THE INDEPENDENT.

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 1895.

Political Prisoners.

We have in a former issue pointed out to the government that the sore spot in the Hawaiian's heart to-day is the political prisoner, and the treatment that is dealt to him by the authorities. The INDEPENDENT desires to tell the truth. Nothing sensational will be found in its columns that might serve political purposes or help to continue the ill feeling now existing and daily being promoted.

The *Makaainana*, a leading Hawaiian newspaper, publishes in its issue to-day an alleged report of the treatment of the prisoners now kept at Kahalii. Onomea, Hawaii. A letter has been received, it is claimed, by a relation of one of the prisoners now in Hilo, in which it is stated that the gang sent to Hawaii are not treated as they should be, or, as we are assured, the government desires them to be treated.

They claim that they hardly ever taste poi, their main and natural food. They claim that half-cooked rice is their staple food. The Hawaiians in Hilo it is stated, have offered to furnish the prisoners with all necessary poi. The offer was declined, although no charges for the food to be furnished were exacted. It is claimed that the men have to work 10 hours a day in damp and wet weather, and that they feel broken down in health and spirit. They say that if they complain acids are used as punishment on their bodies or poisons administered to them.

So far the *Makaainana*.

Truth or no truth these tales of woe and cruelty will be repeated and the conciliation for which all conservative patriots work be frustrated. It will be well for the government to investigate the complaints although they may not have been officially received, and if any one in office is to blame, and there is one scintilla of truth in the statements, to promptly punish the offender, and replace him with a responsible man who will work in the true spirit of Mr. Dole's cabinet.

As a reverse to the gloomy picture portrayed by the *Makaainana*, we publish a few items to show that the treatment of the political prisoners in Honolulu leaves no reproach on the government, and that everything has been done to ameliorate the unfortunate condition of the prisoners, as well as the hardships now incumbent on their families.

The government has given 10 rooms at the old Immigration Depot to families of the political prisoners. The little colony is in charge of Mrs. Kekona Pilipo, and the people express themselves as highly satisfied.

The government went further, and granted two policemen for the protection of the women and children now placed among a promiscuous population of foreigners, Japanese and Chinese who hire rooms on the premises.

The wife of Kaimimoku, a political prisoner, died suddenly on Sunday. The bereaved husband was immediately permitted to proceed to his home, and there weep over his dead wife. The guard who, as a matter of course, escorted the prisoner gave him the fullest liberty within the bounds of his duty, and we may add that the prisoner appeared in his own clothes and attended the funeral yesterday.

A collection was taken up a short while ago for the benefit of the destitute families of the political prisoners. The individual members of the government subscribed liberally, and the sum of $1169.70 was collected within four weeks. The money so collected has been carefully distributed and much relief has been given. A balance of $777.40 is now in the hands of the treasurer, Mr. Abr. Fernandez, and it is safe to say that our charitable community will not lose sight of this deserving movement, which it may be necessary—we hope not—to continue for years.

With these circumstances before us, it is difficult to believe the report from Hilo, but it will be wise for the government to have a fair and impartial investigation, and a close examination of the prisoners now confined at Onomea. Whatever the report will be the INDEPENDENT will always be ready to publish it, and the *Makaainana* will not be behind in doing justice where justice is due.

More Coming.

It seems that every country in Europe has a bone to pick with Hawaii. In the *Atlantes*, a Greek paper published in New York, appears a report in which it is stated that the Greek Senate, in compliance with an interrogation of a prominent senator, has taken up the treatment of Messrs. Camarinos and Lycurgus, Greek subjects who recently have been subjected to illegal imprisonment and exile by the hands of the Hawaiian Government. The question of the damages done to the said gentlemen in financial as well as personal regards was dwelt on at length and the Minister of Foreign Affairs promised to cause an immediate investigation and, as there was no Greek Consul in Hawaii, to pursue said investigation through the Greek Minister to London.

Gambling.

Now that sports are in full blast and athletics, baseball, boating and horse races are the topics of the day, it is well to throw out a warning against the gambling spirit which during past years has pervaded this community and nearly succeeded in killing all true sports. Mr. Richards, who is a genuine and honest sportsman, and who has done much to bring baseball in the Kamehameha schools to the high standard of to-day, made a forcible appeal in favor of "clean" sport a short while ago in a local journal. The following article from the *Forum* condensed for *Public Opinion* will help to show that the battle against "gambling" is not alone waged in missionary Hawaii but finds a powerful echo all over the world. We may yet to-day be able to read Rev. Newman Smyth's article and striking our breast exclaim. "Thanks that we are not like these." But if effort is not made; if things are allowed to go along as they now do in these fair isles, the day is not distant when we must admit our guilt and bend our heads to every word said by the preacher in the *Forum*. For the gambling spirit is rampant in this town. The writer says as follows:

At present the three most popular—and consequently most demoralizing—forms of gambling are the betting on athelet games, the policy-shop, and the pool-room where the "races are played." With regard to the former comparatively more innocent practice of betting in connection with athletic sports, anyone who cares to read the columns of the papers for some days before a great foot-ball game may form an idea not only of the manner in which the higher education in this country is running to the spectacular, but also of the extent to which college games are becoming purveyors to the public of the vulgarizing habit of betting. College athletics are threatened in this country with the same peril which is said to have contributed to the decline of the great games in Greece,—they declined as they became mercenary.

The second prevalent method of generating a taste for betting and educating the people into gamblers is the peculiar institution known as the policy shop. It requires but little apparatus for its business; and the most simple-minded can play it. It consists simply in betting upon numbers, or combinations of numbers, to be drawnon given series of figures. Policy playing is the thriving offspring of the lottery. In it the poorest may wager their pittance, and large odds may be offered them. Some idea of the money taken by these gamblers, mostly from the poorer classes, may be gained from the fact that a single policy-writer in New Haven, in one of the less favorable locations for his business, has returned every week from four hundred to seven hundred dollars to the policy headquarters in that city. Only after two years of determined effort in New Haven has the way into the jail been opened for some of these robbers of the wages of the people; but the success which such effort is now meeting in that city may serve as an encouragement for a needed persistent crusade against this evil in other cities.

A third form of popular gambling has lately been brought to public attention by the agitation against it in several States. The pool-rooms in which the "races are played," or the pretended commission houses which transmit bets to the races, have lately become a flourishing agency for gambling, with houses dan branch offices at the centers of population, and runners and telephone connections reaching out for the country trade. Our cities cannot permit pool-selling all the year round on the racing of horses, without sowing a perpetual crop of dishonesty and defalcations among clerks and employees in positions of trust. Those States which have not already amended and sharpened their general gambling statutes to meet this peculiar kind of commision betting, will need to take vigilant action, or the managers of these rooms, driven from New York, Connecticut, and even New Jersey, by recent legislation will transfer their operations—races, pool-rooms, telegraph instruments, and all — to those States where the laws offer to them the least resistance. Uniform and adequate legislation is needed all over the country in order to wrest from this gambling greed the spoils of the wages of the people, which it gathers in large quantities wherever it is permitted to show its rapacious hand. An interstate law, forbidding under heavy penalties the use of telegraphic facilities for this purpose or running by telegraph companies of wires into known gambling rooms, might cut off with one blow the main artery of this body of corruption.

Observations.

After the baseball game the extra cars on Beretania street were held, crowded with passengers, more than a quarter of an hour to await the passage of the regular car from town. Superintendent Pain ought to put in a switch about Alapai street to prevent such annoyance to patrons of the tramways.

All the machinery of a contested election was put in operation yesterday, at great expense to the country, although there was only one candidate. The humbug only [illegible] that our Solons of the past two and a quarter years do not know it all. It is to be hoped that the first elected Legislature since the monarchy will not leave this flaw in the law uncorrected

It is fortunate that Mr. Robertson should have secured the nomination of the only organized party in existence on this island. His proved capacity for public affairs makes him very much needed amongst the almost exclusively inexperienced though intelligent and honest men constituting the House of Representatives. Yet it is not certainly a matter for public congratulation that there should be elections without contests. Election campaigns are unexcelled for obtaining expressions of the will of the people on matters affecting their welfare. They are also invaluable in their educative effect upon the people themselves. It is to be hoped the present election will be the last of jug-handled politics in this country.

Trusts.

In yesterday's issue we called attention to the Oil trust which for the second time dominates our local market, and forces the people to pay for kerosene oil any exorbitant figure which the trust may see fit to place on that necessary article. The battle against the gigantic trusts in the United States continues unabated, but the difficulties and obstacles which the people meet seem insurmountable if most radical measures are not adopted. The following paragraph from the S. *F. Wave* gives an idea of the sentiment in the States:

Our attention has been directed to a recent decision of the United States Supreme Court which, while not holding the "Sherman Anti Trust Act" to be unconstitutional, does declare that it can have no application to combinations such as the Sugar Trust. The prevailing opinion of the Court holds that that institution is engaged primarily in manufacturing, and only secondarily in selling, and, therefore, cannot be considered as a combination in restrain of inter-State commerce falling within the power of Congress. This decision, our correspondent concludes, summarily knocks out all hope of ever regulating the operations of the Oil Trust by Congressional enactment. The decision, it is true, practically nullifies the act, so far as its operations bear upon combinations similar to the sugar trust; but it settles the law and defines the limit beyond which Congress cannot go, and this is something. If the people really desire to bring these commercial giants under the regulating influence of Congress, they may easily do so by an amendment to the Constitution. Whenever two-thirds of both Houses deem it necessary, Congress must propose amendments to the Constitution, or on the application of the Legislatures of two-thirds of the several States, shall call a convention for proposing amendments, which in either case shall be valid when ratified by the Legislatures of three-fourths of the several States or by a convention of three-fourths thereof. There is a probability that some such action will be taken. Hostility toward trusts is increasing among the masses, and the irritation which they excite develops a strong tendency in the direction of unreasoning hostility toward all forms of wealth. If the wealthy who are employing their capital in fields outside of their lines be wise, they will quicken the action of Congress in submitting an amendment to the various States, for there is a decided danger that a few years hence, if the irritation continue, the innocent may be made to suffer as well as the guilty.

A SPECIAL session of the Legislature is now in order. It should be called at once to ratify or modify acts passed by the councils since the election. The future policy of the Government in regard to annexation should also be presented for discussion and ratification.

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