, $1,207,500; fee due commission, $534.79.

Hawaii Railway Company, gross income, $83,122.57; outstanding stock $100,000; fee due commission, $61.56.

Kohala Telephone Company, gross income, $6,079.25; outstanding stock, $10,000; fee due commission, $5.03.

Inter-Island Steam Navigation Company gross income, $1,370,103.45; stock outstanding, $2,250,000; fee due commission, $1,135.95.

Maui Telephone Company gross income, $26,950.05; outstanding stock, $50,000; fee due commission, $22.97.

Mutual Telephone Company gross income, $272,419.24; outstanding stock, $615,870; fee not yet determined, question as to whether fire alarm and clock service shall be figured as public utility not yet settled.

Hawaiian Electric Company, gross income, $377,220.07; outstanding capital $100,000; fee due commission, $388.60.

A number of these companies already have sent in checks in payment of the fees named.

Utilities Board's Finances

Financially the public utilities corporation is in excellent condition, according to its annual report to the Governor, which now is in the printer's hands. It shows that at the end of the year 1915 the commission had a balance of $11,592.84 after paying all expenses. In the year it collected from twenty-two corporations a total of $9442.58 and expended only $6226.94; the balance from this added to the balance left from 1914 makes the neat sum mentioned, remaining in its fund.

TROUBLE AVERTED.

That little cold and sore throat of yours must be checked at once or it may develop into something worse. Taken a few doses of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and your troubles will soon vanish. For sale by all dealers. Benson, Smith & Co., Ltd., agents for Hawaii.

NELLIE MELBA HERE GOING TO HER HOME

Has Aided By Her Work Materially For the Red Cross Cause

Returning to her home at Melbourne, Australia, after a concert tour through the United States and Canada in behalf of the Red Cross organization which is doing such heroic work on European battlefields, Madame Nellie Melba, the world famed diva arrived in Honolulu yesterday by the steamer Wilhelmina. She will remain here until March 22, intending to continue her journey in the Niagara.

Whether she will give a concert in the course of her visit this time is uncertain. She said yesterday that this likely will be her last visit to Honolulu for a long time. She did considerable sightseeing yesterday and at noon was the guest of Mrs. W. D. Adams at luncheon. She is stopping at the Young Hotel.

It is estimated that since the war's outbreak Madame Melba has raised more than $100,000 by her concerts as a direct contribution to the Red Cross fund. In Australia and Canada particularly, where her programs have assumed a patriotic character, vast sums have been contributed and often her influence has turned those concerts into great demonstrations of patriotism.

On last Christmas Day in Ottawa, Canada, the singer was recipient of the decoration of Our Lady of Grace of St. John of Jerusalem a decoration worn today by only twenty other women in the world. It was sent her by King George and was pinned on her breast by the Duke of Connaught, governor general of Canada. At that time she was the guest of the duke and duchess in their home at Ottawa, remaining there ten days. In three concerts in Canada, it is said, she made $30,000 for the Red Cross.

Madame Melba is accompanied by her daughter-in-law, Mrs. George Armstrong; her manager, Frank Rigo, and her pianist, H. St. Leger. Robert Parker, the English baritone who assisted in her concert here last year, has not been in her company for several months.

HONOLULU IS RICHEST COMMUNITY IN WORLD

This Is What Famous Publisher Thinks of 'Paradise'

Referring to Honolulu as the richest community in the world, Cyrus H. K. Curtis, speaking at the Commercial club yesterday, doubted what was to become of the people here if the biblical quotation regarding the rich man, the camel, heaven and the eye of the needle was true.

Mr. Curtis proved that he was a finished and witty speaker and his hosts thoroughly enjoyed his address. He told principally of his city of Philadelphia and its wonderful development as a manufacturing center. He said some persons of rival cities referred to it as "Sleepidelphia," but with the Baldwin Locomotive Works turning out a completed locomotive every two hours, the Stetson Hat Company, a hat every two and one-fourth seconds, six days in the week, this report of the slowness of the town was rather exaggerated.

The speaker claimed a population of 5,000,000 for the "City of Brotherly Love" but said it was only credited with 1,725,000. With more than 10,000 manufacturing plants and a payroll of $45,000,000 a month, the city has just spent $60,000,000 for a subway system to handle the traffic, and the same amount is being spent on a waterfront and other improvements.

One of the show places of the town is the Curtis Publishing Company's building. This houses the most extensive publishing plant in the world and receives about 35,000 visitors a year. The building cost $7,000,000 and houses 3500 employes. In this great plant The Saturday Evening Post, Ladies' Home Journal and Country Gentleman are issued weekly.

BIG ISLAND PHONE PLANT FACES JUNK HEAP, WARNS BALCH

Manager of Mutual Tells Utilities Commission War Prices Are Ruinous

OBJECTS TO INCREASED EXPENSES OF INQUIRY

Board Adopts Program For Examination of Companies, Which Begins Monday

If the prices of material and supplies, which have jumped enormously since the outbreak of the war in Europe, continue at their present level, it will be impossible to make both ends meet with the existing telephone tariffs on the Big Island. That is what J. A. Balch, manager of the Mutual Telephone Company told the public utilities commissioners at their meeting in the Capitol last night. He added that the plant might have to be junked.

The meeting, which was called to consider the rates for telephones on the Big Island, put into effect six months ago, developed that none but favorable reports have been received from the users of the system on Hawaii. The question of advertising the receipts and expenditures under the new rates in the press of Hilo was discussed and aroused the opposition of Mr. Balch, who declared that he feared the chronic kickers would take advantage of the opportunity. He said the telephone company has been under great expense in giving the service it is now providing for the people of Hawaii, and that the last investigation cost the company something like $500 for attorney's fees, personal expenses of himself and his assistants, and printing bills.

Cost Of Service Grows

He declared that the cost of the service has increased enormously since the outbreak of the war in Europe, and that some instances the prices of supplies and material used in the work have jumped three and four hundred per cent and more. He insisted that under existing circumstances it is impossible to make both ends meet.

"Mind," he added, "I do not believe that these prices are going to hold up to the present mark, but if they should the present rates we are charging in Hawaii will prove utterly inadequate to meet the charges upon the company for the service we are giving to the people. In some instances we are paying for supplies and material dollars where before we paid cents. The prices have jumped three and four hundred per cent in many other instances. It may be necessary to junk the whole plant if these conditions prevail and no relief is afforded."

"Does that mean that you are going to ask for another increase in rates," asked Charles R. Forbes, chairman of the commission.

"I am not prepared to say anything about that," said Mr. Blach. "I am merely telling you the facts in the case, statements that can be substantiated at any time by reference to our books. Suppose we did ask for an increase, what would happen?"

Could Order Rate Increase

"Well, I have heard of commissions on the mainland ordering an increase of rates in cases of that kind, where the proof was sure and the need was great," said A. J. Gignoux, one of the members of the commission. His reply brought a smile to the faces of those present, and even Mr. Balch grinned a faint grin.

Prior to this a program for the investigation which the commission plans to begin next Monday, was adopted by the body. The following gives the heads of the subject matters which will be probed, but not the order in which they will be taken up:

1. A detailed statement and segregation of the amounts of property and character of plants. 2. A trial balance of the utility business at the end of the last fiscal year. 3. Profit and loss account covering such business during the last fiscal year. 4. A detailed statement and segregation of running expenses of such business during such period as the commission may deem useful. 5. A detailed statement of the amount and nature and source of income from such business.

Other Matters Under Inquiry

The commission also will take up the manner in which the utilities portion of the business is operated in regard to the safety and accommodation of the public; the safety and working hours of the employes as well as their wages; the fares and rates charged and the justness and reasonableness, or the unjustness and unreasonableness of such charges; the value of the physical property engaged in the utilities business; issuance of stocks and bonds, if any; amount and disposition of income; such other subjects as the commission may deem necessary to investigate under sections 2225 and 2227 and 2234 of the revised laws.

The investigation will start on Monday with the Mutual Telephone Company of Oahu. April 5 the commission will take up the Kauai Telephone Company and the Waiki Electrical Company. May 15 the Maui Telephone Company, the Lahaina Ice Company and the Island Electric Company will go under the probe, and May 30 the commissioners will commence upon the Kohala Telephone Company of Hawaii. June 5 the Hilo Railroad Company will come up for investigation. No dates were set for the investigation of the Honolulu Gas Company or the Hawaiian Electric Company.

At its regular meeting today the commission probably will appoint an accountant.