

HAWAII UP TO DATE.

BUSINESS MATTERS AND MONEY-MAKING IN SANDWICH ISLANDS.

Modern Honolulu and Its Big Buildings—What Things Cost and What Men Get as Wages—How the Chinese and Japanese Monopolize the Retail Trade—Hawaii No Place for Poor Men—Big Money in Sugar—The Plantations Which Are Capitalized for Millions and Which Paid Twelve Per Cent Last Year—The Game Fields—Fortunes in Coffee Raising—A Street Railroad Proposition—Honolulu Real Estate—Something About the Schools and the School Policemen.

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THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS have some time at the Hawaiian legation this week given to the world a glimpse of the islands which it is now proposed to annex to the United States. If the annexation treaty is confirmed in the senate, a large emigration to Hawaii will immediately follow, and thousands of Americans will want to know just what this new territory is and what possible chances there are for them to make money out of it. This is what I have tried to ascertain. Minister Hitch and Mr. Thurston have put at their disposal at my disposal. They have answered my questions and have introduced me to sugar planters and others who have just come from Honolulu, and from whom we have the best of news.

Modern Honolulu. These photographs show how fast the islands have been modernized. There are dozens of residences in Honolulu which have cost \$25,000 and upward. The city has magnificent stone buildings, churches which would be the envy of Washington, and a Masonic temple which would compare favorably with any Masonic building in the United States. The city contains about 20,000 people, and in proportion to its size is one of the richest in the world. All of the houses have large yards and gardens about them, and many of them are shaded by palm trees. Honolulu has magnificent stone buildings, churches which would be the envy of Washington, and a Masonic temple which would compare favorably with any Masonic building in the United States. The city contains about 20,000 people, and in proportion to its size is one of the richest in the world.

Schools and School Policemen. There is no place in the world where public schools are so carefully managed as in the Sandwich Islands. Those of Honolulu have magnificent buildings. The high school is held in a palace which was built for the Princess Ruth, the sister of the last king of the Kamehameha line. She gave it to her daughter, Mrs. Bishop, who left it to her son, the present king, Bishop Charles R. Bishop is the vice president of the Bank of California, at San Francisco, and he is, I am told, its largest stockholder. He sold the building a short time ago to the government for \$30,000, and it is now used for a high school. The building is surrounded by the most beautiful gardens, and it is in the very heart of the city. The government has established free schools all over the islands. Every neighborhood which has forty children has a school house and a teacher, and there is no place in the United States where the number of school children is so large. The school is held for nine months, and the course is from 9 to 12. School attendance is compulsory, and the law is enforced everywhere. In each school district there are one or two school policemen, who come into the school house every morning to see that the school is in order, and if no good excuse is given the next day the policeman calls upon the school heads of the family. If the excuse is repeated the policeman calls upon the police court and fines \$10. Such boys as fail to attend a certain number of times are taken from the schools and put in the government reformatory, where they are taught during the remainder of their minority. These laws extend to all classes of the people. The children of the Chinese and Japanese are compelled to go to school, as are those of the Sandwich Islands. The result is that all of the children of the Hawaiian Islands over a certain age can read and write, and the grade of education is a very high one. The majority of teachers are Americans, who receive all the way from \$100 to \$2,000 a year as salaries. The school furniture comes from the United States, as do the doors and windows and the desks. The line for the school houses is imported from California.

Hotels and the Cost of Living. Honolulu has several large hotels. The largest one charges \$1 a day. Some of the others charge \$2. The expense of living is dearer than in the United States. It costs, I am told, fully 50 per cent more to keep house in the Sandwich Islands than it does in Washington. You have to pay for everything that you buy, and you cannot get along without a number of them. Everything you eat, with the exception of vegetables and meat, is imported, and almost everything you wear comes from the United States. At the legation today I got the Honolulu prices for the most common articles. Hams cost 18 to 20 cents a pound, bacon, from 18 to 20 cents, and cheese, from 20 to 25 cents a pound. Flour costs \$2.50 a hundred weight, and eggs from 25 to 30 cents a dozen. On the other hand, fresh meat is quite cheap. You can get good pork-house steaks for 6 to 10 cents a pound, corn beef will cost you 7 cents a pound, potatoes 2 cents a pound, and ice about 1 cent a pound. You can hire a nurse for \$1 to \$2 a week, and a nurse will cost you from \$10 to \$15 a month. The steamship rates in going to the islands are high. The round trip costs \$12, and you have several good lines by which to make the trip. The Oceanic line will take a month from San Francisco. The Pacific Mail and the Occidental & Oriental steamship stop there on their way to Japan, and there is a Hawaiian line which will take you from Victoria to Honolulu once a month.

No Place for Poor Men. The most beautiful of the Sandwich Islands, which form the best part of the

THE PACIFIC.

country, are less in size than Massachusetts.

They have a population of about 90,000, of which 75,000 are either wholly or partly natives, or Chinese or Japanese. All of these work more or less, and hence the islands have no paupers, no common laborers or clerks. There are more bookkeepers and copyists in Honolulu today than can find employment. The Chinese, of whom there are 25,000, and the Japanese, of whom there are 20,000, have not only ruined the white labor market, but they have to a large extent swallowed up the small businesses. The natives, 35,000, also compete in the labor market. As a consequence, the Chinese and Japanese get from \$125 to \$15 a month and board themselves. The Portuguese and Hawaiians receive as high as \$18 for the same work. The white market is almost entirely ruined. Bookkeepers on the plantations receive from \$100 to \$125 a month, and overseers about the same. Almost all the mechanical trades are carried on by the Chinese and Japanese. The Japanese do a great deal of carpenter work, receiving therefor from \$25 to \$3 a day. There are Japanese shoemakers and tailors, and there are Chinese plumbers and painters. In the retail stores the Chinese and Japanese compete together for the business, and I am told that the Japanese are now giving the Chinese a good run for their money. The Chinese import their goods direct from England and America, and the Japanese get only samples, and then send these samples on to Japan, to be copied there for the Hawaiian trade. The Japanese of Honolulu are not nearly so reliable business men as the Chinese. They take many risks, and frequently go into bankruptcy. There are, I am told, about 1,000 Japanese in Honolulu, and more than three times as many Chinese. Japanese women, as well as men, have been imported in large numbers to work on the plantations. Such importations are on the contract labor system, the contract usually being made for three years.

Big Money in Sugar. The big money that has been made in Hawaii in the past has been from sugar, and it is in sugar I find that the big money has been made today. It takes an enormous amount of capital, however, to run a plantation, and of the sixty different plantations in the islands there is not one that is capitalized at less than \$50,000, and the money invested in most of them runs into the millions. Spreckels has no longer a monopoly of the sugar business. He began to sell out his plantations some time ago, and then all of a sudden stopped selling. He now controls only one plantation in the islands and has a small amount of stock in several others. He is opposing annexation, and one reason for his opposition, it is claimed, is that he will lose the refining of the Hawaiian sugar if the islands become a part of the United States. The sales of his plantations have had something to do with his family quarrel, in which he has been fighting his sons.

The sugar plantations are owned almost altogether by Americans. They are capitalized at about \$5,000,000. Some of them have paid quite a dividend, and the average for the past year having been about 12 per cent. I am told that some plantations have made double this. The fluctuation in the price of sugar, which has been so great that the business is quite precarious, it is managed on strict business principles, every means which unimpeded money can furnish being used to reduce the cost of production. In the Ewa plantation, which made 13,000 tons of sugar last year, and is now paying big dividends. This plantation has a capital of \$1,000,000 and about 100 steam-holders. It made no money for years and was spending vast amounts right along. The plantation is eighteen miles from Honolulu, and it comprises 2,000 acres. Every foot of land is irrigated, and throughout the year by artesian wells. It uses enormous pumping machinery, which is imported from America. Its drainage system is from New York, and it has just now in others made by Frazer & Chalmers, of Chicago, at a cost of about \$200,000. In another plantation near the Ewa they are putting in machinery for the irrigation of the land. The plantation alone will spend something like \$60,000 on its extensions this year.

I learn that there is little undeveloped sugar land left in the islands. Such new plantations as are made will have to be irrigated by means of artesian wells, and the cost of this is very high. There is a very large capital. The last three plantations which have been established have cost respectively \$750,000, \$1,000,000 and \$1,200,000. There is no room in sugar for the small capitalist, and all the plantations are now managed by stock companies. It takes sixteen months to grow the crop, and only three crops can be raised in four years. Farmers who have amount of \$100,000 were used on the crop last year, and more than half of this fertilizing matter was imported.

The Guano Fields of Hawaii. Much of the remainder of the fertilizer called guano is from the islands of the Sandwich Islands. Uncle Sam will add to his population an enormous colony of birds. On Laysan island, which is far to the westward, there are millions of guano birds, and they cover the island, walking about over the beds of guano made by themselves and their ancestors. These birds, as you walk about, kick them up, and they are exceedingly tame, and by law no shooting is allowed there. There are several overseers, and they have to build a fence around the guano fields, to keep the birds from crawling upon the porches and going into the houses. The young guano birds are said to be good for eating, and I am told that the overseers or laborers want birds on their breakfast they go out with a club and knock over a couple and bring them in to the cook.

Fortunes in Coffee Raising. The Hawaiian here at Washington say that the best chance for the large or small investor in Hawaii just now is in coffee lands. There is a large amount of such lands in the islands. They lie just above the sugar lands, at an altitude of from 1,000 to 2,000 feet above the sea, and the planter the finest climate in the world. Good lands can be bought on the market for \$25 an acre, but the government is selling its own lands to homesteaders for from \$10 to \$15 an acre. Fifty acres make a good-sized plantation for one man, and the work is more like orcharding than farming. The trees have to be carefully trimmed and taken care of. They begin to bear about the third year, and the fourth year produces the crop. The plantation forms an independent living for the remainder of a man's life and a good inheritance for his children. It takes very little money to start a plantation, and a man should have at least \$100 ahead at the start. I have before me an estimate of the cost of maintaining a plantation of seventy-five acres for seven years, including the purchase of the land and the construction of all the buildings. This shows an expenditure of \$11,000 at the close of the third year, and the cost of the coffee for the next three years, 60,000 pounds of coffee and bring in an income of \$10,800. The fifth year it should pay \$15,000, and the sixth year, according to these figures, \$18,000, and at that time leave the planter \$10,000 ahead. By the close of the next year he will be \$20,000 ahead and will have practically made a fortune. In this estimate the cost of the coffee for the next three years is included. How close these figures are I do not know, but they were prepared by the department of foreign affairs of the Hawaiian government, and

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The other targets used in practice will be the mid-range target, intended for practice at from 600 to 800 yards, the 800-yard target, for distances of from 700 to 800 yards; the 1,000-yard target for the range name would indicate. The same principle described in the short range target governs all others, but, of course, there is a difference in the figure and a corresponding change in the size of the target. For instance, the mid-range target is a square, six feet on a

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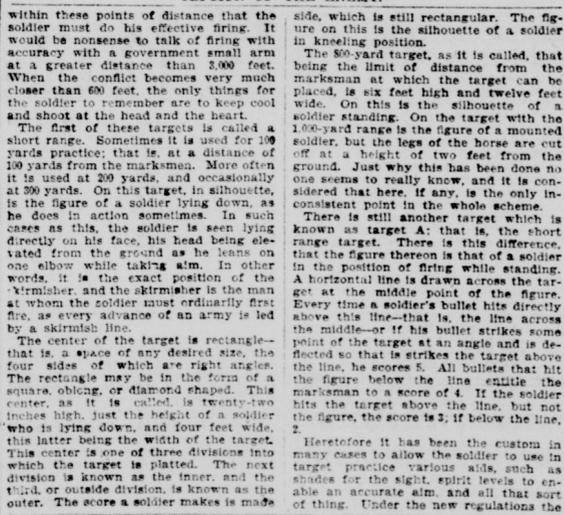
three sections after the fashion of the measurements given, the sections running from right to left. Then draw a line vertically through the center of this target from top to bottom. First you have the center, seven inches high and four feet wide. Then comes the inner, which is a rectangle also. This inner runs in depth from a point forty-two inches above the bottom of the target to the lower line of the center. The outer is the rest of the target. The entire target forms a rectangle six feet high and four feet wide.

There is no bull's-eye—Creedmore fashion—shooting in this sort of target practice. The nearer he comes to these marks, the higher is his score. A little careful study of the facts given in the foregoing paragraph will show what a tremendous weapon this concentrated accuracy will be in the hands of the United States soldier. It has long been a recognized fact that the great trouble in throwing masses of men into conflict with one another was that the fighting was not conducted intelligently by the private soldier; that he fired recklessly with the apparent idea that it did not make much difference in what direction the bullet went so long as the cartridge left his gun. Now, when the United States soldier goes into battle there will be just two points of his enemy which he will have in mind, and those will be his head and heart.

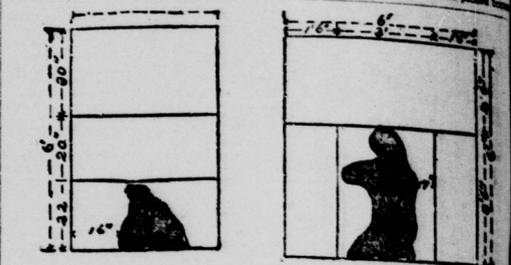
The other targets used in practice will be the mid-range target, intended for practice at from 600 to 800 yards, the 800-yard target, for distances of from 700 to 800 yards; the 1,000-yard target for the range name would indicate. The same principle described in the short range target governs all others, but, of course, there is a difference in the figure and a corresponding change in the size of the target. For instance, the mid-range target is a square, six feet on a



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