

Weak Reply.

An old played-out game is attempted by the *Star*, in the effort it makes to rebut the statements by this paper regarding the finances of the country. When another paper on former occasions analyzed the treasury statements, to show the people how their money was going, there was invariably a howl from the journals whose existence depends on extravagant doles of treasury pay. They affected to take it that the criticism was a personal attack on the Minister of Finance, and that he was accused of mismanagement and recklessness, when nothing of the kind could be construed out of the criticism in question. Mr. Damon individually has not been held responsible by the critics for the condition of the treasury. It is freely conceded, indeed, that only his good management of the finances has saved the treasury from a state that would be immeasurably worse than what obtains. The manager of the business of a private corporation is not the one to be condemned if the directors order expenditures beyond the scope of the capital and revenues of the concern. He may be expected to give warning, from his expert knowledge, of the disastrous consequences of such a policy, but beyond that his place is to obey orders if it breaks owners. Mr. Damon did just that thing. Early in the career of the Provisional Government he besought the Executive and Advisory Councils to call a halt in the ruinous military expenditures, but he was overborne by fearful expostulations of his colleagues, who argued that no chances were to be taken with the dreadful royalists—in other words, that the people of the country could not be trusted but must be held under subjugation at all costs to the self-appointed ruling oligarchy. Again, when it came to making a constitution for a republic, Mr. Damon made strenuous efforts to have admitted to some practical share in the control of the country's affairs the small remnant of the people which had survived the crucible of party test oaths—a remnant indeed largely composed of new-comers who had been manufactured into virtual citizens with a facility that it would beggar the history of any country to parallel. Once more the hoarse baying of those who, in their own estimation, were the truly patriotic

watch-dogs was heard as they scented the royalist wolf from afar. And again Mr. Damon was borne down by an avalanche of prejudice and self-interest, and all power was committed to a president—who could not take the chances of popular election—in conjunction with a small minority of the Legislature. Mr. Damon's great fault is that he has been only too faithful a steward of unjust masters of the situation. He showed his financial ability by methods of staving off creditors of the government upon the discredited mercantile plan of quarterly credit, so as to tide over times of depletion in the treasury and make a virtue of necessity. It was a good stroke he made when he had the plan adopted of requiring all departments of the government to make requisitions before the close of the month for what money they needed the next month. This, however, would never have been necessary under the normal system of confining departments to the regular biennial appropriation bill and having the Auditor General strictly enforce the rule. However, if Mr. Damon had not established the checks mentioned, there is no saying where the inexperienced crowd in control of expenditures might have landed the country. What the *INDEPENDENT* says is that, while there has never been two years in the past twelve when so little has been accomplished in public works and increasing the assets of the country as in the past two years, the debt of the country has steadily increased until it is far beyond what it has ever been before. Since the *Star* is good enough to say that the criticism of the financial situation has "emanated from people entirely without interest, utterly unable to analyze a statement and invariably prejudiced," let it in rebuttal of such criticism give the public something palpable in the shape of a sound review of the finances of the period in question. Thus far, in its defensive function on behalf of those who keep it alive with alimony from the treasury, the *Star* has never dealt in anything but incoherent and unreasoning epithets of abuse of those who voice the popular discontent.

Observations.

Mention is made in the *Bulletin*—in a manner indicating that it takes it as a case of harsh justice—of the sentence by Judge Wilcox of "a poor defendant" to ten days at hard labor and to pay a fine of one dollar, for stealing three pounds of sugar of the value of fifteen cents. Now, the fact that the "poor" culprit slashed open bags of sugar on the wharf, doing a great deal

more damage than the loss of three pounds of the article, is enough to show the public that the punishment was none too severe.

Our reporter notes, as if it was a grievance felt by the teachers, that no member of the Board of Education attended the meeting of the Teachers' Association. It happens that the Board had a meeting of its own at the time, from which two members were kept away by illness.

Petitions have been circulated and extensively signed by German residents, against the deportation of Wichart of the mounted patrol, who accepted that fate as an alternative to going to prison on his pleading guilty to aiding and abetting Nelson in the assault upon Captain Cook of the mounted patrol. It is learned that the petitions have proved unavailing. Wichart must go into exile. The German colony feels very sore against the Government in consequence of recent doings in connection with the mounted patrol, Germans having been very conspicuous in that body from the start.

There is a sardonic humor about President Dole's proclamation to convene the Legislature for "public business"—which gives unlimited scope to all the hobby-riders for prolonging the session with attention to their fads—while the government organs oracularly announce that the session will be exclusively occupied with the President's colonization fad and a few other items of "special" business. When the Executive and Advisory Councils, without any commission from the people, could not be restrained from all sorts of vagaries in legislation, the country may well be appalled at the prospect of tinkering with the statutes which will be indulged in by the two houses that have been created by the formality of a "popular" election.

"Cosmos" has some knowledge of the world about him, and his notes will be found quite readable. The *INDEPENDENT* welcomes all bright writers to its columns. It does not want any chewing of the cud of dead issues.

The authoritative statement that 117 teachers in the Government schools are without professional diplomas should make parents and guardians think about what they are paying for in the way of instruction to the rising generation.

The steamer W. G. Hall will be due this afternoon from Hawaii and Maui.

TEACHERS IN COUNCIL

Meeting of the Honolulu Teachers' Association.

Summer School for Teachers Proposed

The Honolulu Teachers' Association met yesterday afternoon as announced. The Y. M. C. A. hall was found not to be suitable for business, as the noise made by the workmen employed on the Gymnasium interfered with the auditory capabilities of the room. An adjournment was therefore made to the Punahou Preparatory School. Here about forty schoolmasters and schoolmistresses sat themselves down in the seats usually occupied by the juvenile portion of the community enrolled in that establishment. Professor Hosmer of Oahu College occupied the chair and in well-chosen and brief words introduced the objects of the meeting.

The first business was a paper by Mrs. Dumas on "English and Hawaiian Schools." In an audible voice Mrs. Dumas touched on the underlying principles which guided the teacher instructing pupils in a foreign language. Briefly she said that "the action should be suited to the word and the word to the action." Motion songs practically exemplified by the lecturer illustrated what was indicated as the idea to be carried out. Yet even in her own illustrations, e. g., the teacher with chalk, eraser and blackboard, she showed how little a child can be expected to recollect what a teacher tries to impart. Amongst other interesting chips from other people's workshops it was stated in the lecture that "accurate description is the highest point of composition." Some slight slips in enunciation such as "pitchers" for "pictures" marred the delivery of the composition.

No discussion having ensued, Professor Hosmer introduced Mr. C. M. White, who announced that public and private school teachers could get round trip tickets to the volcano and back at \$35 per head. This offer was on behalf of Wilder's S. S. Co., but the I. I. S. N. Co. would probably do the same. No relatives by blood or marriage could go at the same rate though. On the return, teachers could stop over anywhere to the limit of their vacation. If many foreign tourists come along, the Company reserve the right to issue fresh tickets. The trip includes two and a half days' stay over the arrival of the steamer, and everything is found but the horse to the crater. No further discussion took place and Mr. White retired.

Mr. Dumas then took the floor in support of a Summer School for teachers and instanced the fact that 117 teachers now employed by the Board of Education had no certificate of competency to teach. His main argument was that attendance at the proposed Summer School would put the teacher in condition to get a certificate and thus ensure a higher salary.

Professor Richards of the Kamehameha School spoke advocating the school as a means of procuring uniform grading in the schools. As things are now he

says that no pupil can go from one school to another, and step into an exactly similar class to the one he left, owing to the want of uniformity in grading, classifying and teaching.

Mr. Lightfoot here remarked that there were no funds to carry on the proposed school.

Mr. Dumas again arose to say that no place on the face of the globe paid such high salaries to teachers as were paid on the Hawaiian Islands.

Mr. Kenyon stated that no teachers were comparatively as poorly paid as those on the Hawaiian Islands, and he would like Mr. Dumas' assertion backed by statistics.

Mr. Dumas said he would produce them, stating that his assertion was true of the United States.

Mr. Kenyon simply wanted to know if the United States was the who's face of the globe. Mr. Dumas did not reply.

Professor Hosmer announced that he intended to have Oahu College open a boarding department for teachers attending Summer School at the rate of \$10 a month or less, but that circumstances obliged him to state that this summer they could not receive any boarders.

No further discussion took place and the chair appointed Professor Scott and Messrs. Lyons and Dumas a committee on the Summer School.

Treasurer's report by Mr. Dumas showed receipts \$115, expenditures \$113.65. Of this \$76 was received from Dr. Nothrop's two lectures. Of the expenditures stationary took \$8.15, rent to the Y. M. C. A. \$15, and Northrop \$60. The balance was for advertising and there were several bills unpaid, amongst them one of \$16 to the *Advertiser*. It was announced after searching through the constitution and by laws that no further meetings would take place till the annual meeting on the second Tuesday in June. No representative of the Board of Education graced the meeting with his or her presence, and the general air of lack of business and want of knowledge of the ordinary routine of public meetings seemed to indicate that the teachers would be the better of a little personal instruction themselves.

Newspaper Change.

The mortgagee having taken possession of the Daily Bulletin Publishing Company's plant, B. L. Finney, who had obtained a controlling portion of the corporation's stock, yesterday started the publication of a new paper called the *Evening Bulletin* on his own account. J. T. Stacker, editor of *Time*, edits the new paper, with George Manson as city editor. The paper is printed in the office of the Gazette Publishing Company.

R. I. Green, agent of the Humane Society, had his attention called to an alleged case of wife beating, the people being natives. When he went to the house, he found that the woman, lately discharged from the Insane Asylum as improved, had taken a relapse of her mania. He gave the husband a sharp reprimand for his harsh treatment of the wife, and had the unfortunate woman returned to the Asylum.

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Bed Room Furniture: Oak Bedroom Suite, Carved Walnut Bedroom Suite, Spring and Hair Mattresses, Walnut Wardrobe, 1 Oak Mirror Front Wardrobe, 1 Crown Derby Toilet Set.

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JAMES F. MORGAN, Auctioneer.

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SATURDAY, May 18 3:30 P.M. on the LEAGUE GROUNDS.

Kamehamehas vs. Unknowns Admission 25 Cts. my17 2t

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LOST.

On last Monday morning, on King Street, near Kawaiahao Seminary, a black Collie dog, answers to the name of "Bob." Had a new collar on, no name. Finder will receive a suitable reward by returning same to MACFARLANE & Co., Kaahumannu Street. my 17 3t.

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