

Commercial Advertiser.

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Chinatown is beginning to show its putrescent soil to the sun. More power to the official house-burners.

Sulphur is all right as a disinfectant but it does its best work in Chinatown when it is at the end of a lucifer match.

Mr. Pain's obstinate stand in the middle of the track shows what a man can get to be from long intimacy with mules.

The manner in which the Irish politicians cheer on the Boers is only equalled by the dash and spirit of Great Britain's Irish soldiers in fighting those husky patriots.

Now that Block Ten is out of the way the ground is cleared for the Bishop Estate to get ready with some of its sanitary building plans. Also the Manuel Estate, which has considerable frontage on Pauahi street.

Merchants make a great mistake in putting off the payment of their monthly bills. There is nothing to justify such action and by taking it the merchants compel others to do the same thing, thus bringing about a financial stringency with the banks fail. Things are unpleasant enough now without having hard times added.

Block Ten has gone up in smoke and with it the worst plague factory in Chinatown. There are other blocks which approximate its character and which ought to go, but Block Ten had a peculiarly offensive record. It will be refreshing to see the sun shine and the rain fall on the site of this noxious habitation, so long an insult to the public eye and nostril as well as to the public health.

Thirty-one of the Japanese men taken out of Block Ten had \$1,600 in cash when they went to the detention barracks. Every dollar of it, presumably, was from the earnings of the fallen women whom these fellows depend upon for a living. Now that the macqueereaux are all in hand it would be a good time for the Government to take up the matter of deporting them. It is understood that the Japanese Consul General is willing.

The trouble which has broken out between Governor Pingree and the State Military Board of Michigan involves a scandal of magnitude. It has been shown in a Grand Jury investigation that during the mobilization of troops for the war with Spain military stores sold by the Board for \$10,500 were resold to the State for \$61,000. Governor Pingree has called for the resignation of the culprits, who, at last accounts, were holding on tenaciously.

The Republican National Convention will meet in Philadelphia in June. It is a good while since a national convention has gone so far East and there is no just reason why it should ever do so. Some central location like Kansas City would put every delegate from the outskirts on an equality as to mileage travelled. As it is, the Easterners travel but hundreds, while the Westerners journey thousands of miles to take part in a purely national function.

Infected Asiatic ports do not take the trouble to fumigate mail sent to Honolulu, or if they do there are no signs of the process in the mail matter. As letters come here from Kobe, Osaka, Hiroshima, Yokohama, Tokyo and some hundreds of other places where communicable maladies prevail it is quite possible that disease has made entrance through the post-office. If the foreigners cannot be induced to take proper precautions nothing remains, it would seem, but to fumigate the mails when they arrive.

One day's later news from South Africa shows that things are still in statu quo. The Boers are making no serious attacks and the British are standing on the defensive waiting for re-enforcements to turn up. If the previous rumor is true that Great Britain has acquired Delagoa bay, we may next hear of trouble in that quarter, as it would seem to be good strategy for Lord Roberts to strike overland towards Pretoria from Delagoa bay, thus compelling the Boers to raise the siege of Ladysmith and Mafeking and hasten to the defence of the capital.

We recur to the idea of widening Nuuanu street from the waterfront to the mauka limits of Chinatown in the belief that such an improvement would be worth all it might cost. To make a boulevard there equal to the width of the block backing on Smith street, would be to follow out a custom which has been adopted in various Oriental cities to divide the foreign settlements from the native quarters. The street could have a park through the center either with ornamental trees and shrubs or with such anti-malarial

REMODEL CHINATOWN.

The right of the Board of Health to go on and condemn and burn buildings the condition of which menaces the public health is conceded. The thing is being done every day. At the rate the fires are being set to coincide with the spreading of the plague, it will not be long before the greater part of the Asiatic quarter is in ashes and the way cleared for the building of a model Chinatown where epidemics can no more get a foothold than in the case at present in the equatorial city of Singapore.

We have already printed the facts about Singapore in the form of a communication. That place was once a plague-smitten city where thousands died. The plague sometimes comes to it now; so do cholera, small pox and other communicable maadles. But there are never any epidemics. The reason is that the British thoroughly cleansed and sewered the city and gave it a supply of pure, filtered water. At the same time they passed building laws by which ample air space was secured under every dwelling and the basements laid with concrete. The natives are kept from herding and cleanliness is insisted on. Now Singapore, despite its heat and humidity, is not a menace as it used to be to the health of travelers and to the Far East, but a place where people may live as safely as they do in other part of the tropical zone.

It is becoming possible to make Chinatown as creditable to Honolulu as the native quarter of Singapore is to that Malaysian capital. All that is needed is more fire, a thorough disinfection of the soil, then a revision of the street and building laws. This journal, as it has said before, would like to see a model settlement built for the Asiatics on new ground; but if that is not practicable it would be glad to have the present Chinatown made over. After a complete clearing away of every wooden structure and every one of any kind that had been infected, the streets could be widened and alleys cut through the blocks; the highways could be paved and sewered and the fire limits made to cover the whole district. Between the Oriental town and the white man's Honolulu should be a park covering the entire space between Nuuanu and Smith streets planted with grass and trees and so arranged that it could be shut in at any hint of epidemic and used, in that way, as a barrier to ingress or egress. With plenty of light and air, and pure water, sanitary homes and a police specially charged with the enforcement of health laws, this city could breathe freely, content in the thought of a security from disease not exceeded by that of any city of the mainland.

Can we get along with measures less sweeping? The Advertiser does not think so. We tried to after the cholera epidemic and here we are, face to face with something worse. It has been proved that a combination of crowded wooden shacks, cesspools and narrow streets, occupied by Chinese, Japanese and natives cannot be kept clean. The task is next to impossible. It has never been performed in any part of the world in a way to exorcise the plague. Thus there is but one thing to do here and that is to build a new Chinatown that will be as sanitary in its fixed utilities and habitations as money and skill can make it. Then and only then may we feel secure.

Of course such a rehabilitation would cost heavily, but not so much so as the loss of three cargoes of sugar, refused entrance at foreign ports because of plague would necessarily imply.

THE PEST AND RATS.

We copy the following paragraphs from a recent file of the Japan Daily Times:
Dr. Ando, Medical Inspector who is now in Osaka making investigations on the actual pest situation there, wired on Tuesday to the Sanitary Bureau, reporting that on examination several

rats caught in that city were found infected by the plague bacilli.
Dr. Kitazate also leave the capita in a few days for Kobe where he will experiment upon exterminating the rodent tribe, by means of sulphur fumes and other gases, the operation taking place on board the vessels anchored in the harbor.

This is something practical. Had the Thyra and Armarchenshire and the other steamers which were permitted to discharge their freight and their rats without mitigation been batted down and inundated with sulphur fumes we might now be free from the plague. Considering the trouble we are having and the danger we shall always experience if extreme sanitary precautions are neglected why would it not be wise to fumigate every ship that comes to this port from the Far East and perhaps from other directions, as much to kill the rats on board as to disinfect the freight?

No rat can withstand sulphur fumes. After breathing them for a few minutes he comes out of his hiding place and dies. It would not be necessary to keep up the smudge very long and it might be started in the hold of a vessel half a day before her arrival in port so as to prevent too much delay in going to the dock. Every part of the ship not used by passengers could thus be cleansed. As for the passenger portions rats do not usually visit them unless on foraging expeditions by night. In the day time they rummage the hold and the fore-castle.

Kill the rats before the vessel docks. That would be one of the surest ways to keep Honolulu free from an ever-present means of infection.

The purser of the Doric is regularly supplied with papers from this office but he does not see fit to give any in return. Accordingly the Advertiser's readers lose three and perhaps four days' news which had been published in Yokohama before the Doric left. Of course there is no way to compel the Doric's purser to follow the courteous custom about delivering files which has obtained on the Pacific route for years, so the responsibility for the deprivation which Honolulu suffers rests wholly upon him.

Honolulu is now strictly quarantined. No freight can leave it for the uninfected parts of this island save canned goods that have been fumigated. Gradually but surely the fight against the plague is taking on the most drastic form, nothing being left undone to confine it to Honolulu and eradicate it here.

There is no trouble about inventing snubs for General Hartwell. All that is needed is a lively imagination and a yawning vacancy in the news columns. When these conjoin a new sensation about General Hartwell is as certain as those Spanish victories used to be in the halcyon and vociferous days of Weyler's type-writer.

Piracy on the Chinese rivers continues to burden the news from the Orient. It appears to be a growing industry to suppress which the Pekin government does little or nothing. The fact supplies one of the strong incentives for partition as China, wherever she is left to herself, officially, seems to be growing weaker and less responsible.

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Certainly scrofula, if anything, may be called the advertisement of foul blood. It is the scourge of the world - offensive, painful, debilitating, stubborn. Outward applications do not cure. Emollients may palliate, they cannot abolish the evil. There is one sure way out, and that is to eliminate the taint from the blood. For this purpose Hood's Sarsaparilla is absolutely without an equal.
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For maps and full particulars call at our Office, Room 7 and S, Progress Block.

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