

THE PACIFIC
Commercial Advertiser.

WALTER G. SMITH - - - EDITOR

MONDAY : : : JANUARY 1

A happy New Year to all the Advertiser's readers!

Memorandum for early risers: Do not read the report of the Board of Health's investigating committee until after breakfast.

It is not often that a Fire Department is called out to see that buildings are properly burned, but the phenomenon occurred in Honolulu yesterday. And it was a good thing it did.

Things are moving in the right way now and so long as that is the case no one will criticize the movers. The people of this city confronted the first outbreak of the plague with confidence in the Board of Health and it is now evident that this body intends to deserve the same consideration at the end. More power to it.

The Advertiser's suggestions that fire should take the place of rose water as a disinfectant were carried out yesterday in one part of Chinatown and we hope to see it speedily followed up in other parts. This is fighting the plague to some purpose and no one will begrudge the Board of Health any reputation it may win by it.

The proceedings of the Board of Health of Hongkong acquire a local interest as showing how the British authorities go about such work as is being done in Honolulu. We notice that the question of exterminating rats is prominent in the Board's deliberations and that the sanitarians have decided that the only sure bait for rat traps is raw meat. The hint ought not to be lost on housewives who have vainly tried to catch rats with poisoned cheese and bread.

Mr. Justice Putnam of New York whose embalmed body is on board the Hongkong Maru, en route to Saratoga, N. Y., where the distinguished jurist had his home, was a passenger on the same ship a few weeks ago. He was on his way to Manila to visit his son, a Regular Army officer. Justice Putnam was the great grandson of General Israel Putnam, of Revolutionary fame, and had a career which showed him to be worthy of such a distinguished ancestor.

The quality of Japanese progress is shown by the introduction into the Diet of a bill to prohibit smoking by youths under eighteen. The tobacco habit is growing common among Japanese children of both sexes, and it is one which, owing to the very light and mild quality of native tobacco is an easy one for children to acquire. Whether law can provide a remedy, even under an autocratic government, is a question which will afford fruitful study to the friends and enemies of sumptuary legislation.

As several thousand copies of this paper will go abroad it may be well to anticipate some natural inquiries by giving facts about the climate. In 1898, which was an average year, the maximum temperature was 86 degrees Fahrenheit and the minimum 57. In January 76 degrees was about the average in the middle of the day and in July 83 degrees. At no time in any year does the maximum temperature reach the altitude familiar to dog days in New England and the Middle States nor come anywhere near the average summer temperature of the interior valleys of California.

There are doubtless, as General Hartwell says, varying views in Congress as to the wisdom of giving these islands a territorial form of government. So there were about annexing Hawaii in the first place. But when the last named matter finally reached Congress in concrete form and with Presidential urgency behind it, action was swift and sure. We believe that if the President pushes the passage of the Cullom bill his party with some Democratic reinforcement will fall in with him. Very much depends on what he wants and it is an agreeable thought that he is known to desire the early reorganization of the local government on permanent lines.

The Independent beats about the bush. It says that the files of the old Holomua will show "the same ink" as those of the Independent. No doubt—but that does not lead us to withdraw our offer to copy anything from the files of the Holomua or any other local Royalist organ, published between the day the Boston's marines landed and that of the Queen's dethronement, which gives evidence that the marines "interfered in any way." The whole story of interference was the political afterthought of the Queen's attorneys. If we are not mistaken, the Holomua laid the whole trouble to the deceitful missionaries until reminded that it would be better politics to place the responsibility elsewhere.

THE BOARD OF HEALTH.

The Board of Health celebrated the going out of the old and the coming in of the new year, yesterday, by the adoption and execution of a policy which will receive the hearty endorsement of the people of Honolulu and of Hawaii.

The feeling was becoming general in the community that the measures adopted by the Board to stamp out the plague were not radical enough, and it was with hearty satisfaction that the news was received yesterday that the Board had decided, upon each case of plague occurring, to immediately remove all well persons from the building, as well as the patient, quarantine them and destroy the building in which the case had occurred. This is fighting the devil with fire. In view of the subtle character of the disease, there is no safety in half-way measures. Destruction is the only certain disinfection. Yesterday a man died of the plague on Nuuanu street at 10 a. m. By the middle of the afternoon eighty residents of the immediate neighborhood had been removed to quarantine quarters and the block of buildings in which the death took place was burned to the ground. This is heroic treatment, but it is a policy which gives assurance of victory which no other does. It is a policy which carries conviction, and so long as it is vigorously and intelligently carried out the Board can count on the support of the press and the community.

LOOKING BOTH WAYS

On the 1st of January, 1800, the interest of the civilized world was centered in the character and career of Napoleon Bonaparte. The young Corsican had not yet become Emperor of the French, but having begun the most brilliant campaign of his career, that of Italy, he was taking on the reputation and dignity of the first soldier of Europe and therefore of the world. From then until the defeat at Waterloo, a period of fifteen years, Napoleon stood as the paramount historical figure of the nineteenth century, the most splendid, the most audacious, the most successful and inspiring of all the soldier princes since the day of Caesar. Had he not turned his back upon Robert Fulton, the American who came to him with the steamboat in his brain, he might have died upon the one throne of Europe, the undisputed master of the continent and of the seas.

One hundred years ago Old World civilization was confined to about the same area in square miles, though not the same square miles, as that which had embraced the Roman empire—a territory bounded by London, Gibraltar, Thebes and the Caucasus. There was not much enlightenment in the region of Thebes or the Caucasus, but civilization had long since gone farther north. The area of Christian observance had, however, begun to spread over about one-third of the territory of the United States. A rude and half-barbaric civilization held sway in South and Central America and in Southwestern and Western America. Africa was in nearly all respects a dark continent. The Algerian pirates held the north, the Dervishes the desert, the Ethiopian cannibals the vast interior, and affiliated tribesmen the South. A few Boers and British and here and there a white missionary held a foothold on the coasts. The slave trade flourished. Asia was very nearly a sealed book. There were certain ventures being made by French and English on the coasts of India and some attempt had been made to open the closed door of China. Japan was almost as little known to the outside world as in the day of Marco Polo; Corea and Siberia were no better known than are the fastnesses of Tibet. Australia had a few white settlements; the islands of the sea were mostly untenanted save by the brown

Malaysian natives, whom wind and chance had brought, canoe-wise, to their palm-fringed shores.

The year 1800 in Hawaii saw the progress of the great plans originating in the brain of Kamehameha the Great, to centralize the government of the island realm. The ancient system was being changed by conquest. A century ago Kamehameha was living on the largest island of the group and building, in the forests back of Hilo, the famous fleet of war canoes intended to carry an army for the invasion of Kauai. Some small decked vessels were added to the fleet by the advice and aid of a white sojourner. The time was one not only of war and politics, however, but of agriculture, of wise tolerance of white men, of royal hospitality to the ideas of better government. The beginnings of the Hawaii of 1900 were seen in the Hawaii of 1800.

The United States was also in the formative stage of its political existence. It had a population of 5,308,483, little rivulets of which had penetrated the Ohio country and were flowing towards the Mississippi. George Washington had died in the last days of the eighteenth century and the country no longer had the benefit of his tranquil and unerring judgment. But it was in good hands. John Adams, stemming the tide of popular recklessness, had just prevented a war with France—a service which lost him a second term as President but saved the country from a struggle that might have been finally ended, to our disadvantage, by Napoleon Bonaparte, the master of Louisiana. Thomas Jefferson's star was in the ascendant and the year 1800 saw him on his way to the Presidency, where he was instrumental in adding an empire to the dominion of the flag. It was a time when the young republic first began to realize its continental destiny just as the year 1900 is a time when the nation will begin to enter into the fruition of its destiny as a world power.

Shall we glance ahead over the century to come? Who can say where the United States may not then extend? May it not be in that day the mightiest empire which history ever crowned with its laurel and dowered with its scepter? Already the sun sets on its westernmost palms only to rise at the same moment upon its easternmost pines. The day foreseen by rare Ben Butler when the Stars and Stripes may be planted so far north that the Eskimo, coming out of his hut in the gray of the early morning, will mistake them for the Northern Lights, may not be distant, and who knows but the institutions of the republic may yet extend their sovereign beneficence over wide reaches of Asia. The world is moving forward to some great destiny which we can but dimly descry, and America, God leading it, is reaching out the hand that may first touch the ultimate goal.

HONOLULU HOMES.

A collection of half-tone photographic engravings of Honolulu homes is one of the attractive features of the New Year Advertiser. All but three of the pictures are of houses that were built during 1899 and as such they show not only the magnitude of our urban development but its refinement and architectural charm. The homes pictured compare favorably in design with the best of those at the great California watering places and of many in the seaboard pleasure haunts of the Atlantic coast. Indeed, in their arrangements for summer comfort they are full of suggestions by which the mainland architects might profit. Necessarily the views have to be exterior ones, there not being room in this issue for an elaborate presentation of interiors. It is needless to say, however, in view of the text which ac-

companies each picture, that the finish and beauty of the inner home is what might be expected from the outer. Great wealth has been lavished upon these places of abode but it has been done with a spirit which testifies to the possession of culture as well as means. The manifestation, however, is not a new one. The refined homes of the old Honolulu are fitting exemplars of the splendid modern establishments of the new.

OURSELVES.

The New Year Advertiser speaks for itself pretty well but we cannot forbear making the statement that the paper, in its mechanical and artistic entirety, is a product of this office. In photography, color work, half-tone engraving, everything except the manufacture of the type and white paper, this journal is of our own creation. It is not generally known that the Advertiser's equipment includes a photographic gallery and two engraving plants, one plant for rough and ready pictures done by the chalk process and another for the finer work of photo-engraving, but such is the fact. We are quite sure that no city of 40,000 people anywhere in the world has a more complete newspaper equipment than the Advertiser and that many cities of 200,000 or 300,000 people cannot show an office of publication that surpasses it. The Advertiser is building for future as well as present Honolulu and may be counted upon to keep in advance of the city and the islands in all that goes to make a complete newspaper establishment.

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