

THE PACIFIC Commercial Advertiser

WALTER G. SMITH - EDITOR.

FRIDAY MARCH 27

A BAD POLICY.

It is proposed in the Legislature to grant an exemption in taxes to the Winston railway project and to the proposed Hilo electric railroad.

The only time anything of the sort has been done in the Territory was in the interests of the Oahu Railway and Land Co., an enterprise which is so highly profitable that the exemption simply takes the form of an extra dividend. The Territory has lost by it without meeting any crying need of the company. No such aid has been given—or, we believe, asked for—by the Rapid Transit Company, the Tramways Company, the Hilo railroad, the Kohala railroad, the Kohala-Hilo railroad, the Kona-Kau railroad or the Kahului railroad. If two of the new enterprises are to be freed from their share in the expenses of the common government, then all the new ones should be put on an equal footing. To help some and leave others out, three of the latter being roads in operation, and all having franchises, would be legislation of a very questionable sort.

The proposal is made the more doubtful by the fact that the counties, when they are organized, will need every cent they can get. They cannot afford to cut off the revenue which large corporate enterprises would naturally yield.

The home-coming of the Queen without the \$300,000 she asked of Congress is the fifth or sixth journey of the kind she has made. Experience is a dear teacher and it is to be hoped, for her own sake, that the Queen has finally learned how useless it is to ask Congress for a gratuity. Claim agents and "jolly" Congressmen have often persuaded her otherwise, for reasons of their own, leaving her to bear her disappointment as well as she could in the end. Possibly they will urge her to come back next fall because of Kuhl's presence in Congress, but that could not possibly help her claim, the fact that Kuhl is her heir making it impossible, assuming she had a chance anyway, for him to get her gratuity bill through the House.

The old, old attack on the Board of Health was resumed in the House yesterday. When it began can be seen by an examination of the old files of the Advertiser. Sixteen years ago Ned Bush was after the Board and he had his predecessors. The whole difficulty is that the Board persists in opposing the large class in our mixed population which objects to sanitary measures of any kind and to the segregation of the lepers. If the malcontents had their way it would not be long before every port would quarantine against Honolulu and the inflow of tourists and investors would abruptly stop; but so long as the Board has its way, Honolulu will remain an attractive and safe city.

The Legislature would do well to go slow with the Pauoa springs proposition and with the Kaimuki scheme until it gets an impartial estimate from experts of its own choice as to the value of the property. It takes a great deal of land and a great deal of water to be worth a quarter of a million dollars. By looking around, the Legislature may find that the Territory has enough land and water of its own to provide a reservoir of sufficient capacity and height above sea level to answer all the probable demands of Honolulu for long years to come.

The New York Commercial is engaged in a series of blackguard attacks on the sanitary status of San Francisco, which the Chronicle says is the result of the withdrawal from that paper of the support of San Francisco merchants. The Commercial used to be a reputable journal but it has done many queer things of late, notably its publication in the form of a letter from a staff representative of a false and malicious article about Honolulu. Evidently the Commercial wants to compel business with a club which it cannot obtain by circulation.

Touching the denial of the report that the Oceanic S. S. Co. will cut rates during the winter months, it is stated by a gentleman who saw an official of that line, that the Oceanic company would consider a proposition with the Pacific Mail and O. & O. lines to make a winter rate of \$35 to Honolulu and of \$110 for the round. This would not be "cutting" a rate but agreeing upon one.

Kupieha's freak resolution or Freak Kupieha's resolution to repeal certain parts of the Organic law is a pleasant reminder of the efforts of a similar able statesman, two years ago, to annul the United States quarantine laws. It is to be hoped that Kupieha will spare the Federal constitution if he ever meets it anywhere and learns what it is.

When the police raid the Beretania street joint, as the Advertiser understands they will do at an early date, this paper proposes to print the names of all persons captured there whether they are booked under aliases or not. Publicity is the best known remedy for the tenderloin habit.

MEXICO AS A CUSTOMER.

The steady gain of the United States in supplying the foreign merchandise required by Mexico is the subject of special comment by an official of the British legation at the City of Mexico in a report made to the British Foreign Office on Mexican trade in 1901. "The United States of America," he says, "are yearly increasing the proportion of their trade in this country. The value of the imports (from the United States) in 1901 amounted to \$6,941,929 as against \$5,767,042 in 1900, or an increase from 51½ per cent. to 55½ per cent. of the total import trade. The United Kingdom and her colonies together supplied Mexico with merchandise to the value of £1,909,167 during 1901, as against £2,217,111 in 1900, representing about 15 1-3 per cent. of the import trade. France supplied merchandise to the value of £1,383,869 in 1900, while in 1901 the value was but £1,231,762, its proportion in 1900 being 10½ per cent., but now is scarcely 9½ per cent. Germany's share of the trade of Mexico in 1901 was a trifle over 10 1-3 per cent., as against 11½ per cent. in 1900. The trade with Spain continues about the same as in past years, viz., 4½ per cent. in 1900 and 4½ per cent. in 1901." The report presents a table showing the percentage of the principal countries in the imports of Mexico from 1896 to 1901, and shows that the percentage supplied by imports from the United States has increased from 43 per cent. in 1897 to 55½ per cent. in 1901; while that of the United Kingdom has fallen from 19 per cent. to 15 1-3 per cent.; France, from 13 per cent. to 9½ per cent.; and Germany, has increased its share from 10 per cent. to 10½ per cent., while Spain has decreased from 5 per cent. to 4 3-16 per cent.

Cotton manufacture in Mexico, he says, is not as active as formerly. The number of cotton factories in the Republic increased in late years to such an extent and the product of those already in existence so increased that with the opening up of new establishments fitted with modern machinery the market has become overstocked and several of the older factories have had to stop work and in many cases close entirely, a state of things which will continue until the existing stocks of cotton goods are very much reduced. Nevertheless cotton goods form one of the principal items in the imports of Mexico.

The use of electricity not only for lighting but also for industrial purposes is, he says, becoming more general, and several companies have been formed for the purpose of making use of the larger waterfalls throughout the country for the generation of electricity, the machinery being imported chiefly from the United States. The Electric Light Company of the City of Mexico has been unable to supply the demand for electricity for lighting purposes, and the extension of the electric tramway lines about the City of Mexico has greatly increased the use of electricity.

The popularity of American goods is especially commented upon by the writer, who says that boots and shoes of American manufacture are now found all over the Republic, while in the City of Mexico four or five establishments have been opened for the express purpose of selling boots and shoes of American make only.

Commenting upon the growth of the import trade of Mexico, and especially the increasing proportion obtained by the United States, the writer of the report, Mr. Bjorklund, says: "However much the trade of Mexico increases, the share of the United Kingdom is always decreasing, partly for the reason that British manufacturers and merchants generally will not adopt more modern methods, and consequently what is lost to the United Kingdom is gain to some other country."

"Though of course the United States, on account of their proximity, are bound to possess the largest share, and the facilities for transportation being greater thence than from Europe, there does not seem to be any special reason why the trade from European countries, especially the United Kingdom, should not be more than it is, a fact that can be verified by the figures given in another part of this report. American merchants and manufacturers are ready to cater for the trade of Mexico, and their agents are continually travelling for the purpose of extending the sale of articles already known, or are endeavoring by means of samples to open fields for new merchandise. Though articles of German manufacture are acknowledged to be of inferior quality, their style and finish are such that they can favorably compare with those of greater finish, which cost more than twice as much. Another reason why German made goods find a better market here is from the fact that the makers are always ready to accept any suggestions made to them, either by their own agents or by clients, who are often more in touch with the requirements of the country."

THE LEGISLATURE.

[The Official and Commercial Record.] The legislature is half through the session, and as yet, has passed but three bills, two providing for the expenses of the legislature and one for the expenses incident to payment of the fire claims. This is not encouraging. There is a large amount of carefully prepared legislation in various stages of enactment, but progress is of the slowest. The principal causes are two. First, more than one-half of the time is taken up in interpret-

ing the minutes, motions, questions and speeches from Hawaiian into English and vice versa. Second, more than one-half of the remainder of the time is taken up with resolutions and enquiries concerning matters with which the legislature has nothing to do and over which it has no control.

What is the remedy? There is no permanent remedy, and will be none until an increased degree of intelligence among the electorate results in sending more intelligent men to the legislature.

The general recognition of this fact has produced a feeling of intense dissatisfaction, accompanied by a feeling akin to hopelessness of accomplishing results. This is not unnatural, but is not wholly justified. The business community, both collectively and individually, keep too much aloof from the members of the legislature. Most of the members are well meaning men, and will respond to personal and intelligent presentation of facts. It is sound business policy for the business men of Honolulu to devote some of their time to meeting and getting into touch with legislators.

Personal influence among them will strongly help to secure favorable action upon many matters vitally affecting the public interests.

"JOBS" AND JOURNALISM.

The "jobs" which would go through congress, if it were not for the restraining power of the press, are terrible to contemplate. So Congressman Littlefield is quoted as saying; also, that "if there were no newspapers at all, I don't believe I would be willing to trust myself alone in the house of representatives for fifteen minutes."

Mr. Littlefield only adds to the testimony of countless men in public life to the weighty influence wielded by journalism, an influence only remotely perceived and understood by the average person. A watchful press has on numerous occasions verily saved the country.

In a sense the newspapers are the people's agents. Their heavy responsibility springs from the intimacy of their relation with the people. In every sense they should be the people's safeguards. While they do to a large degree reflect public opinion, they also through the concentration of impressions, create and mold it; and public opinion is the press' weapon—for good or for evil, for the performance of grave duty or for violation.

But to save the country from great legislative crimes is only a secondary obligation. Journalism's opportunity is in the first instance, and it performs a far higher duty and one of profounder consequence when it saves the people from designing politicians and delivers the country out of their hands.

A vigilant and downright free and honest press is, in one view, a last resort for a people oppressed by unscrupulous politicians. No man, however great, in public life, can defy a united press. It is only by dominating a weak and corruptible element in journalism that evil powers manage to survive. When every newspaper learns the truth, which is more evident in journalism than in any other sphere, that honesty is literally the best and the only substantial policy, universal politics will undergo a mighty purification.—St. Louis Republic.

LODGE NOTICES

Lodge Le Progres De l'Oceanie.

No. 124, A. & A. S. RITE. A SPECIAL MEETING OF LODGE Le Progres L'Oceanie No. 124, A. & A. S. R., will be held this (Friday) evening, March 27, at 7:30 o'clock, in the Masonic Temple.

WORK IN THE THIRD DEGREE. Members of Hawaiian Lodge, Pacific Lodge and visiting brethren are invited to attend.

By order of Worshipful Master. CHAS. BON, Secretary.

WILLIAM M'KINLEY LODGE NO. 2, K. O. F.

THERE WILL BE A REGULAR convention of the above named Lodge Saturday evening, March 28, in Harmony Hall, at 7:30.

TRANSACTION OF BUSINESS. Members of Oahu No. 1 and Mystic No. 2 and all sojourning brothers are invited to attend.

A. S. BRESKOTT, K. of R. & S.

CAPT. COOK LODGE.

SONS OF ST. GEORGE, NO. 353. THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE above Lodge will be held in San Antonio Hall, Vineyard street, on Monday, April 6th, at 7:30 o'clock.

By order. GEO. W. HAYSELDEN, Secretary.

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