

THE Pacific Commercial Advertiser
A MORNING PAPER.

WALTER G. SMITH EDITOR

FRIDAY JULY 23

A NATIONAL GUARD ARMOY.

This paper has not been enthusiastic over the support of the National Guard since revolutionary days, and it would hesitate to urge a larger use of public money for that purpose, than the allowance now granted; but if private citizens have funds with which to improve and build up the citizen soldiery, the distinct need of such improvement warrants this paper in hoping that the contributions will be generous.

It is proposed to build an armory. The business men believe they can provide enough money for that purpose. At present the Guard is quite out in the cold as the big drilled is wanted by the United States as a storehouse for the Quartermaster's department. What is left is a rifle gallery and all out doors. It being deemed wise by the business men, urged to that attitude by the War Department, to keep the Guard together, it follows that the force should at least have a roof over its head and facilities with which to cultivate the military art.

In this connection we cherish the hope that, once started, the business men of Honolulu will go further and encourage an improvement in the personnel of the local regiment. A few years ago a man had to enlist in the Guard to hold his job in the road department; and the ranks were filled with native laborers who cared no more for the military life than they did for the flag they were supposed to follow, and who had rather any sort of a perfidious foe should triumph over them than that they should lose a drop of blood or miss dinner. Perhaps the spirit is better now. Perhaps the militiamen are full of zeal and patriotism and pluck and could even stand off an equal number of the men who whipped the Russians. But if there are any carking doubts on that point, the sooner the business men organize some strong companies of their own, the safer the new armory will be from capture by a resolute mob.

MAKING LAW BUSINESS.

It would be interesting to know how many statutes are drawn up by lawyers for no other purpose than to make work for the profession. The average legislator knows little about the form of statutes, so he goes to an attorney, who is supposed to know, and gets a bill drawn. The measure has the scrutiny of the legal minds of the legislature and, in due course, becomes a law. Yet in perhaps five cases out of ten the first action under it is met by an assault on the statute itself on the ground that it is constitutionally or otherwise defective. It has been drawn wrong; something has been left out or something obnoxious to the organic law left in, whereupon enough legal business is made in getting it interpreted by higher courts to keep a half dozen barristers in clover for a year.

Just who planned the alterations in the lunacy law of Hawaii we do not know, though half a dozen lawyers claim the honor. But it appears in the well-coached contention of Dr. Atcherley that the framer of the new statute only implied essential things where they should have been declared; so that there may even yet remain in our law an appeal to a jury which, under enlightened systems of jurisprudence, is not permitted to defendants in insanity cases, a decision as to mental soundness being one for medical experts and not for a lay jury box. One may easily see where a lawyer, anxious to boom business, would stand on this proposition. Before a lunacy commission, where a medical inquiry takes the place of a court combat, there are no fees in sight for the attorney. For him a judge and jury every time.

Litigation is increasing the world over. The laws have grown so complex, so cumbersome and contradictory that it is almost time to burn them, as Justinian did, and begin again with a clean page and a simple code. Every year piles an Ossa of defective statutes on a Pelion of repealed and superannated ones. But it makes business, and there are lawyers enough in the world to keep the mixer going and assure the profession against the wolf for ages to come.

AMERICANIZED EUROPEANS.

The German Navy League recently invited the German-American National Union to join its ranks. The Union has replied that the League ought to remember that the members of the Union are citizens of the United States, adding that, for all their love of their old home and their pride in Germany's greatness and power, they must decidedly object to the invitation and, in their opinion, every German-American should do likewise.

It is a notable fact pertaining to the mainland of the United States—much less so to Hawaii—that Germans, of all continental immigrants, are most eager to affiliate with the republic. The Italian intends to pass his declining years in the old country. The Frenchman shivers at the idea of never having his roof-tree in France again. The Spaniard is a denizen merely. Hungarians, Swiss, Greeks, come to make money but intend to go home with it in the long run. But the German settles down and in the vast majority of cases never crosses the Atlantic again, while his children, educated in the public schools, evolve into American citizens of the best type. We have millions of people in America now with names of German derivation, who can not speak a word of the language of their forefathers and who are as American in their viewpoint as is the New Englander who boasts of his descent from Plymouth Rock. The army and navy are full of German strains; everywhere, in positions of the highest responsibility, are citizens of German lineage, but Americans in all the term implies.

We speak of continental Europeans, which excludes the Irish, who also become devoted Americans. It can not be said that the English are doing much to replenish the parent stock, having great and attractive colonies of their own, nor is it certain that they take to citizenship as readily as the Germans or Irish do.

As usual the organ of discontent tries to create a race issue because no place in the departments has been found for Mr. Smithies. Mr. Smithies is a good man, who has spent a great part of his life in the public service and, naturally, his friends expect him to round out his career there. Perhaps he will. He certainly does the work well that is entrusted to him and is in the prime of his powers. But under the American system of government, outside the civil service class, there are no life terms in office, and it may be regarded as very likely indeed that none will be established on a basis of color. If Mr. Smithies suffers from that fact, the way will still be open to him to run for something with every prospect of his polling the party strength.

War does not seem to be as popular among the Spaniards as it used to be. Yesterday's cable shows that families of soldiers ordered to Africa have assaulted the police as the nearest representatives of the government, and that a battalion under orders for Melilla mutinied and were disarmed. Martial spirit was once a chief characteristic of Spain, but the history of the Spanish war, together with that of the present Moroccan enterprise, is significant of its decay.

A premier who loses his head in debate or anywhere else signs his own political death-warrant. One of the things a premier is for is to keep cool when everybody else is excited. When he can't, his day of leadership is past.

If the Supervisors succeed in carrying out their promise to have every road on this island in good shape before the expiration of their terms, they will not have held office in vain. Good roads are necessary to the welfare of Honolulu.

One of the threats of the Jiji, directed at Editor Sheba, is that "the iron fist of the Japanese will come in torrents on his head." Evidently Mr. Sheba should carry an armor-plate umbrella.

"Mr. Frean, formerly a local barrister," is cordially mentioned by a passing Australian journalist as "a gentleman who occupies the office of governor of the colony."

Galveston's hurricane-proof seawall is one of the best investments the city ever made. It has paid for itself many times over in the amount of damage it lately prevented.

NEW BOOKS IN THE HONOLULU LIBRARY

The following is a list of books recently received at the Honolulu Library. They will be ready for circulation this morning:

King, H. C. Laws of Friendship. 1909.
Munro, W. B. Government of European Cities. 1909.
Senssch, O. F. History of the Singer Building Construction. 1908.
Thomson, J. A. Bible of Nature. 1908.
Wenley, R. M. Modern Thought and the Crisis in Belief. 1909.

Fiction.
Bachelor, Irving. Hand-made Gentleman. 1909.
Crawford, F. M. The White Sister. 1909.
Davis, R. H. The White Mice. 1909.
Deeping, Warwick. Mad Barbara. 1909.
Estabrook, A. M. Rule of Three. 1909.
Futrelle, Jacques. Elusive Isabel. 1909.
Hall, H. F. One Immortality. 1909.
Harker, L. A. Miss Esperance and Mr. Wycherly. 1909.
Hatten, Bettina von. Kingsmead. 1909.
Klein, Charles. The Music Master. 1909.
Lynde, Francis. King of Arcadia. 1909.
Mason, C. A. Mystery of Miss Motte. 1909.
Oldmeadow, Ernest. Aunt Maud. 1909.
Osborne, W. H. The Red Mouse. 1909.
Parabellum. Banzai. 1909.
Scott, J. R. Colonel of the Red Hussars. 1909.
Tompkins, J. W. Open House. 1909.
Vachell, H. A. Drama in Sunshine. 1909.
Vance, L. J. The Bronze Bell. 1909.
Waller, M. E. A Year Out of Life. 1909.

Juvenile.
Richards, L. E. Peggy. 1909.
Richards, L. E. Three Margarets. 1909.

MERCHANTS FAVOR RECLAMATION
(Continued From Page One.)
and representatives attend the Congress and many important projects have their inception there. The Congress was responsible for the framing of the original reclamation bill. "We are going to the Congress to present our claims and to try and secure the extension of reclamation work to this Territory. The admitting of Texas into the circle offers a precedent, and Hawaii has as good a claim as any other State or Territory. "I am here today because I believe that the business interests should show their interest in this project. If the delegates are armed with credentials, not only from the Territory but from the business interests of Hawaii as well, I believe that they will be able to accomplish more than they would did they represent the government alone."

Vice President Walter Dillingham, who occupied the chair, expressed the pleasure which he had felt in listening to Forester Hosmer's talk, and conveyed the thanks of the association to the speaker. C. C. von Hamm then introduced the resolution approving reclamation work.

BUSINESS MEN WILL BUILD ARMOY

(Continued from Page One.)
Vice President Walter Dillingham, who presided, made a strong talk in favor of the plan. He said that he believed it would be best to appoint a rustling committee first. This committee should be instructed to procure plans and specifications and report immediately. Then a financial committee could be appointed to look after the funds. Smith said that Adjutant-General Jones had expressed the belief that a suitable armory, built of reinforced concrete, could be erected for about \$40,000. Z. K. Meyers moved that the recommendation of the legislative committee be carried out and that a committee be appointed to take up the work at once. The motion received unanimous support and Dillingham announced that he would name the committee shortly. After the meeting, Walter Dillingham expressed himself as being unqualifiedly in favor of boosting the armory project, and showed every desire to start the ball rolling immediately.

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IT'S A CINCH

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HAWAII SHINPO.
the leading Japanese newspaper in the Hawaiian Islands. See Sheba. Telephone 97.

M. U. Barnes
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