

Waiakea Homestead League Attacks Vigilance Corps

Good Faith of Organization Impugned On Proposition To Continue Lease of Government Lands to Plantation As War Measure—George R. Carter Makes Vigorous Statement

Officials of the Waiakea Homestead League of Hilo question the good faith of the Hawaiian Vigilance Corps of the American Defense Society in its recent request for action by the government in continuing the government lands leased to the Waiakea plantation for growing up the sugar production as a war measure, while George R. Carter, head of the Vigilance Corps, says the Vigilance Corps declines to get into an argument, but asserts very positively that few of the four hundred members of the corps have any interest whatever in the Waiakea plantation or plantation interests looking to "working for their pocket."

Last Friday evening the Waiakea Homestead League adopted resolutions in opposition to the Vigilance Corps' request to the government, and forwarded a long cablegram to Delegate Kubio at Washington, asking him to oppose the Vigilance Corps proposition, the cablegram, signed by D. E. Metzger, president; Stephen Desha, senior vice president; and M. P. Spicola, secretary, being as follows:

"Report spread that Waiakea intends abandon fields now being cut, notwithstanding right to harvest any crop growing at expiration lease June first. Plantation and territorial administration apparently trying to force renewal lease for six to ten years by President's withdrawal and defeat existing homestead rights of citizens. Move has enlisted support and efforts of Vigilance Corps, headed by George Carter, on theory that if lease agreeable to plantation not made, will result to curtail sugar production.

"Facts are that nine-tenths plantation now subjected to Oriental at \$5 year acre. Company pays \$2000 rent, receives over \$30,000 rent. Last crop 147,292 tons yielded \$120 ton net of shipping and marketing. Paid Oriental subsidies for cane \$34.29 for each ton sugar. Milling costs about \$6. Control company stock owned by alien non-residents.

"About nine-tenths bona fide homesteaders have already applied for these lands. Many will follow, one opportunity made known. Five hundred eleven applicants for seventeen small homesteads opened Hialeka last month. Authorities can, as in past, have small necessary care given ration in interim, adding cost to appraisal value. No need confusion of loss in homestead this land if good faith action by authorities. Small growers production always greater than under plantation.

"This league over 100 citizens asks your immediate help before food administration, President and interior. Advise Senators Myers, Jones and others. Letter follows."

"To regard working for our pockets, as we are charged," said Mr. Carter yesterday when his attention was called to the action of the Waiakea League in Hilo on Friday, "I guess the 400 members who are contributing to the work cannot be placed in that category.

"I don't believe one percent of the members are interested in the Waiakea plantation, and I don't believe any of them believe their pockets will be benefited.

"The Vigilance Corps of the American Defense Society declines to get into an argument. If the small holders will produce as much as the plantations it is up to our officials to support them. If they would produce more sugar that is what we are after.

"Glancing over the items of the argument of the league I have only to say that a representative of the Waiakea Mill Company said to me on the day of the meeting that Waiakea would be glad to grind all sugar on that land in question, at cost, as its bit, during the war.

"Fortunately, I am not in politics, and can take an individual attitude, which, perhaps, some others cannot. I don't know that homesteaders can make a better profit than others.

"On the homestead question I tried his plan and we got rid of certain government property but without making appreciable gains in the production of wealth of the Territory or increasing the population.

"I thought, during my administration as Governor, I could succeed in building up a middle-class, so-called, believing that if homesteading was only practiced under equitable and reasonable conditions, it would be a success. I, too, passed part of the public domain out of the hands of the people only to find it now abandoned in some cases by the homesteaders and in the hands of corporations. So far as I know, I prepared it, securing some amendments to the Organic Act to handle the question. I don't know what the present administration is doing, but I only regret that the people of the Islands, or the community as a whole, do not seem to gain or benefit by the experience of such administration. Every one as it comes along, has to try some experiment at the expense of the people.

"I know of no way to cure this. It is our system of government and I am convinced that Fairchild's proposition of segregating the cultivated from the uncultivated land comes nearer to offering the solution than anything else.

"It is one thing to encourage a man to take the wilderness and burn it to use, and another thing to encourage a man who wants to take all the kiawe wood and sell it off the property and then abandon the property, or take off the crop growing on it that some one else has grown."

League's Arguments

The arguments of the league as presented on Friday night on the Waiakea question were summed up by the Hilo Tribune, follows:

"1.—That Waiakea plantation is making \$28,000 a year profit from lands

which it rents from the government and sublets to Oriental contractors.

"2.—If small leases can make a profit under present conditions, that homesteaders could make a better profit.

"3.—That in point of fact the production from land cultivated by small holders is always higher than from lands cultivated by gang labor.

"4.—That it would be a simple matter to arrange for cultivation of the railroads now standing, if the Waiakea lands were to be thrown open to homesteaders, and therefore that no loss of sugar need result."

Committee Appointed

In order to help Kubio at Washington a committee of five was appointed with Judge D. E. Metzger as chairman ex-officio to draft resolutions to be submitted to Washington. This committee was instructed by the meeting to present all facts relating to sugar production, working conditions, yield per acre of land worked by plantations as compared with holdings of small owners, efficiency of imported Oriental labor, and all other data tending to show that distribution of the Waiakea lands to homesteaders would not in any way decrease the yield of the acreage in question.

In addition to the resolutions, it was also decided to draw up another set for submission to the territorial government, requesting that immediate action be taken by the land commission with a view to having the Waiakea lands surveyed for homesteading.

The closing speech at the Hilo meeting was made by Judge D. E. Metzger, who told the members of the league that the time had come to act together against hostile forces seeking to defeat the application of the homestead laws.

"We are prepared to give battle from now on to those hostile to our rights as citizens," he said, "who in the name of patriotism are presenting arguments which are fallacious and misleading.

"We must unite and use all our efforts to combat, expose and bring into open daylight these arguments which by many may be accepted as sound."

Superintendent of Schools After Slow School Teachers

There continues to be delays in reporting terms examination and other school matters," says Henry W. Kinney, superintendent of public schools, "and in answering other requests of the department.

"In three or four instances the examination results for the first term did not reach the office until late in January, and in one case did not arrive until early in February.

"In the filing out of these reports there were also errors which made it necessary to return them. Important statistical work was delayed on this account, and much inconvenience and expense was caused.

"It is a part of the work of the term to see that all reports are correct, by made and forwarded, and vacation should not be taken until this work has been done.

"The principal in each case is responsible for having all assistants complete reports to him, and he should in turn, see that his work is completed promptly and properly forwarded."

Principals Asked To Trace Pupils Who Move From School

One of the results of the home survey adopted by the plantations, says the February number of the Hawaiian Educational Review, is a periodical movement of families from one plantation to another. On this account, it is becoming more and more difficult to keep track of children changing from school to school.

Principals are urged to notify schools where the children are going, and to answer promptly all inquiries that come to them and furnish release cards properly filled out.

They should also use every possible means to find children of school age who have moved into their districts. The trust officer should be a great help in this, but assistance may be had from the school children, and from other sources for locating them.

KAUAI SCHOOLS HONOR WASHINGTON'S NATAL DAY

Washington's Birthday was prettily observed at the Lihue public schools on Thursday afternoon, says the Gazette on February 29. In default of suitable assembly rooms, the exercises were given on the lawn of the open court between the buildings in spite of the very uncertain weather which threatened rain at any moment.

Recitations, some very graceful folk dances, motion songs by the little ones, part recitations illustrative of the lives of some of our great national heroes, the adventures of a little red stamp, and other interesting items were on the program. The singing by the upper grades in chorus was very well done, and very effective.

Perhaps on the whole, the most pleasing number on the program was the folk dance, "Reaping the Flax," with a very taking interlude motif.

The program was finally hurried to a close by the down pour of rain which fell in sheets, and which marred the audience for an hour or so, and placed a very temporary premium on umbrellas.

HALF RATE FREIGHT TO FAIR EXPECTED

Railroads Grant Request and Inter-Island Takes Matter Up With Shipping Board

A one-way rate, or half-rate, on all exhibits shipped to the territorial fair in June from the other islands or from outside points on Oahu, has been granted by the Inter-Island Steamship Company, and if the Inter-Island Steamship Company can obtain permission from the Shipping Board it will grant a similar rate.

This announcement was made yesterday afternoon by J. K. Butler, chairman of the fair's transportation committee.

The Inter-Island wrote to the Shipping Board February 29, asking permission to grant the special rate on freight for the fair and a favorable reply is anticipated by the middle of the present month.

As stated, the one-way rate will apply to all things sent to the territorial fair for exhibit, including livestock, agricultural machinery and other goods, manufacturers, persons actively interested in the domestic science or arts and crafts divisions, all such, who use the railroads in transporting their goods to the fair are to be provided for.

Private Whittier's Report

Exhibitors will pay the full rate on their shipments to Honolulu, and at the end of the fair C. R. Wilford, secretary of the fair commission, will give them special exhibitors' certificates entitling them to free transportation for their stock or other goods on the homeward journey.

This announcement is expected to clarify the situation of many growers, particularly livestock men, many of whom desire to place fine displays and compete for blue ribbons but have deferred filing entries because transportation expenses have been uncertain.

Officials of the Inter-Island Company are confident that application to the Shipping Board for a special freight rate will meet with approval, and the point undoubtedly will be settled definitely within the next two weeks, a fortnight before the closing date for entries in the livestock section of the fair.

Cups are Offered

Two silver cups, to be given as special prizes for champion pigs and the horses at the territorial fair in June, will be donated to the commission by Ernest Brecht, of the Pioneer Mill Company, Lahaina, Maui. In making the offer, the donor writes that he would prefer the cup hung up in the equine division by seven saddle horses. The committee in charge is given authority to determine what class shall be favored. Mr. Brecht says he will be unable to place a livestock exhibit, but that his section of the Pioneer Mill plantation probably will have a good exhibit in the agricultural division.

Meat Prices Are Posted in Markets

The general rule of exhibiting prices of all foods in plain figures at the public market went into effect at the meat counters of the market yesterday and showed a decrease in the prices of most cuts of meat which averaged seven cents per pound. That these prices will be permanent and will eliminate the old fluctuations where the price of the meat depended on what could be got for it, is the belief of the members of the Hawaiian Vigilance Corps whose food brought about the change. The prices shown yesterday for meat were as follows:

Pork	22 1/2
Ham	22 1/2
Round	22 1/2
Sirloin	25
Flank	25
Tripe	25 1/2
Hamburger	29
Pot, rib roast	28 1/2
P. H. Roast	28 1/2
Briquet Steak	20
Salt Beef	20
Corned Beef	20
Chuck steak	20
Hot stew	20
Flank Stew	17 1/2

MAJOR REDINGTON IS DETAILED IN CALIFORNIA

Major Laurence W. Redington, U. S. N. G., who was the first officer in the National Guard of Hawaii to be drafted into federal service and who was assigned to the 4th Division, Camp Kearney, San Diego. This division is under command of Maj. Gen. F. S. Strong, formerly commanding officer of the Hawaiian department. Major Redington expects to be "over there" in a few months' time.

MAJOR CLARK LOOKS FOR LANDING PLACES

Major Harold Clark, U. S. A., head of the new squadron of the army here, visited Hilo on Sunday and Monday, looking around for "landing" places in the harbor of his seaplane, and incidentally went up to Kilanea to observe the lava overflow from the Volcano. He left Hilo in the Mauna Kea on Monday and got off at Lahaina to check for similar "landing" places both at Lahaina and Kahala. Major Clark will return to Honolulu on Thursday.

Two Are Arrested For Alleged Seditious Remarks

Albert H. Lucas and H. Gregson Face Serious Charge of Disloyalty Made By Military Provost Guard

Albert H. Lucas, a bartender at the Fashion Saloon, was arrested last night upon the complaint of the military provost guard and held for the federal authorities on a charge of uttering seditious reflections upon American soldiers, the President of the United States, and for expressing a wish that a revolution would come to end the war.

Lucas was detained at the police station last night without bail.

The arrest was made at eight o'clock by a police officer and Sgt. W. Neary, Company C, Second Infantry, who made the charge after he had received a report of the purported remarks of Lucas from W. A. Whittier, also of the same regiment and company. Both soldiers were in Honolulu on provost duty.

Frenchman Is Indignant

Private Whittier's report was received by the provost sergeant after he heard a civilian, who was taken for a Frenchman, ask the culled man why he didn't ask Lucas in the face for the remarks, which the civilian is said to have overheard.

According to Private Whittier's report to his sergeant he was passing through the Fashion Saloon, when he said to Lucas, whom he met upon the floor outside of the bar:

"I hear they are going to have prohibition here. What are you going to do then?" The private reports that Lucas replied:

"Guess we will have to join the army like you did. Then go over to France and stop bullets. You people are d— fools. You have no privileges at all; you are deprived of your home or any other good thing, while Wilson and his friends are sitting in the White House smoking good twenty five cent cigars. Why the d— don't they go out and fight? Wish to d— we have a revolution tomorrow to end the war."

Second Arrest In Saloon Also

Three hours after Lucas' arrest for his alleged seditious remarks, H. Gregson was booked at the police station by the provost guard, with Marshal Samuddy given as the charging officer. He is said to have been overheard making anti-American remarks in the Anchor Saloon by a soldier on secret service detail, who reported him to the police and provost.

The only person listed by this name in the 1917 Oahu directory is Harry Gregson, a homesteader of Kaneohe.

Lucas is an Island youth of good connections, who is generally well liked by his acquaintances. He has been employed by the Fashion Saloon for several years.

Whiskey and Prohibition Blamed

"Whiskey talking" is what friends of Lucas said was the cause of his alleged seditious expressions, many of whom claim they did not believe he was an American at heart, and several of them offering to put up bail for his appearance.

Piqued over the coming of prohibition and the probability of soon being out of employment, fostered to a grudge against everything that was more liquor than was good for him, was the expressed belief of others as having been the main cause of Lucas' trouble with the provost guard last night.

Gregson's arrest, coming so soon after that of Lucas, was taken last night as an indication that the army authorities here are beginning a campaign to check wild talk about the war, which it is feared might cause the authorities trouble when the Hawaii draft is called into service.

HUBER CAN ACT EXCEPT IN TREASON

But This Was What Bartel's Case Was. If Anything, He Explains

According to J. O'Brien, special assistant to the attorney general of the United States, either District Attorney Huber has misinterpreted the general instructions sent from Washington directing his office to institute proceedings in the federal court in such cases as the case of Bartel's (in fact) or the head of the local American Defense League, H. Huber.

Mr. O'Brien writes that "the only type of prosecution concerning Bartel's case which attorneys have been asked to submit the situation to the court is that of treason, and that action, as the court has taken, is under the provisions for treason itself under the constitution and carrying the death penalty."

Mr. Huber agrees with this, but explains that in the particular case of Bartel's he believed that it could only be taken under the treason statute, that it did not come under the Espionage Act and that he was bound by his instructions to submit the facts to Washington. If it had been a serious case under the treason statute, he explains, he would have cabled Washington but under the circumstances he used the mail, believing that the department would not have relied upon a cable to take the Bartel's affidavit.

Letter Forwarded

The letter from Washington dealing with the matter came to George R. Carter, president of the American Defense League here, Mr. Carter having taken the Bartel's case up with the department to see where the community stood in respect to men who shouted: "To hell with the President!" The letter says:

In response to your communication of January 29, 1918, the Department begs to state that either you or United States Attorney Huber is under an erroneous impression as to the scope of United States Attorney's powers to institute prosecution without consultation with the Department.

Many acts or utterances popularly called treasonable, constitute violations of laws without necessarily being in violation of the treason statute. For instance, the incident you mention, seems to be a violation of the statute prohibiting threats against the President. The only type of prosecution concerning which United States Attorneys have been asked to submit the situation to the Department before taking action, are prosecutions for treason itself under the treason statute and carrying the death penalty. Prosecutions under all other statutes can be instituted by the United States Attorney without any previous consultation with the Department. The request for previous consultation before the prosecution under the treason statute itself, need cause no delay.

The question can easily be submitted by telegram and the opinion of the Department sent by telegram.

The scope of Mr. Huber's authority and the instructions of the Department are such that prompt and in fact immediate action can be taken.

Following Order, Says Huber

This letter was shown to Mr. Huber yesterday. He did not agree with the idea that he had misinterpreted his instructions. He quoted from the department's letter of October 26, which says, among other things: "No prosecution for violation of treason statutes should be instituted without first submitting a statement of the facts and obtaining authority from this department." The same paragraph expressly mentions Sections 1, 2 and 3 of the Criminal Code.

"The facts in the Bartel's case, in my judgment," said Mr. Huber, "did not bring it within the Espionage Act, and therefore felt that if it were actionable at all it would have to fall under one of the several sections relating to treason.

"According to general instructions, therefore, I secured affidavits covering the evidence and forwarded these to Washington. I did not believe the case warranted calling the contents of the affidavits. After the department officials had considered the affidavits, they reached the conclusion that the language used was not actionable.

"I understand fully that it is not necessary for me to submit matters of this kind to the department, but I will be guided by the specific instructions sent me. All other cases are taken up by my office direct without any submission of the facts or without other reference to the department."

HACKFELD AFFAIRS HOLDING INTEREST

Business Circles Eagerly Discuss Failure of Honolulu Plans of Americanizing

Disorganization of the reorganization of H. Hackfeld & Company, the Americanizing of the Americanizing of the concern, was the chief topic of conversation in Honolulu yesterday. It was carried on the breakfast table to the business office and out into the street. Everywhere the subject buzzed and fluttered and was bandied back and forth. There were almost as many different views heard as there were people who discussed it.

Many expressed dissatisfaction at the failure of the local plans and some considered it a distinct reflection against the loyal citizens who had undertaken and now are abandoning the project. For its failure various causes were attributed and the criticism was more or less pronounced.

Shingle Mentioned

Among those mentioned as perhaps directly responsible for the failure of the plan of H. W. Shingle was frequently mentioned with comment on his having testified for Bodiek and asserting that he had expected to be the successor of Bodiek in the reorganized company and failing in this plan had sought to thwart the plans of others.

Those who had professed to lack faith in the real Americanization of the company continued in their opinion. Those who had faith were professedly disappointed. They had hoped the plans would go through as organized by the company.

Custodian Defended

One prominent attorney, recently on the mainland, in commenting on the affair said it was most unfortunate that he considered the custodian of alien property in no way to blame.

"We do not recognize the magnitude of the job," said he. "When I was in Washington I looked into it a little.

"At the corner of Sixteenth and P in Washington there is an eight story building that was formerly a tenement house. Every room in that building is now an office of this new department.

"The custodian must have a general plan. He cannot permit precedents to be established over his plans. There must be set rules. I may say the bank should pay my undated check because they know my signature is good and I know my signature is good and I date my check it will not be accepted.

"I believe that if it had been possible to take up the plans with the custodian it would have been readily arranged on a mutually satisfactory basis. As it is the plans employed here are not those he has laid out. He should not be blamed for this."

Speed Was Essential

Had it been possible to take matters up with the custodian of alien property from here it would have been done but time was a vital part of the reorganization plans. It was believed it must be done then or not at all. That if not then done real Americanization, voluntarily effected, would be impossible.

If it is admitted the reorganizers have been much handicapped by the restrictive laws against them, the custodian of alien property may have had some effect upon the final result. The conservative opinion of the attorney quoted above that the custodian could not permit the making of a precedent of this kind in view of the immense volume of business before him also found some supporters.

It is conceived it was impossible for the reorganizers and the custodian to get together on common ground. The people here did not know his plans. They went ahead, presumably with the best intentions, and the purposes have crossed.

There are others who insist that but for the efforts of persons who were not in the reorganization and who were opposed to it, the reorganization might have succeeded.

Richard H. Trent, representative of the custodian here, has notified A. Mitchell Palmer of the action taken here on Monday and the next move is expected to come from Washington. Meantime elections of officers in subsidiary companies to the Hackfeld Company are being postponed.

STRANGER ADVISES VISIT TO SCHOOLS

Gertrude Colborn, Mainlander, Pleasantly Surprised Over Work of Hawaiian Student

What many tourists wise during their sojourn in Honolulu and elsewhere in the Islands was discovered and gave Gertrude Colborn most pleasure—a visit to the Honolulu public schools.

Following a visit and inspection of the Royal School, of which Cyril O. Smith is principal, Gertrude Colborn sat herself down and wrote "An Appreciation by a Passing Stranger" for the school page of The Advertiser, as follows:

Gertrude Colborn Surprised

"If you are a stranger in Honolulu or if you are ever lonely, visit the public schools.

"If you are interested in education, if you love children, if you want a new patriotic thrill visit the public schools in Honolulu.

"To me they were a surprise.

"Do not be afraid of disturbing them. Nothing seems to disturb them. They are glad to show you what they are doing and how they do it.

"Here I must explain that the children, being mostly foreigners, come from homes where English is spoken only for business purposes, and therefore two years is often spent in the first grade in that painstaking language drill which lays the foundation for joyous scholarship ever after.

"In one of the first grade rooms I heard a name and age drill. 'What is your name?' carefully enunciated the teacher. The child indicated name and as carefully enunciated: 'My name is _____ and I am eight years old.'

"Eight years old,—that means something in activity of mind that helps. Nothing seems to disturb them. They are glad to show you what they are doing and how they do it.

"Moreover, a large percentage of the scholars are Orientals, who are students to a degree that no American or British child is. They are European children of being, and attend their own schools either before or after public school hours.

"Even the Hawaiian child must learn his own language outside of the public school, and that gives them an added advantage in that every additional language is said to add a new personality.

Hardest Set of Children

"Here in the Honolulu schools I have seen the happiest set of children and the most joyous set of teachers. The joy of 'creative education' is theirs—that never word in education upon the Coast.

"If you are interested in the outcome of the war, in the new civilization, the reconstruction that must come after the war, the building of a new world; visit the public schools and see it in construction now, and help a little by your interest and cooperation."

COLORED TEACHERS TO DO THEIR BIT

Americans of every section, of every class, and of every race have answered the call of their country.

"Twelve million colored people have rallied to the defense of their country in this crisis, and will do their full share in helping to win this world war for democracy." Dr. Robert R. Moton, principal of Tuskegee Institute, successor to Booker T. Washington in that office, said recently in an address at the Twenty-seventh Tuskegee Conference.

The colored American citizens will to their part in producing foodstuff on the farm, in conserving food in the home, and in fighting in the trenches in Europe, said Dr. Moton, and in addition the colored ministry and the colored teachers will preach and teach thrift among their race.

It has been impossible to obtain figures on the amount of Liberty Loan bonds purchased by colored Americans in the first and second loans, but it is known that according to their means and ability the colored race were very loyal and active and most liberal subscribers to the loans.

School Notes

The standing of the various schools in the Kaula garden contest on February 21 was as follows: Lihue, first; Waiakea, second; Anahulu, third; Kapaa, fourth; Makaweli, fifth; Hanalei, sixth; Kalahue, seventh; Kona, eighth; Waialeale, ninth and Hilo, tenth.

Miss Mary J. Couch, teacher in the Maui High School, spent the week end and Washington's birthday in Honolulu. While in the city Miss Couch visited the McKinley High School. She returned by the Claudine on Tuesday of last week to her Waialeale home.

Superintendent Kinney expects to visit the Island of Maui sometime this month on official business of the department of education.

The library of the department of public instruction is being rearranged. Superintendent Kinney and Statisticians Avery putting in the past two weeks in this work, assisted by the office corps.

D. C. Lindsay, the Maui member of the board of education, is in the city, having arrived yesterday morning in the Kilanea from Lahaina.

Ernest G. Silver, Jr., won the junior declamation contest held recently in the Hilo High School. Second honors went to Greta Muir.

KAUAI GETS ENERGETIC Y. M. C. A. ASSISTANT

L. A. Wadsworth, of Oakland, arrived last week to take up Y. M. C. A. work on Kauai, as an assistant to Charles Loomis, of Elele, says the Garden Island of February 26. He has secured a dwelling, and will bring his family shortly. They are at present being entertained by friends in Honolulu. Mr. Wadsworth has already visited the Waimea side, and is much pleased with the island and the outlook for the work. It is understood that his work will be largely among the Filipinos. His office will be in the office building near the court house.

HILO HIGH SCHOOL TAKES LOYAL STAND

The Hilo High School News gives an interesting account of the progress made in the purchase of War Savings Stamps by the pupils of that school. Professor Jerreghan and George R. Carter explained the system to the students and already a total of \$297 has been invested in stamps. Hilo High is certainly responding loyally and has a good start.

Easter vacation of the government schools will begin on Friday, March 29, the schools re-opening for the last term of the school year on Monday, April 8.