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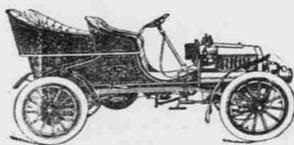
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**MR. CAMPBELL'S VIEWS ON
THE ALIEN LABOR QUESTION**

Editor Advertiser: During the last three or four years a great deal of discussion has taken place and numerous resolutions have been adopted by so-called labor organizations, relative to the employment of Japanese skilled labor in the Hawaiian Islands.

While I have been familiar with the sporadic attempts to agitate this question, and have realized that these efforts were partly owing to the fact that I have largely employed Japanese labor in my building operations—yet I have heretofore refrained from entering into any controversy, through the press or otherwise, relative to the subject above referred to.

I have been led, however, from reading Mr. Pinkham's illogical and remarkable document, so prematurely and unexpectedly made public last Sunday morning through the alertness and enterprise of the Daily Advertiser, that I cannot allow to pass unchallenged some of the statements therein contained.

Though I am not prepared to submit photographs or rainfall statistics of doubtful value, yet I can present facts which are self-evident to any fair minded person.

After eliminating the many ridiculous absurdities abounding in Mr. Pinkham's report, the fact remains that in the last analysis, the main and ostensible purpose which actuated the authors of this report, was to prejudice the public mind against Japanese skilled labor in the interests of a few white mechanics.

Mr. Pinkham points out that there are no objections to employing Japanese for such positions as white men refuse to fill. I would like to ask Mr. Pinkham what kind of work, be it ever so menial though honorable, that unskilled white labor will refuse to perform in these Islands, provided it is paid the same wages pro rata, compared with skilled labor, as in the United States. A white mechanic's wages in Honolulu ranges from four to five dollars per day, and the unskilled laborer's pro rata would be two dollars and a half per day. Let our plantations offer this wage to white laborers, and there will be no occasion for complaint as to the scarcity of white labor for the purposes required. Why then do not our great plantations rise to the occasion and offer compensation sufficient to attract white labor to these islands? Simply for the reason that such an expenditure for labor would so increase the cost of production as to leave no margin of profit—and such action would therefore be suicidal to the sugar interests.

The writer of this article employs Japanese. Why? For the same reason that the plantations are compelled to do so. Had I employed white labor at wages and hours demanded, I would have built but a small fraction of the one or two hundred houses for which I am directly or indirectly responsible. This increase to the residence capacity of the town has resulted in a marked decline in the rental price of dwellings, which has ranged from twenty to fifty per cent—and thus made it possible for those of small means to rent comfortable dwellings with modern improvements, in some cases for less than twenty dollars a month—and thus continue to make this their permanent home, where otherwise they would have been forced to leave the Islands. Again, from an investment standpoint, it is not now possible to profitably construct a house at the price of white labor, neither can a purchaser, dependent on the average salary, afford to add to the cost of his home for the sentimental reason of employing such labor.

For these reasons I am employing Japanese labor, and can point to no stronger justification than is shown by the large number of people now owning their own homes,—a matter of pride to any city; and the resultant large increase in home life is a fact which gives greater stability and permanency to our society and government.

Finally, to our numerous critics who have forced the agitation referred to at the beginning of this article—and who insist so rigidly that a skilled Japanese laborer has no right to follow his chosen occupation in these Islands, a few questions might be pertinent. With hardly an exception—these men employ the Chinese laundryman instead of the white man. Why? They patronize Chinese and Japanese stores. Why? They visit the Chinese restaurant. Why? They employ Japanese and Chinese servants. Why? And in this connection, I would like to ask what class of labor is or should be more skilled than cooks. Please a man's stomach and you please the world. To be consistent, alien cooks, at least, should also come under the ban. But where is the unwritten law under the Stars and Stripes, that will permit Jackson Jones to employ a Japanese stable boy, and not permit him to employ the stable boy's brother, a carpenter, to repair the stable door or alter the front veranda.

The absurdity of such unjust discrimination with reference to alien skilled labor, is plainly manifest. All attempts to force such an issue, whether originating directly through labor organizations or whether subtly conveyed under the guise of a commissioner's report on labor conditions in the Hawaiian Islands, must prove abortive, as such efforts are contrary to public policy, to public interest, and are clearly un-American in spirit.

MATLOCK CAMPBELL.

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**W. N. ARMSTRONG ON THE
HAWAIIAN MISSIONARIES**

(Speech at Mohonk Conference.)

(Conclusion.)

The Japanese immigration is recent. When these Asiatic children, native born, and all of them American citizens, reach manhood, the voting majority in the Territory will easily pass into their hands. These Asiatic children are educated in the public schools, read English literature, sing English songs, and live within an American environment. They know little of Asia, and little of the customs and traditions of their ancestors. Hawaii is their new fatherland. During their school days they daily salute our national flag. In business matters, they meet only American methods.

It is probable that the Americans will gradually abandon the Islands. Benjamin Kidd declares that it is a blunder to acclimatize the white man in the tropics. Charles H. Pearson in his work titled "National Life and Character," says: "Europeans cannot flourish under the Tropics, and will not work with the hand where the inferior race works." I accept these conclusions only with modifications. If the farmer is the backbone of a nation, or of an isolated community, the Americans will not furnish a backbone to Hawaii. The Asiatics, as well as the Portuguese, now vastly outnumber the Americans as farmers in Hawaii. When the American farmer comes in contact with the Asiatic farmer, unless he has special advantages, he will withdraw, or fail. The American in Hawaii will maintain the social and commercial supremacy until the native-born Asiatics greatly outnumber him, and, educated and trained in American methods, are strong enough to form an effective social body which will confront him, and compete with him as they do in the British colonies, and take away the Englishmen's business.

We shall have within a half a century a large Asiatic community in Hawaii, partially isolated from the world by ocean barriers, but dominating in political and probably in commercial life. What will this population represent when raised under American institutions? I reply positively an American population in its thoughts and ways. It is generally said that there is a radical difference between the Occidental and the Oriental races. The ablest writer on the character of the Japanese, the Rev. Sidney Gulick, Hawaiian born, but a resident for many years in Japan, in his remarkable book, titled the "Evolution of the Japanese," insists that the difference between the Occidentals and the Orientals is not biological, but purely social. He claims that no one has yet been able to specifically show that this difference is other than social. He declares that only social environment creates this difference, so that races able to hold their own in industrial and commercial life will assimilate their civilizations in a great measure. Assuming the truth of this belief, you in the future will see on American soil a compact body of American Asiatics, born citizens of America in a beautiful but isolated section of our territory. They may number in time a half a million people. They will be trained, as they are now being trained, according to the very best methods of our national system of education. They will even cease to speak the Asiatic language. They will be assimilated, as the alien races which now do the labor of New England are being assimilated.

Moreover, and it is a matter of supreme importance in the world-contact which this great nation is making, that this Asiatic community at the cross-roads of the Pacific will stand directly before all Asia as a brilliant headlight of the American civilization.

The permanent forms of our institutions in Hawaii, of such inestimable value in our close contact in the future with Asiatic civilization, is the work of the quiet, small and zealous Mission to Hawaii. Although these institutions are now maintained apparently by only five per cent of the white inhabitants of the Territory, including missionaries and their allies, there is now behind them the supreme power of the Federal Government.

Just before the Federal power reached out with annexation and re-enforced these institutions, there were times when it seemed as if there would be a relapse into semi-barbarism. When the late King Kalakaua attempted to exercise despotic power, this missionary force arose and checked him. When ex-Queen Liliuokalani, ignorant of the nature of self-government, naturally Polynesian in her instincts, threatened to abrogate the Constitution, the sons of the missionaries arose in rebellion and abolished the Monarchy which their fathers had created. They did it in sorrow and tears, because it was the work of their fathers. But they abolished it just as their own ancestors on the mainland cast the British away from the Continent in 1775 and for the same reasons, and no others.

About twenty years ago a large and desirable immigration of Portuguese laborers to the Islands was abandoned in favor of a cheaper class of laborers from Japan. The prevailing commercial and public sentiment of Hawaii took no account of the morrow. It naturally looked only at its bank account.

The philanthropists will regard this political shortsightedness of preferring the Japanese to the Latins as indeed fortunate. It threw open the gates to a large Asiatic immigration and to the contest of two great civilizations. It unintentionally established the way for planting on American soil a large body of native-born Asiatics. The social and political condition of the Islands are singularly favorable to the contact and assimilation of the Occidental and Oriental races. It is the best locality on this Continent for a vast American school in the practice of self-government by Asiatic citizens, for there are here neither California hoodlums or trade prejudices to insult the young citizens. The scope of this school is as grand as that of any university, and its pupils will number the entire Asiatic population. Out of this great industrial school in practical politics, supplemented with the very best public school education which the Americans can suggest, will come within several generations an army of native-born Asiatics, who will indirectly carry all that is best in American life to the very heart of the Orient.

(American institutions were so deeply planted in Hawaii by the missionary forces, that when an annexation to the United States took place the new territory came under the Federal Constitution without suffering from any unjust social or legal conditions. If the foreign-born Asiatics could reach the ear of this Conference they would ask its aid in removing the political disabilities which prevent long-resident, intelligent and wealthy Asiatics from sharing in the government while every native is permitted to vote. But as the national policy at present assumes that the Asiatic cannot be a good citizen it would be useless to ask it, but the overwhelming number of native-born Asiatics will within one generation remove these unjust discriminations.)

There will be some friction for a while in navigating this little Hawaiian ship of State, now only a small tender, to the great battleships of American civilization. The alien crews will fall into disorder at times, try to cut the rigging, and work her onto the shoals, but the American will stand at the helm and navigate firmly and wisely for several generations and until the educated Asiatic will take his place in the pilot house, and keep her to her course with his finger on the chart of the best Christian civilization.

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