



Established July 2, 1856.

VOL. XXV., NO. 4598.

HONOLULU, HAWAIIAN ISLANDS, SATURDAY, MAY 1, 1897.

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LIHUE TROUBLES

Chinese Commercial Agent on Situation.

INVESTIGATION WILL BE MADE

Laborers Must Receive Better Treatment.

Planters Methods are Brutal—De- ductions and Fines for Illness.

Goo Kim Fuey, Chinese Commercial Agent, in speaking of the disappointment he felt at not seeing the Chinese Minister to the United States, said:

"It was a great disappointment to us all, because the United Chinese Societies had made all preparations to give him a reception befitting a man of his station in public life. He was anxious, too, to meet our people and converse with them, as well as the officials of the Government. You know, there are about 20,000 Chinese here—quite a representation—and the Minister wished to see the Minister of Foreign Affairs and talk about a treaty between the two countries.

"I received a letter from Minister Cooper, notifying me of the action of the Board of Health. I communicated the contents to the Minister, and he at once asked me if I had attended the meeting. I said I had not. He then asked me how many men were present at the meeting, and when I told him five, he evinced great surprise to think that so few men could control so many people as are in the islands. He spoke about the steamer having a clean bill of health, but I told him I was powerless to do anything in the matter.

"The affair was unpleasant to him and to the Chinese here, but I do not think we will hear of it again. He told Mr. Wong Kwai, so I have heard, that he 'considered the treatment about the same as would be accorded coolies,' but he did not make the remark in my hearing."

Mr. Goo Kim deprecated the idea that diplomatic correspondence would follow what the Minister is said to have considered a slight. In referring to the trouble among the Chinese at Lihue plantation, and the arrest of the 15 Chinamen, the Agent said:

"I have notified the Government within the past three days that I believed an investigation into the recent troubles on Kauai was advisable, and I guess when Minister King gets well enough the investigation will be made. Understand Mr. Taylor has been down there and investigated the affair, but I know nothing of his report. From what I have learned, the treatment of the men at Lihue is brutal. Just look at the condition of these men. They come here to work for \$12.50 per month of 26 days. Of this \$1.50 is taken each month for the savings bank. That leaves the laborer \$11. If he is sick the doctor calls on him, and, after an examination, sends him to the field to work half a day without pay, and this, too, when their contracts call for free medical attendance. What right, I would like to know, has a plantation manager to demand service of his men and then refuse to pay them?"

"Another thing. If the work happens to be slack the luna will tell the Chinamen to go home and go to sleep. They have a half day's pay deducted for this, though they are not to blame. The contract calls for 26 days' work, and if the laborer is ready to perform it he should be paid for it. Another thing they have for economizing is to arrest men who complain of illness and fine them \$2.25. I have written a number of complaints to the Government regarding the methods on some of the plantations, but nothing has ever come of them. Now, I think it is time something should be done, and unless some reforms are put into operation, we will have to follow the course recently adopted by Japan—stop emigration. If the planters do not have either Japanese or Chinese to draw from, where will they be? It will not be long before wages will go up to \$50 a month, and if the treaty is abrogated, and wages go up, they may learn to treat our people better. It is

only a few years since Chinese laborers on Hawaii were paid as high as \$26 a month. Now they get them for less than half and treat them twice as bad. Managers growl because men get sick. What can they expect? Sometimes they are allowed five minutes for lunch, sometimes 15; it depends upon how far the men have to go, but if they are not ready when the time expires, they are told to get out, and are kicked if they do not hurry.

"When these facts are made known to my Government I think prompt action will be taken, and it may result in emigration from China ceasing. Our people have feelings the same as those of any other nationality. They are not brutes that they are to be kicked about and fined for not working when they are sick. Can you expect a man to retain his health who has only five minutes to masticate his food? That man is bound to get sick inside sometime, and when he does, he pays the penalty at the end of the month—\$3.25. By the time the fines, deductions on account of slack work and savings bank money is all taken out of the man's wages, what does he have? What encouragement is there for Chinamen to leave their homes for Hawaii? If the planters do not want our laborers, I think the men can afford to stay at home, where they will get better treatment. There is a feeling among certain managers here that the more a laborer is abused the more work can be got out of him. The fight at Lihue was the result of that impression among the white employes on that plantation. The men are goaded to a point of desperation by the lunas, and in presence of the managers; then, when the Chinamen rebel at the inhuman treatment they are battered with clubs, shot and put in prison, while the white men, who are responsible for the trouble, are allowed to go free. What we ask is justice, fair treatment and the rights given by the contract which the men sign. If they do not get it, their contracts will cease."

KAU NOTES.

News of Interest From the Plantations and Volcano.

"We are having very dry weather, and the cane is commencing to feel it. If this state of affairs continues it will do great damage to the plantations. The water supply is getting very short, and it will be impossible to grind steadily."

"The volcano is about the same; no fire, but plenty of smoke. The natives at Puna claim that the hot springs are getting warmer. Perhaps this may be a forerunner of a lava flow.

"The temperature of some of the springs and wells here in Kau have been taken regularly for the last six months and have shown little or no variation.

"A gang of men are at work on the Peter Lee road, and it will not be long before it will be in first-class order.

"The Mongoose have extended their hunting grounds to the beach, and now prefer ophids to rats. They wait for the sea to recede, then rush down on the rocks and pull the ophids off and eat them.

"Mr. Bette, engineer at Pahala, has resigned and is succeeded by Mr. Sherman.

"Pahala plantation has received a compound Baldwin engine. It is a beauty. People expect it to pull twice as much as the old one.

"Mauna Loa received 2,420 bags of sugar from Punaluu and 4,400 bags from Honouapuu.

"Walter Dolloway of the Half-way House, had the misfortune to lose 12 dozen valuable eggs he was sending to Pahala on the stage. Some miscreant placed them on the stage so that they would fall off, which they did. It is needless to say they were strewn all over the road just repaired. Dolloway will make it hot for the guilty person, if he finds him."

GERMAN GRAND DUKE DEAD.

Ruler of Mecklenburg-Schwerin Passes Away.

CANNES, (France), April 10.—The Grand Duke of Mecklenburg-Schwerin died at 9 o'clock tonight.

Frederick Francis III, the dead Grand Duke of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, was born March 19, 1851. He succeeded to the throne on the death of his father April 15, 1883. He married in 1879 the Grand Duchess Anastasia, daughter of Grand Duke Michael of Russia. The heir to the throne is a boy of 15 years.

Greater New York Bill.

ALBANY, N. Y., April 13.—By a vote of 24 to 10 the Greater New York charter was passed by the Senate today over the veto of Mayor Strong, of New York. The bill having previously passed the Assembly, the bill now goes to the Governor, who has 15 days in which to approve or reject it. He will, it is understood, sign the measure.

SOCIALIST IDEAS

How the Labor Problem May be Solved.

SUGGESTS GOVT. SUGAR MILLS

Radical Changes Must be Made Carefully.

White Laborers Will Not Work With Asiatics—Something of Corporation.

MR. EDITOR:—If the sugar planters alone were interested in the solution of our labor problem I should not presume to offer any suggestions on the matter. But such is not the case. It is not long since the laborers of Spreckelsville gave the authorities and all the good people of Wailuku an ominous warning. That warning was plain enough to be understood, even by people as far away as Honolulu, and suggestive enough to be long remembered by every one who was in Wailuku during that time of suspense. It was a pointed demonstration of a state of affairs which interests all and justifies each in contributing his part toward the solution of the problem.

Our whole labor system, for many years, has tended to the degradation of labor. It tends towards the development of "barons" and serfs, of masters and coolies. The nations of the earth have been called upon to contribute their off-scouring toward the increase of our population. Few nations have sent us of their best blood. And the fact that the laborers are in most cases degraded has degraded labor itself in the eyes of the people. A similar state of things prevailed in the South when labor was performed by slaves. And a modification of this state of affairs has prevailed to the detriment of California, owing to the fact that certain classes of labor have long been relegated to the Chinese, European or American farmers, coming to this country, soon become dissatisfied with their part of the work which they see done, for the most part, by degraded laborers, though they were brought up to do just as arduous and just as disagreeable work in their native lands.

Commissioner Fitzgerald is right in his assertion that it is impracticable to change our labor in a short time; the change must be gradual. But does any one suppose that this gradual change can be made by putting in a few white laborers among the Asiatics and by gradually increasing the number of white men finally crowd out the Asiatics? If so, he has made small account of the white man's spirit.

No! Commissioner Fitzgerald is right again when he says that our whole labor system must be radically changed before it will be acceptable to white laborers. But his plans for the change, so far as I have seen them outlined in the local press, are open to the criticism that they are vague. Let us agree that a radical change must be made; what is that change?

White men will not take the place of the Asiatics. There can be no such thing as a supply of white coolies. The white man must have a radically different position, or may the country be spared such degradation! Experiments have been tried in the way of white men cultivating their own cane. White men can and will do more work in their own cane fields than Chinamen or Japanese will do in similar fields. But the experiments thus far tried have produced unsatisfactory results, owing to the power which the mill owners have over the planters.

Profit-sharing, where the laborer cultivates land which is so bad that the owners of the mill will not cultivate it, and where the same owners seize the lion's share of the profits after the cane is ripe, does not sufficiently appeal to the white farmer. But give the white man the profits on his cane above a reasonable compensation for grinding, and give him a fair deal, and it is my belief that he will be satisfied with his returns, and will do more work, and do it better than any of our present degraded laborers.

cured? Are the capitalists, the mill-owners, going to abdicate? Not unless the millennium is silently stealing in upon us. Granted that selfishness that overrides public good is short-sighted selfishness still prevails on this mundane sphere. If the common good is to be guarded as of more importance than any individual interests, society in its organized capacity, must become its custodian. There seems to be little hope that capitalists will so far set aside their immediate personal interests as to bring about conditions such as will make the cultivation of sugar cane by white laborers possible in time to save the country to our Western civilization.

The Government must intervene. Before proceeding further, let it be said again that the change must be gradual. The Government owns, practically, the whole of some of the plantations. When these leases expire, let the mills pass to the ownership of the Government on equitable terms, or if this is impossible, let the Government erect mills in their stead. Then let these mills be run for the common good. Let the charges for manufacturing sugar be such as barely to cover the cost, pay interest on the bonds with which the mills are built, and provide a small sinking fund eventually to pay the face of the bonds. Let the lands be cut up and leased to the white laborers on reasonable terms and in small tracts. Let these lease-holders work their holdings separately or let them form co-operative unions, as may seem best to them. But let all combinations of holders of Government lands be kept under proper restriction. Thus the conditions necessary to the introduction of white labor for the cultivation of sugar-cane will be secured.

Let it be borne in mind that this scheme is presented in outline only. The details and the extension of the scheme will be the result of mature and deliberate thought and experience.

"THAT KONA MUDDLE."

Retiring School Agent Makes Brief Statement.

Editor Hawaiian Gazette:
Allow me space enough to say that the story printed in your issue of 23d of April is manifestly one-sided and unfair. I say this irrespective of the source of your information, and, while it is too prolix to reply in detail, I would like to notice a few points.

The fact of a teacher being away from his duties some hours a week was "brought to the notice of the department on former occasions by the Inspector General," and "the teacher should make up for loss of time by putting in extra work at other times;" the quotations are from a letter of the department, and gave me discretion, most certainly, to speak of and on the subject to the person concerned; it was my duty to see that a teacher gave the whole time, for which he was paid, to his school duties.

The 7th and 8th paragraphs are pervasions of fact and of truth, and seem to have been written to discredit me. As for the "claims of salary by three persons," let me say that the sum of \$12.50 was allowed a month ago, and the pay-roll for them being burdened with a couple of \$6 items, the sum of 50 cents passes again to the treasury. The person appointed by the department did not enter upon the work for a few days, and therefore, it was my rightful duty to engage pro tem. assistance.

These are not times to give the balance of favor to those who enlist royal support in objection, a man who has not recognized friendships or relationships in the discharge of duty and, in conclusion, I may say that my resignation, on April 10th, was not in consequence of any "advice." THE RETIRING SCHOOL AGENT. South Kona, April 26, 1897.



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