

**THE Pacific Commercial Advertiser**  
A MORNING PAPER.

WALTER G. SMITH . . . . . EDITOR  
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**INJUNCTIONS AND MARTIAL LAW.**

We hear a great deal nowadays about government by injunctions, and among a considerable number of people the phrase is suggestive of coercion of the working classes.

The strike in Hawaii was in progress for two months before any legal injunction was issued in regard to it and then the injunction was in such form that Judge Robinson stated no law-abiding citizen should object to its issuance.

As a matter of fact, however, the injunction issued by the court was not the first injunction which has been promulgated and enforced with respect to the strike. The first injunction was that issued by the Higher Wage Association against the Oahu Sugar Company and other plantations involved, prohibiting them from employing any Japanese workmen on their plantations. This comprehensive injunction was also directed against all Japanese on the Islands, and forbade them from entering the service of the plantations. It was an injunction issued against laborers and prohibited them, whether willing or unwilling, from earning their livelihood in the manner to which they were accustomed.

This injunction was enforced by methods in rude imitation of those of the court. Contempt proceedings for its violation have been numerous. The Nippu Jiji has, on several occasions, published accounts of guilty ones, who purged themselves of contempt by appearing before the officers of the association, bowing their heads to the floor, and confessing their sins and promising to offend no more. For the recalcitrant, other methods were in use, the application of one of which, after due trial and conviction of the offender, left him in the hospital.

Another occasion, when three contractors seeking labor were seized, the trial was proceeding in due form when interrupted by the police. It appears that Judge Robinson's court was not only several weeks behind with its injunction but is far behind in its enforcement.

Besides the injunction issued and enforced by the Higher Wage Association, it now appears that the strikers have an organized system which can only be compared to martial law. The affidavits filed yesterday in the contempt proceedings tell an extraordinary story. It appears that all the strikers from the plantations are organized in groups of twenty, over each of which is a leader responsible for his men. The roll is called every morning, and if any workman is absent word is sent out and men are sent to locate him.

If a striker wishes to leave Honolulu or to visit Waipahu for any purpose, he must apply for a permit, which can only be described as a military pass. These passes are numbered and issued under the seal of the Waipahu branch of the Higher Wage Association, and state the reason why the bearer is permitted to visit Waipahu.

On every road leading to Waipahu are stationed pickets, whose business it is to stop every Japanese passerby and demand his pass. Books are kept with military precision, giving the record of each pass. The man who wanted to go to work for the plantation last week applied first for a pass for a week and afterward for three days, but was given a pass to leave Honolulu for twenty-four hours only, with instructions that he could get the time extended by presenting the pass at the Waipahu office and showing a good cause.

This is a system such as has been adopted here in times of epidemics, but it is doubtful if it has any other counterpart outside of an army. It is, in effect, martial law, as applied to the majority of Japanese laborers on this Island. The question which has been brought before the court is whether its continuance after the issuance of the injunction last Friday was a violation of the injunction.

**THE CONQUEST OF THE BILLBOARD.**

Whenever there is talk of fighting the billboard by refusing to buy the goods it advertises, those who profit by the nuisance come back with threats of retaliation through the conspiracy and boycott laws. These threats are valid so far as they apply to any organized movement to restrict, hamper or destroy a lawful business. Under Federal statutes no man may join another in boycotting the lawful interest of a third man; no set of men may conspire to injure property or a means of livelihood. But all this, it must be remembered, pertains to organization. There is no law under the sun to keep any man from refusing to buy wares which do not suit him or which he may deem to be advertised offensively. His right to act for himself is as clear in such matters as his right to reject clothing that he does not want to wear or food which he does not care to eat.

To illustrate: If a body of public-spirited citizens, taking natural offence at the appearance everywhere on this island where private or corporate interests are not in the way, of signs urging the public to drink a certain brand of beer, should agree to drink no beer of that make and to induce others to take the same pledge, the brewers would have their remedy in law. Doubtless the parties to the boycott would fare badly in court. But if, on the other hand, these public-spirited citizens, without collusion, acting privately, should buy some other beer or none at all, the full force of the boycott would be employed without incriminating any one.

The efficacy of the boycott which arises spontaneously from a common sense of injury or insult has been seen of late in this city where the great firm of Hackfeld has withdrawn its billboard advertising because wares so proclaimed have been subject to the silent, individual protest of so many buyers as to seriously lessen the sale of the product. There was no union against the goods, no combination, no gatherings or talk in the papers, nothing but an unorganized general sentiment that merchandise, offensively thrust upon one's notice, should be let alone. And it was let alone with the result we have described.

The only way to get rid of the billboards which disfigure streets, fields and country roads, is to make them unprofitable; and the public has the remedy in its own hands. If a hundred people who find a beauty spot hidden by a high fence bearing the slogan of a certain cigar, for instance, should write the dealer, independently of each other, that they would not buy a cigar so advertised, that would bring the fence down. Billboards depend, not upon those who put such things up, but upon those who buy the products they advertise. When the individual consumer arises to the occasion, the billboards will vanish.

The recent policy of China has been in conflict with the railroad, commercial and other interests of Japan, though two countries with such identical foes and with such racial objects in common, should be friends. But nothing entirely reasonable or even wholly sane, can be expected yet of the government of China. It is in a transition period between the old supercilious and fatalistic barbarism and the new civilization and is influenced most, perhaps, by ancient precedent. Now and then a modern statesman appears at Peking and things promise well for a national policy; but before long a reaction sets in and he receives the imperial yellow cord, which is generally the last of him. With Yuan Shi-Kai, a greater man than Li Hung Chang in adaptability to new ideas, there was hope; with the dominance of Kang Yu Wei the worst days of the late Empress Dowager may be revived. The latter is a hopeless reactionary, and he is quite as capable as the government of China in 1894 was to challenge the might of Japan and compel her, once more, to set her fleets and armies in motion—a recourse which would suit Russia very well.

The Star of the 19th instant makes the following editorial comment: A week or so after this paper gave the official news that the government nursery compound was about to be thrown open as a public park, the morning paper gave an interview with a citizen advocating that such should be done. In fact, this disposition of the premises was decided on long ago, but was delayed until the grounds could be put in condition for the purpose.

The morning paper referred to ought probably to feel well-squelched. But, as a matter of fact, only yesterday afternoon was it determined to throw the park in question open to the public. And it took some thirty minutes' heated discussion to arrive at that decision.

Some weeks ago in an article on the smells of cities the Advertiser said that the distinguishing odor of Honolulu is Asiatic. This is not observed by people who stay here, but is plain to new-comers or residents returning from a long stay abroad. One of the latest persons to notice the Honolulu bouquet and record his impressions in print is Mr. Frank Fox, a colonial journalist, whose interesting article on Honolulu was reprinted in these pages yesterday. "The languid, vague smell of Asia," he described at once on his arrival here, though if he had stayed on the ground for a week he would have lost it. But

it is here; it pervades everything and helps to impress the stranger with the semi-foreign aspects of this American outpost.

Kauai Japanese are busy cutting wood now and don't stop to see the strike fund collector. Putting up for a Honolulu vacation which they can't enjoy themselves is beginning to pall on the outlanders.

There won't be any joy in the Higher Wage Association over an investigation by ex-Consul Saito.

**Army and Navy News**

If Colonel Schuyler of the Fifth Cavalry, commandant of the Leilehua post, is able to carry out the plans upon which he is now working, the great plain where it is proposed to locate the big garrison will become one of the most beautiful places in Hawaii, which is to say, one of the most delightful army posts in the United States.

Colonel Schuyler is a firm believer in the preservation of forests and the planting of trees. A tree to him is not only a valuable asset but a thing of beauty, and what Colonel Schuyler wants about Leilehua, and what he intends to have if it be possible, is plenty of verdure. He wants to plant the great plain of Leilehua with trees, trees of the right sort, that will flourish in this climate and add to the general attractiveness of the big army post which will undoubtedly be located there in time.

The Colonel has been conferring with Forester Ralph Hosmer about his pet idea, and in Mr. Hosmer he has found an enthusiast as regards the forestation of the country. Their idea, so far as they have worked it out, is to take measures for preserving the natural growth on the slopes of the hills that hem in the plain of Leilehua, and more than that, to plant trees on the plain itself.

What these two lovers of trees will be able to do still remains to be seen, but if they succeed in carrying out their present ideas, Hawaii will owe them a debt of gratitude for increasing the natural beauty of one of the naturally beautiful spots of the Territory.

**Captain Platt Leaves.**

Captain Platt of the Ordnance Department, U. S. A., who came down from the Coast a short time ago to test the big guns of the Diamond Head mortar battery, left for San Francisco on the Korea yesterday afternoon. Before leaving he stated that, except for a few minor and unimportant particulars, he found everything all right with the guns. He expects to return to Hawaii next December to test the Pearl Harbor guns, which it is expected will be mounted and ready for use by that time.

Captain Platt expressed himself as delighted with Honolulu and was sorry that he could not stay longer and see more of the country. He hopes on the occasion of his next visit to be able to make a longer stay. It is possible that when he comes this way again, he may bring Mrs. Platt with him.

The only fault the captain had to find with Hawaii was the difficulty in getting away from here. This difficulty, he said, is two-fold. One finds it hard to tear himself away from the climate and the beautiful surroundings, and he also finds it very difficult to get steamer accommodations. In fact, almost up to the hour of sailing Captain Platt was not sure whether or not he could get accommodations on the Korea. His efforts to get passage on the Marama resulted in failure, she being full to the guards.

**Paymaster's Messenger.**

As the result of a recent examination under civil service rules for the position of messenger in Paymaster Major B. B. Ray's office, the major has received a list of twelve eligibles who obtained percentages that put them within the possibility of appointment. According to the rules, the Major is supposed to make his appointment from among the first three, and if after trial he is not satisfied with the one appointed, he is at liberty to try another from farther down in the list.

Those who passed the examination are Antone E. Gomes, James H. Aho, George Engle, Frank J. Robello, Lot Kahale, Edwin H. Akina, John Hilo, Harry Gilman, John McPadden, John

P. Mendeola, Samuel K. Unauua, Eli Pihl. The first three are instructed to appear in Major Ray's office today and an appointment will be made from among them.

**Moves Into Town.**

Captain Day, Regimental Quartermaster of the Fifth Cavalry, has engaged a residence in the city and will move his family into town in a few days.

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