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HAMAKUA FOREST

Reserve Recommended to Governor Carter.

Among the principal topics of consideration at the meeting yesterday of the Board of Agriculture was the recommendation to the Governor to set aside the Hamakua forest reserve as reported upon by Superintendent of Forestry Hosmer. The matter was brought to a conclusion by the presentation of the following resolution by Mr. Giffard which was adopted:

Resolved, that the forest reserve at the north end of district of Hamakua, Island of Hawaii, between the Waipio Valley and the district of Kohala as recommended by the Committee of Forestry, based on the report of the Superintendent of Forestry, be approved, and that the Board recommends to the Governor that the land within said described boundaries be set apart as a forest reserve, subject to all private rights and titles lying within said boundaries. Passed.

HOSMER'S REPORT.

Oct. 31, 1904. The Committee on Forestry, Board of Commissioners of Agriculture and Forestry, Honolulu, T. H.

Gentlemen: I have the honor to submit the following report on the proposed forest reserve at the extreme northwestern end of the District of Hamakua, Island of Hawaii, consisting of the section of steep, pall country, between the gulches of Honokane and Waipio.

Under the date of April 3, 1903, Mr. E. E. Olding, the local consulting forester, reported to the Board as follows: "As forestry agent for the District of Kohala, I beg to submit the following lands as reserves: all government lands lying between Honokane and Waipio valleys (from the headwaters to the sea) as well as government land known as Puukapu, and also all that portion of Kawahae 1, lying between Puupili and Waimanu, on expiration of the present leases to Parker Estate."

Upon a request from Mr. Thurston for more definite information, as to metes and bounds, Mr. Olding replied, on May 8th, 1903: "As suggested I enclose herewith tracing from Government map showing forest lands to windward of Kohala District, which all parties here are willing and desirous to have reserved, proposed reserve is shown and included within 'red lines' and is bounded as follows: On the west by the Awini Ranch and Bishop Estate lands, on the south by the Hamakua boundary line, or lands of Puukapu and Bishop Estate lands, on the east by the Bishop Estate lands of Waipio, on the north by the sea. Land known as Laupahoehoe owned by the Booth Estate is not included."

"As this is in the heart of the forests of Hawaii and joins other government lands it can be added to from time to time as government and private parties desire. It is in a great measure protected from cattle at the present time and should not cost the government much for fencing."

"No settlement has been reached with regard to lands known as Puukapu and Kawahae 1, so these lands are not included at this time in proposed reserve."

While I have not personally exploited the area in question—a task rendered almost impossible from the nature of the country—I have carefully considered the question of making this section, with other adjoining lands, a forest reserve. This I believe should be done, for the following reasons:

The chief value which this section now has, or so far as can be foreseen is likely to have, is on account of the streams which head therein, and which can be utilized for irrigating the adjoining agricultural lands, and in the development of power.

To insure the protection of the watersheds of these streams, so that as much as possible of the water falling upon the area be made available for use, it is desirable that the lands be set apart as a forest reserve.

The creation of the forest reserve would in no way hamper the development of water and power. On the contrary it is primarily to maintain and insure this use of the streams that the reserve is proposed to be set apart.

At the present time there is little or no objection to the creation of this reserve; there is, with the exception of certain areas in the Waimanu Gulch—excluded in these recommendations—no agricultural land; nor from the nature of the country is it a region which could be so developed.

There are several privately owned lands adjoining the proposed reserve which should be included therein, and which the owners thereof are willing to turn over as a part of the forest reserve, if the Government will set apart its lands.

I therefore recommend that the Board request the Governor to set apart, after the public hearing provided for by law, the government land described below, as a forest reserve; and I further suggest that negotiations be entered into with the owners of the adjoining lands, with the exception of those under cultivation in the Waimanu gulch, with a view of extending the reserve to include them also.

The following description of the proposed forest reserve, in the district of Hamakua, Island of Hawaii, furnished by the Survey Office, with a map of the same, is now on file in my office.

"Beginning at the mouth of the Honokaa gulch by the sea, being the boundary of the lands of Awini and Honokaa, in the districts of Kohala and Hamakua, respectively, run thence up the center of Honokaa gulch, and along Awini homesteads to the land of Honokane; thence along said land of Honokane in a southerly direction to its junction with the lands of Kawahae 1st and Puukapu; thence in an easterly direction along the land of Puukapu and the north side of Kawahae branch of Waipio Valley, crossing the head of Waimanu Valley to the west side of Waipio Valley; thence down along said west side of Waipio Valley to the sea; thence along the sea to the point of beginning. Very respectfully, RALPH S. HOSMER Superintendent of Forestry. HILO RESERVE."

In the matter of the Hilo forest reserve it was reported to the meeting that Mr. Loebenstein did not have all the data in Honolulu necessary to describe the upper boundary and he has returned to Hilo to secure the same. Upon his return the line will be marked on the map especially prepared to show the Hilo reserve, and it will then be forwarded to the Governor with the recommendation that he set aside all the lands between the upper and lower lines to be known in future as the Hilo Forest Reserve.

SHEEP AND MAMANI.

Mr. Holloway reported that he had received a letter from Land Commissioner Pratt in regard to a lease of lands wanted near Humuula and Kaohi, on Hawaii, and the Board was asked to make what reservations in the matter it desired. Mr. J. F. Brown stated that Mr. Pratt was about to leave for the mainland, December 6, and he hoped the Board would be able to act on the matter at the meeting so that Mr. Pratt could have time to advertise the lands before his departure. He stated the land in question was located at an elevation of about 8000 feet.

Mr. Hosmer stated that Kaohi adjoins Humuula on the south side of Maunakea and was above the lava flow in that section. He thought the land could be used for grazing up to 8000 feet. Any one taking a lease should be compelled to fence in the property at the upper boundary to protect land planted with forest trees from ravages by cattle. He stated there was quite a bunch of wild cattle roaming around in that vicinity.

Mr. Thurston recommended that there be inserted in all such leases a clause that no sheep should be raised in such places. So far as the Board of Agriculture and Forestry was concerned there was nothing against public interest in permitting cattle there but he had a strong objection to sheep which would destroy forests. He wanted to go on record as against putting any of the mamani lands aside for sheep raising.

Mr. Giffard stated that as Mr. Hosmer had not placed his recommendation before the Board in writing he was disinclined to vote on the proposition. Mr. Thurston said that the Board was taking its first step in leasing such lands, and for that reason it should act slowly and only upon reports gained from the superintendent of forestry.

Mr. Hosmer stated that a certain section above the ohia, koa and mamani belt should properly be used for grazing purposes.

The matter was then referred to the Committee on Forestry.

BISHOP ESTATE AND KOA.

A request was made by letter by F. S. Dodge on behalf of the Bishop Estate asking permission to have Superintendent Hosmer go to Hawaii next week to examine an extensive koa forest back of the Volcano House and make a report on the same. It was reported to the Board that the Estate contemplated lumbering some of the mature koa trees and selling them to parties in Hilo.

It was suggested that this would probably be unwise at present owing to the fact that the Board was making strenuous efforts to get as many private forest lands into the reservation as possible.

Mr. Thurston thought it was a matter of internal policy with the Bishop Estate and that it would be better for the Estate to have an expert forester's opinion on the question than to go ahead without it, no matter what the Estate decided to do with the trees. He said that it was probably the intention of the Estate to get a conservative report from Mr. Hosmer as to just what should or should not be done in the forest.

"We want to put our forests on a commercial basis," said Mr. Thurston. "It is my opinion that mature koa should be lumbered under expert observation rather than that it should rot and go to ruin."

He added that there were miles and miles of koa rotting between the Parker Ranch and Hamakua. There were millions of cords of koa all over Hawaii going to ruin because it was being lumbered. Provided that reasonable methods were pursued in lumbering koa, the trees would be of great commercial value to their owners. By giving owners expert aid, those who controlled koa forests could lumber their forests without injuring them.

On condition that Mr. Hosmer had no other important duties requiring his presence in Honolulu next week he was given permission to go to the Volcano House for the purpose above described.

Mr. Hosmer stated that he was strongly of the opinion that the first piece of lumbering done should be under expert forestry methods. It was a part of the policy of the Board to give advice to private owners, but not much had been done in outside districts owing to lack of men and money.

BLUEFIELDS FOR HILO.

Jared Smith, Director of the United States Experiment Station, in a letter to the Board stated he had secured five acres of land near Hilo for growing bananas, and he recommended transferring half of the Bluefields bananas now under cultivation here to this land, it being well adapted for the growing of such bananas. The Board agreed with Mr. Smith.

MINUTES TOO LONG.

The Board met at 4 p. m. yesterday but it was twenty minutes to five before the reading of the minutes had been concluded. J. F. Brown said the report of the previous meeting was undoubtedly most accurate, but it was altogether too voluminous and took up too much valuable time in its reading. The Board generally agreed with Mr. Brown and hereafter only a skeleton report of the previous meeting will be had.

CORRESPONDENT VILLIERS

(Continued from page 1.)

Headquarters Hospital, where we should have the best medical advice. The General then dismissed us saying he was afraid he would not be able to see us for two or three days as he was fully occupied in other directions.

AT THE FRONT.

"We immediately started for the front and from that day till I left I saw everything of the operations about Port Arthur. For some time we were not allowed to send any telegrams or news letters and our private letters were censored. This precaution was one of which I appreciated the wisdom, and the restrictions were removed as soon as possible. We were, however, allowed to send sketches after they had been approved by the censor. I am glad to say that from the beginning my sketches were favorably censored and allowed to pass.

WELL CLAD TROOPS.

"The weather during my stay was most varied. For the first two or three weeks there was considerable rain which made us rather uncomfortable, but we were fortunately able to occupy Manchurian houses and suffered none of the hardships of the ordinary campaign, especially those resulting from having to shift from pillar to post all the time. For some weeks the heat was intense, but about three weeks before we left it became cooler, and during the last week cutting northerly winds necessitated our getting into winter clothing. The Japanese, with that fore thought which characterizes them, had already got winter clothing for the troops, and as far as I could see there was not the slightest inconvenience suffered by the troops with regard to their clothing and the change of the weather, in fact I never saw troops who were better provided or had more consideration given to their comfort than was given by the authorities to the Japanese army. The encampments were exceedingly comfortable and here and there were little shanties which reminded me of some of the smaller houses in a Japanese village.

THE MARTIAL SPIRIT.

"The martial spirit of the troops was very high, they were ever sanguine and unflinching by repulses. It was a most extraordinary thing that, after some of the big assaults where the loss was considerable, within a few hours of the return of the men to camp they were indulging in gymnastics and other exercises that were simply recreation and amusement. In some camps there was a good provision of gymnastic apparatus such as trapezes, rings, etc. The men were always cheery. Nothing whatever seemed to daunt them. The martial spirit was significant throughout. They were absolutely confident in the generalship of their officers and in their ultimate success.

GENERAL CLEANLINESS.

"They had not much cavalry, but the horse lines were the finest I have seen in any campaign. The horses were stabled in comfortable arbores covered with greenery, and in some camps they were sheltered by embankments. The horse lines were perfectly clean and free from the noxious odors that too frequently prevail in such places.

"This cleanliness was apparent everywhere. Even in some of the trenches within forty yards from the Russian firing line everything was spick and span, whilst the troops were almost as clean as they would be on parade. It seems to me that typhoid fever, that scourge of most armies, absolutely cannot exist to any extent with the Japanese Army at Port Arthur. All the water they drink, some of which, by the way, is obtained from the sources from which the Russians have been cut off, is boiled. In all camps huge cauldrons of water are boiled for the men who simply run up and fill their water bottles. I never saw greater care taken of men by their officers than outside Port Arthur. When I left, after over three months, the camps were just as clean and orderly as they would have been in time of peace. I noticed these things particularly, because as an old campaigner they were remarkable to me.

ALMOST HAND TO HAND.

"How far are the two forces apart?" asked the interviewer. "In some places," responded Mr. Villiers, "there was not more than twenty yards between the Japanese and Russian trenches, and the Japanese were continually sapping. The work they have done in the way of sapping and mining is simply miraculous. That is the only term I can apply to it. They have had to cut through living rock for thousands of yards. Their trenches are very spacious and are well protected in every way."

PORT ARTHUR STRONGER THAN PLEVNA.

"We have heard much of the impregnability of the Russian defences. Can you give a description of them?" was the next question.

"There is, of course, the double line of main forts and between these are numerous smaller forts. The defences of the various forts consist first of wire entanglements. Then there is a series of trenches with lunettes, and then the glacis running up to the fosse, then the scarp and counter-scarp and lastly the actual fort. The fosses are generally very wide and deep. In fact, Port Arthur is the strongest position I have ever seen in my life. As a natural fortress it is many times stronger than Plevna, and has the additional advantage of strong permanent forts. You must remember that at Plevna the Russians lost nearly 70,000 men by their various assaults and then they had to sit down and wait until the Turks came out. This will not take place with Port Arthur. The Japanese will take it; they will not sit down. It is now simply a matter of sapping, which may take a long or short period, but the final fall of the fortress is absolutely inevitable."

Asked to give his opinion as to the probable date of the fall, Mr. Villiers said no layman could have a foundation for any estimate and he, certainly, could not express an opinion. On the matter of the advance of winter, the eminent war correspondent said he did not think the winter would affect the Japanese army very much, because they were well provided for. The neighborhood of Port Arthur was a district where the men could be easily sheltered by means of burrowing in the ground, which would make them snug and comfortable.

THE USAGES OF WAR.

As there have been occasional stories

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of breaches of the laws of war, the interviewer put some queries on these subjects. Mr. Villiers said: "I have seen no dum-dum bullets. I have seen many Russian bullets, but none of them were dum-dums. I know of no instances of the white flag being abused, and as far as the Japanese are concerned my own experience has been that they show the greatest courtesy and kindness towards their prisoners. I heard of some charges of Russians killing the wounded, but I was unable to verify them. The Japanese hospitals are fitted with most complete appliances. Considering the tremendous strain on the hospital service, I think the work accomplished most remarkable. Many of the hospitals are close to the firing lines. In one or two instances they have been struck by shells, but I do not think it was done intentionally. The Japanese are remarkable for keeping up to the front, as close as possible to the enemy."

On the general question of the military situation outside Port Arthur, Mr. Villiers said he had nothing but praise. "I saw nothing done that was not in full accordance with the best tactical methods. War is of course very large game of chance, but the Japanese have done all that is possible to ensure victory and the generalship leaves nothing to be desired. The Japanese have broken through the outer chain of forts in several places and are close up to the inner line. They have captured Russian forts, and in some instances are using the guns contained in them, working them with ammunition they have also captured. Considering the wonderful strength of Port Arthur I know of no army that could have done more than the Japanese in the same time. If the outside world could see Port Arthur and the enormous strength of the positions, they would be amazed that the Japanese have accomplished as much as they have succeeded in doing."

WHAT THE RUSSIANS THOUGHT "Have you had any opportunities of getting any expression of Russian opinion?" was a question that launched Mr. Villiers on a description of an interview with two Russians captured just before he came away. "They, in their ignorance," he said, "imagined that the Japanese were barbarians and they expected to be mutilated as if they had fallen into the hands of the Chinese, but instead of having their toes and fingers cut off and being condemned to a lingering death they were treated in the kindest manner, and the soldiers thrust gifts of cigarettes upon them, which was indeed a luxury. They seemed to be very happy and if the news of their treatment reached the Russian lines it might cause many more to leave Port Arthur."

RUSSIANS ON REDUCED RATIONS. As to the conditions inside Port Arthur "I heard before I left that the ration of 2 1/2 lbs. of bread per day had been cut down to under 2 lbs. which may mean any amount. They had been living alternately on horseflesh and occasionally, some beef, but even the supply of horseflesh was said to be running short. It is of course impossible with a water front to keep up a perfect blockade and adventurous Chinamen, who will do anything for money, will occasionally get junks through, but there will be very few of them. The general impression among the Japanese is that General Stoessel is not the chief man inside Port Arthur, but General Falk, who intends to fight to the last. Some say that Stoessel has a tendency to cave in, but that he has been threatened by certain officers if he should attempt to surrender. The behavior of the Russian soldiers is beyond praise. In some instances they have been absolutely heroic in their conduct. There were cases when they had fought all day at one point and were hurried away to fight at another point all night, which is good testimony to the capabilities and endurance of the Russian soldiers. I believe that General Nogi and his staff have the greatest admiration for the generalship and strategy exhibited by General Stoessel and his officers in Port Arthur."

Concluding the interview, Mr. Villiers bore testimony to the excellent treatment accorded the correspondents, and said his remarks were the result of calm and unprejudiced opinion removed from the irritation that might have been caused by occasional petty difficulties. These views of Mr. Villiers are particularly valuable in that he is a war correspondent of world-wide fame and numerous campaigns in many lands since the Servian troubles of 1876. He was with the Russians in Turkey in 1877, and is entitled to speak of the siege of Plevna at which he was present. He numbers the battles at which he has been present by the score, and consequently his views on Port Arthur are both valuable and interesting.

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