

THE PACIFIC
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WALTER G. SMITH - - EDITOR.

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FUSION IMPROBABLE.

There is no fusion between Home Rulers and Democrats and at the present time the chances that such a combine will be made are growing small by degrees and beautifully less. Although Wilcox, under orders of Cayless, his hault boss, was the first to make advances—which he did here by word or letter to Col. Cornwell—his party has refused to follow him. Trouble began to brew as soon as certain Home Rule nominees, Bill White in especial, heard that they were to be crowded off the ticket to make room for Democrats. Several of them threatened in that event, to run as independents; and this meant that Wilcox's poi would be all dough. So with characteristic treachery the Home Rule leader began to repudiate his own pledges—those he had first made to Senator Blackburn and those he made subsequently to the local Democratic Committee. He suddenly discovered that one did not need to belong to the Democracy or the Republican party to get recognition at Washington—that America was simply alive with Home Rulers who only wanted a chance to reach nirvana by aiding the Home Rulers of Hawaii. Having made this beginning he easily passed to a critical attitude towards the second parties to the proposed fusion, his wife declaring as follows in her paper:

Delegate Wilcox never ran after the Democrats and never begged them to come over to him. It was the Democrats' own wishes to ask the Delegate to join with the Home Rulers. If they wish to come over the door of the Home Rule is open to them, if not, that's their lookout as the Home Rulers need no help. They had none last time and we do not see why they cannot get along without any aid from either party this time.

This has left the Democracy in a most unhappy state. They had met Wilcox's advances so as to get some of their men into the Legislature, but now they find that they cannot receive the goods. The most they are permitted to do is to vote for Home Rulers and that is not what they are in politics for.

It ought to be easy, now, for the Democrats to cast their votes for good government as represented by the Republican ticket. Many of them would have done so if fusion had been achieved; all may do so now and but make a natural protest against an act of treachery. But there is another and a better reason. Candidly speaking, they would probably do themselves more good as a party by that course than any other; for, if Home Rulers win this year they will stay Home Rulers for a long time and absorb the men to whom the Democracy looks for its strength. On the other hand if the Home Rulers should be beaten now they would certainly break up as an organization and divide their strength, in future, between the Republicans and Democrats. They cannot outlast defeat but victory would solidify them. Is it good Democratic politics to solidify them? Would it not be better politics, even at the risk of party effacement in this campaign, to break them up?

It is a pity that the literary executor of Kate Field should use her name in connection with messages from the spirit world. The living authoress had too healthy a mind to tolerate the imposition of slate-writing spooks. Honolulu takes a special interest in the matter as Miss Field died here in a cottage which stood on the site of the makai end of the Alexander Young hotel—a place which her literary executor may soon begin to advertise as haunted.

The name of nearly every man in the old Provisional Government, who is yet living and a resident of Hawaii, appears on the subpoena list of the Senatorial Commission.

As a political municipality in full blast St. Louis ought to be able to make some fine exhibits of its own at the coming fair—especially behind the bars.

If a private steam yacht can travel at over forty-five statute miles an hour, a torpedo boat ought to make at least a fair spurt for thirty-five.

A study of the election returns in Maine is calculated to make Col. Bryan twist around and bite himself in the back of the neck.

It might be just as well understood, first as last, that the public means to have the whole truth about the Wright case.

The appearance in Europe of Charles M. Schwab makes the business outlook at Monte Carlo considerably brighter.

A Democrat who votes for Wilcox endorses his platform pledge to the Republican national administration.

The new moon seems to have a remarkable faculty of stirring up volcanoes all over the world.

THE LITTLE PIECE CLUB.

Dismayed at finding a report of their executive session in the Advertiser the Portuguese Piece Club essays a series of denials which are give-aways of themselves. For instance Camara says that he did not promise to pay his political assessment in drinks, but explains his words—which a member of the Advertiser staff took down at the time in short hand—in this disingenuous way: "What Camara did say was that he was peculiarly placed to be a candidate for the Legislature. Undoubtedly men would call upon him at his place of business to talk politics and would incidentally get a drink. He would have to sacrifice his business and would have to secure assistance to attend to his clerical work. Under the circumstances he did not think he should be asked to contribute much money." After that "explanation," if anyone doubts the accuracy of this paper's stenographic report of Camara's remarks he needs a guardian.

Which way would Camara have been likely to talk?

In point of fact the news reports of the local press are far more accurate than is possible on the large papers of the Coast and in the treatment of the Portuguese Piece Club they have only erred on the side of leniency. As for the Advertiser it has hesitated to tell the public everything about the small commercial faction in the Portuguese society, but this consideration seems to have been wasted. It is quite time for politicians and the public to know how little respect it deserves, especially now that it has begun to attack Andrade in the name of all the Portuguese voters.

Fortunately for the good name of our Portuguese fellow citizens, Andrade finds a stalwart and numerous support among men to whom a predatory political club is as much of an offence as it is to the laws and public sentiment of California. The Piece Club was abolished by statute there and ought to be suppressed here. The great majority of the Portuguese voters are far above the little Camara faction, do not belong to it, will not belong to it and thoroughly despise it. They can be trusted, we think, to show proper resentment of its pretensions at the polls.

THE LEPER ISSUE.

Prince Kuhio struck a keynote at the Kalihii camp meeting the other night when he quoted Senator Burton's remark about what the United States would do with the lepers if it had them in charge. The Senator, it would seem, is inclined to favor the Wilcox bill to turn the care of Hawaiian lepers over to the Federal government, partly on the ground that the latter would permit no intermingling of the sexes. "We would separate them soon enough," said Burton. This being so it follows that leper families, who now live in peace and in some semblance of happiness and home comfort at the Settlement would be kept as criminals in the penitentiaries are—the men in one ward and the women in another. Segregation having thus been made drastic in a high degree, it follows, of course, that the friends and relatives of lepers would not be permitted to visit them.

The Prince declares that a vote for Wilcox would be one to divide the leper families, to prevent marriages among them, to abolish their homes and helpers and to deprive them of all that is left in their lives worth having—to exile them from friendship and domestic love and turn their place of kindly detention into a banishment almost as bitter as death. Nor does he overstate the case, if Senator Burton is a just interpreter of the Federal will; for not only is Wilcox committed to his Federal leper scheme but his stump speakers and his newspaper advocate it.

The effect of the Prince's appeal upon the voters at the Settlement and upon their friends outside, must necessarily be great. Hawaiians are peculiarly devoted to the home; they do not consider the single life one of blessedness and they draw closer to each other, as individuals and as a race, as time passes and their numbers decrease. So when Wilcox comes with a measure to break up the families of their lepers and the Prince opposes this measure, it should not take them long to determine the one to get their votes.

NEED OF STORED WATER.

It is rather absurd that in this, a country where rain is as common as sunshine, if not commoner, at high altitudes, and where an immense artesian reservoir exists, there should not be water enough in the city mains for every one—enough to waste, enough to throw away, enough to provide a surplus to run into the sea. Yet it appears that a few days of southerly weather have so reduced the stored supply that Supt. Brown has been forced to issue his dry-weather warning through the press. Yesterday's rain may have helped matters a little, but if so, a few days of sunny weather would make things worse than they were before.

The growth of Honolulu has made it imperative that the Legislature should do something to remedy the lack of reservoir supplies. The last Legislature did not even provide the funds to set up a pump which had been bought and paid for; but in the face of the present condition and the showing made at one recent fire, the next Leg-

islature will, if it has a spark of public spirit, do the right thing. There are plenty of ways. A big reservoir in the rainiest belt of Nuuanu is practicable; and at the head of the Manoa valley at least half of a mountain torrent could be impounded without traversing anybody's riparian rights. The new pump is also available.

We need more water for fire protection, for the public health and for beautifying the yards and gardens of the city. That, it seems to us, is argument enough for a generous appropriation.

TIMELY TOPICS.

The only debt the Sultan will pay is the debt of nature—The Philadelphia Ledger.

The willingness of Mr. Alger seems to be very much akin to that of one Mr. Barkis.—The Louisville Courier-Journal.

Mr. Bryan still insists that the free-silver issue isn't dead. Horrible! Then we have buried the poor thing alive!—The Atlanta Journal.

Bishop Potter is now engaged in trying to settle the coal strike. The bishop has got to buy coal for two this winter.—The Atlanta Journal.

Up in Knox county it is said that the election officers in one ward counted only 716 votes out of the 522 ballots cast.—The Memphis Commercial Appeal.

Before coming to this country to lecture Aguinaldo might hear of something to his advantage by addressing Ellen M. Stone.—The Chicago Record-Herald.

The Ohio man who dropped dead just after calling for a telephone number must have got the number he wanted at the first ring.—The Kansas City Journal.

Truly, the rain falls upon good and bad alike, as the President says; but the trouble is that the bad have the umbrellas of the good.—The Baltimore American.

The next step in the proceedings, if there is any respect for precedent, is to court martial Admiral Higginson for capturing the enemy's fleet.—The Baltimore American.

When the coal strike is finally settled, it will require a vast amount of arbitration to determine which New York newspaper is entitled to the credit.—The Washington Post.

"Did you see that item to the effect that Jupiter is 14000 times the earth's size?" "Yes, I saw it." "Well, say, that must make Pierpont Morgan feel pretty small."—The Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Maybe Mr. Kruger had his proposed lecture tour of the Boer generals in mind when he said the British would pay a price for the Transvaal that would "make humanity stagger."—The Atlanta Journal.

"Yes, I'm encouraging my daughter to keep company with that Arctic explorer." "What's the reason?" "He'll be able to stand it in the parlor without any fire next winter."—The Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Since the passage of the South Carolina law prohibiting the sale of pistols, dealers have done a fair business "renting" them. Trust officials are not the only successful law-breakers.—The New York World.

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