

Commercial Advertiser

WALTER G. SMITH, EDITOR.

SATURDAY : : : MARCH 18.

THE ATKINSON CASE.

Without knowing all the circumstances which had to do with the Governor's tacit request for the resignation of Superintendent Atkinson, this paper feels itself safe in saying that fair play has been more honored in the breach than the observance.

Certain charges, to which Mr. Atkinson had no chance to reply, were made against the conduct of his department and his own conduct by a legislative committee. The "evidence" on which some of the charges were based came from the testimony of Kalimahana (K) whom Representative Mahelona took into a saloon and plied with liquor until he signed a statement implicating the school authorities, a statement which he has since repudiated in an affidavit. What other evidence there may have been we do not know, but we do know that Supt. Atkinson was not confronted with it, was not given a show to clear himself and is held to be guilty without being afforded a chance to prove himself innocent. It is precisely the course which the political grafters who have been conspiring for his job would like to have had taken.

Furthermore a legislative committee which is seeking more evidence in the case has shut its doors to press and public and even to the Commissioners of Public Instruction as appears elsewhere on this page. This inquisitorial committee came very near excluding the Superintendent's attorney. It is impossible to say, therefore, how far the Mahelona methods of rounding up witnesses are still being employed. The Advertiser feels called upon to remind the Governor that the public of Hawaii will not be satisfied to have Mr. Atkinson railroaded back to private life nor stigmatized by ex-parte evidence. He should have the SQUARE DEAL which the Governor believes to be everybody's portion. He ought not to be asked to resign under fire, nor to put himself in any equivocal attitude. As a matter of natural justice his right to prove himself innocent before receiving the penalty of guilt stands unchallenged at the bar of public opinion.

Since the above was written Gov. Carter's midnight statement was made. The Governor says that he knows of no charges against Mr. Atkinson. Under that head we must refer him to the ex-parte Grand Jury report on the basis of which the legislature began its inquiry, making the personal charges which reappear in the record of yesterday's proceedings. Charge one by the House committee is as follows, it being needless to recapitulate the rest:

"Charges. 1. The Superintendent of Public Instruction has long maintained a personal indifference as to the proper or improper performance, by teachers, of their duties, and takes little, if any personal interest in their responsibilities and advancement. His personal presence is an unknown factor in the schools.

It is hard to consider these charges and the subsequent request—or hint—for Mr. Atkinson's resignation, as having nothing to do with cause and effect.

KUROPATKIN'S DOWNFALL.

Kuropatkin has been dismissed from command in disgrace, a penalty which, though severe, is probably merited. It is not that the Russian general has been beaten in battle after battle with the finest soldiery in the world so much as that he, as minister of war made no adequate preparation for the events to come. Kuropatkin had control of the army administration of Russia about two years before the fatal 8th of February. During that time he visited Japan and studied the army, the Tokio government giving him every reasonable facility to do so. He ought to have known, as nearly every one else did, that Japan was bent on avenging the loss, at the instance of Russia, of the best fruits of the war with China; that her pride was strongly enlisted in the Manchurian and Korean questions and that she had become an armed power of high rank. Instead of measuring the situation as it was, Kuropatkin returned home to live in a fool's paradise. Assuredly, he thought, Japan will never attack the gigantic power which has bluffed Europe for forty years; and so, instead of rushing men and munitions into Manchuria and locating them at all strategic points, the war caught Russia with less than 75,000 men in that field and with no point, except Port Arthur, adequately fortified. It is the irony of fate and the justice of it as well that the consequences of Kuropatkin's bad judgment should fall on his own head.

"Rainfall 60" is getting to be a standing notice in the weather report.

License or no license, this is certainly a dry town.

RUSSIA'S BLUFF.

The first stage of the peace negotiation between Russia and Japan takes the usual form of big talk by the losing side. Having already signified that she would like peace without an indemnity, Russia follows that expression by mock heroics. The Council of the Empire has decided to fight some more; poor Rojstvensky, cowering under the lee of Africa, has been ordered to attack Togo; a vastly greater army than Russia could feed with its single line of railroad—450,000 men—has been ordered to Manchuria; Russia would like money but does not need it so badly as to make a loan for less than 95. All this is easily recognizable as bluff, intended to deceive Japan into offering more favorable terms of peace.

But Japan knows her position and may be expected to make the best of it. She is now the mistress of the East. Close to her base she can bring more troops into the field and feed them than Russia can possibly do. One of her soldiers is the equal of two Russians. Saghalien, the \$15,000,000 seal fisheries at Commander island and Vladivostok itself are at her mercy. With the railroad in hand she can easily put troops on the Siberian border. In the matter of money she can get more from the people, by appealing to their patriotism and self-sacrifice, than Russia can borrow today in the European markets at 90. At her signal China would be likely to rise and help with money, men and provisions. She commands the sea. Surely she does not need to abate her demands for the sake of bringing Russia to time,—a power which is on its last legs now, so far as the Manchurian campaign goes and is menaced by insurrection at home.

THE STAR CHAMBER.

The ancient and accepted rite of so-called public investigation in Hawaii is privacy. The Advertiser remembers a few years back when it was not possible to get a line on any transaction of government except the Legislature and that body, when anything large was on, often went into executive session. Even such public matters as the recording of deeds and mortgages was done sub-rosa. To cover up, to conceal, to keep dark, these were the principles upon which, for many years, public business was done in Hawaii. The process of concealment was oftenest used in the dealing with malfeasance in office and letting the criminal go.

Gradually things have improved. The people are finding out more of what is doing in public life; but at certain times they are still excluded from the spectator's gallery, so binding is old custom. There is an instance at once in point. Yesterday the House Committee on Public Expenditures brought serious charges against the Department of Public Instruction; but coincident with this, when the people had become aroused over the matter, a kindred committee, the one charged with the special inquiry, closed its doors to the press and the public. It even excluded that vitally interested body, the Commissioners of Public Instruction, who were compelled to ask for publicity and for copies of the charges, without getting either. Nor did the Committee on Public Expenditures give the accused parties a chance to be heard nor did it inform them that any charges were laid against them. The whole proceeding, secret, black and midnight, reeks with the worst practices of the governments that are past. The other committee even tried to exclude the attorney of the accused and to muzzle him. It is monstrous that such a thing could happen in a matter concerning the public interests of this Territory.

Open the doors and turn on the light! That is the only thing to do with the school investigation.

Every man who goes to Tantalus and has to trespass on private property to eat his lunch in the shade, is in favor of a Tantalus park.

Shark fishing, as a tourist attraction, ought to find a conspicuous place in all the promotion literature.

It will be a brave Russian who refuses to take stock in the new internal loan.

Y. M. C. A. Meetings.

At 5 o'clock tomorrow Mr. C. J. Day will conduct the Round Table Study. His subject is "The Prompt Decision of a Man of Great Authority." All men welcome. Tea is served at 6. At 10 o'clock Sunday at the Rapid Transit Club House, Mr. C. H. Tracy will speak to the car men.

THE MAILS.

Mails are due from the following points as follows:
San Francisco—Per Nevada, March 18.
Colonies—Per Sonoma, March 21.
Victoria—Per Aorangi, April 8.
Mails will depart as follows:
San Francisco—Per Sonoma, March 21.
Yokohama—Per Mongolia, March 25.
Colonies—Per Sierra, March 22.
Victoria—Per Mowera, April 5.

MRS. SCHLEMMER NOT WORRYING

Mrs. Max Schlemmer sends this unsigned letter to the Advertiser by the hands of her daughter:

Editor Advertiser: On Thursday, 16th of March, there was a piece in your paper where Captain Weisbarth says that he was turned down because he offered himself to go for the schooner C. Kenney, as he is sure she is lost. He came up to my house and it seemed as if he had been drinking too much, the way he came and spoke to me. He said, "I have just come up to tell you that you better go down and see Captain Niblack to send out an expedition, as the schooner is surely piled up somewhere and I'm the one to go." I said, "O, Captain I don't think that the schooner is lost or anything is wrong, because they might have had bad weather." He said, "No! they didn't have bad weather; if a man doesn't get to Midway after thirty days he ought to be ashamed of himself. Max Schlemmer is no navigator anyway and I'm sure they are piled up somewhere. That is all I came to tell you. You'll never see your husband again." I said, "Captain, you don't seem to know what you are talking about. You seem to have been drinking too much."

While I said this he was going down the stairs and walked off.

I think it is very shameful for a man to come and speak to a wife of her husband in such a harsh way.

When my husband left, he told me not to worry, as he would not risk any dangers, for his schooner was not insured. February being a very early month when he left and it is very rough there in that part of the year. As he was first going to Laysan to get a large boat as he said, it might have been very rough so that he could not land.

I have been staying at Laysan myself many years and have seen some very rough weather when ships could not land for weeks. I am thinking they are still safe and may arrive at Midway any time.

Sunday Advertiser
25c per month

BY AUTHORITY

PUBLIC LANDS NOTICE.

On Monday, April 17, 1905, at 12 o'clock noon, at the front entrance to the Judiciary Building, Honolulu, will be sold at Public Auction, the lease of the following named land:
334 acres, a little more or less, of the land of Kaieie, District of Hilo, Island of Hawaii, classed as follows:
252 acres agricultural and 82 acres pastoral and waste land.
Term, 5 years, from July 1, 1905.
Upset rental, \$1050.00 per annum, payable semi-annually in advance.
For plan and further particulars apply at the Department of Public Lands, Honolulu.

JAS. W. PRATT,
Commissioner of Public Lands,
Honolulu, March 15, 1905.
7054—March 18, 25, April 1, 8, 15, 17.

Etamines and Voiles of Cotton

These are among the prettiest of the new Spring goods and you will find them novelties that will make up in a very stunning manner. Among the daintiest are plain, figured and shot effects.

25c. a yard.

Nub Suitings

This will be a favorite material this Spring. Pretty effects now being shown.

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Fort Street.

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ATTENTION!

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- Japan Rose
- Rose of Killarney
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These are a few of the latest in the Perfumery line; in the neatest of packages. We claim these goods the most exquisite ever shown in this city, and most appropriate holiday gifts. Ask to be shown these and convince yourself.

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We will make the terms easy so that you can have a first-class instrument without feeling any burden in paying for it.
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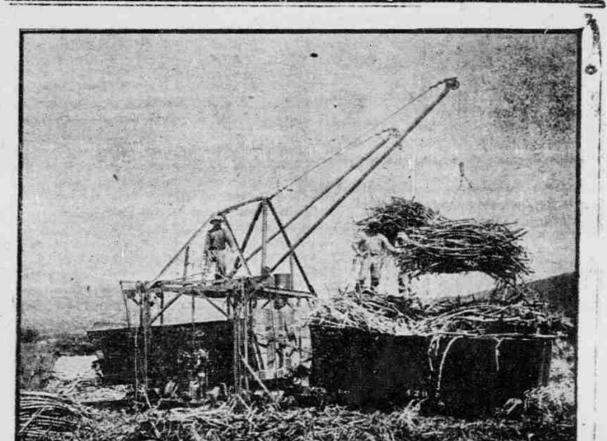
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It enables a hostess to see if her guests are happily assorted. And in a large room it brings people nearer. It annihilates formality just as it does distance.
You can't talk merrily and wittily through shadows. In a half-lighted room, conversation, by an actual law of physics, takes on a sombre tone. Grayness and sadness and quietness seem to be the three melancholy graces that preside over some firesides; but they are never the household deities where electric lights are used, for a kind, clear, vivid light wipes out dingy corners and solemn reflections, and lack of human sympathy.
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Office King street. Telephone Main 399.



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