

THE Pacific Commercial Advertiser
A MORNING PAPER.

RODERICK O. MATHESON EDITOR

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WALTER GIFFORD SMITH.

A little less than ten years ago Walter Gifford Smith accepted the editorship of the Pacific Commercial Advertiser. Not quite seven years ago, upon the establishment of cable communication between San Francisco and Honolulu, the publication of the Sunday Advertiser was begun, also under the editorial guidance of "Walter G.," as he has become familiarly known throughout Hawaii nei.

That Walter G. Smith has "made good" in Hawaii during the past ten years, needs no reminder from me, to the people of this Territory.

The newspapers of Honolulu suffer through having a reading constituency with an appetite for a metropolitan journal, while possessing but a country village circulation—a parallel to the man with a champagne appetite and a beer purse.

The heavy cost of the Associated Press service, combined with the cable toll, reduces the daily telegraphic news to a minimum. Local news has to form the bulk of the reading matter of the Honolulu daily papers, for the general world news coming by mail arrives by wads, at intervals of from three to ten days. It takes more than ordinary journalistic brains and wits to make a readable newspaper in a small community under these circumstances.

It is no slur upon the other Honolulu editors or belittling of the many able men who have filled positions upon the staff of the Advertiser, to say that Walter G. Smith is the best equipped and ablest all-round newspaper man who has ever wielded a pen in Honolulu. He has dominated the paper with his indefatigable industry; put spirit into lifeless subjects; made the Territory smile with the lightness of touch of "The Bystander"; read copy, written headlines, doctored police court reports, constructed local brevities, condensed foreign newspaper files arriving after most of his readers were in bed; written sledgehammer political editorials; conducted the household page of the Sunday paper; even written "society flubdub"; with the result that it is no idle boast that the Advertiser is a power in the land. While carrying on this work of multitudinous branches, he has been an active member of the University Club, a working Regent of the College of Hawaii, and has ever been ready to lend his voice to any good cause. The scholarly addresses, which he has delivered from time to time, will long be remembered as models of English and clear-cut logic.

He has made enemies—he would not be worth much if he had not. As the keenness of the animosities engendered by the constant presence of the Advertiser in the thick of current political differences is dulled by time, it has been realized—and it will be realized still further as time goes by—that his scorn and denunciation has been for those who were, or whom he believed to be, using public office for personal ends, and never in the aid of the "grafter" in politics; that his sympathies have been for the small farmer rather than the rich corporation, and that honesty and efficiency, regardless of party or nationality, has had his support. He is a man of high ideals and unflinching courage in standing for them.

If Hawaii is finally "Americanized by Americans along traditional American lines," and becomes more a country of homes and less one of plantations, it will be largely because Walter G. Smith has so continually dinned the doctrine into sometimes unwilling ears, that common consensus of opinion, national as well as territorial, has come to accept it as fundamental.

The political standards in Hawaii are higher; life here is better, and the future of the Territory is brighter because Walter G. Smith has lived among us. That his strenuous life may have only temporarily impaired his vitality and that rest and change may speedily restore him to health is the earnest wish of his many friends in Hawaii.

As one who has had more opportunity than most to know his objects and intentions, I am glad to personally make this brief acknowledgment of my obligations to him, and, as a member of the community, to express my appreciation of what he has done and hoped to do for Hawaii.

Here's to you, Walter G. May you live long and prosper.

LORRIN A. THURSTON.

SUNDAY BEER BUSINESS.

If the Honolulu Brewing and Malting Company is within its legal and licensed rights in delivering beer during saloon-prohibited hours to whoever may appear with a saloon order, what becomes of the dry Sunday regulations? Yesterday, openly and without attempt at concealment, hacks were driven up to the brewery, were loaded up with kegs and driven away; sailors carried full kegs away on their shoulders and tapped them in open lots, and civilians got their supply off the ice and carried it home. In several rooming houses downtown sailor crowds caroused, and there was as much evidence of drinking among the street crowds yesterday as on any other day of the week.

Telephone inquiry from this office at the office of the brewery brought out an acknowledgment of the Sunday business. In quite a matter of fact way the one who answered for the brewery stated that they were delivering orders left with the saloons on Saturday. The answers were as frank as possible and given, apparently, without fear of possible consequences.

It is the wish of the majority of the people of this city that Sunday shall be a day on which the business of selling intoxicating liquors shall suspend. The majority of those engaged in that business back up the wish by obeying the regulations attached to their license. Others must be made to obey.

Without definite knowledge of the conditions attached to the license under which the brewery manufactures and sells its product, we can not state that yesterday's open business in beer is a violation of law. On the surface, however, it appears reasonable to suppose that there is some law—that relating to the observance of the Sabbath, for instance—which might be invoked to force a discontinuance of what is making a mockery of the rule compelling saloons to remain closed on the first day of the week.

ENGLISH INGRATITUDE TO SHACKLETON.

Now that the North Pole has become American territory, the next thing in the order of events will be the discovery of the South Pole, and in that connection a singular story has come to light regarding the recent Antarctic expedition of Lieutenant Shackleton, the English officer who established a new record of farthest South, says the Kansas City Journal. It appears that when the expedition was planned Lieutenant Shackleton failed to obtain the necessary financial backing in his own country and a small group of Americans agreed to make up the deficiency. Shortly afterward came the financial crash, in which the fortunes of these erstwhile rich Americans went up in smoke along with those of a wide circle of business men who fell martyrs to the strenuous policies which embodied the new doctrine that the politicians at Washington were empowered by the constitution to manage the private business affairs of the country. Lieutenant Shackleton's private means being exhausted in the preliminary expenses, he was forced to borrow the further sum needed, and was granted a loan of \$100,000 by a London bank upon his personal guaranty and that of members of his wife's family.

The world is familiar with the details of his great exploit, how he reached a point within one hundred and ten miles of the South Pole, planting the British flag farther south than any explorer had gone before, and establishing the claim of Great Britain to the immense Antarctic continent which he traversed almost to its southernmost point. Upon his return the facts leaked out regarding the financial arrangements that had been made for the expedition, and the Australian legislature voted the sum of \$25,000 as a contribution to help to repay the debt with which Lieutenant Shackleton had saddled himself and his wife's relatives. The legislature of New Zealand supplemented Australia's contribution with an appropriation of \$5000, and it was popularly believed, naturally enough, that the mother country would gladly do the rest. Instead, the British government refused to contribute to the fund, which had been started spontaneously by the colonies, and the brave young explorer was

left to meet the debt the best way he could. Undaunted, he wrote a book, giving an account of his adventures, and he has accepted an offer to make a tour of the United States and Canada, delivering lectures in the principal cities. Lieutenant Shackleton is not to receive a dollar from the sale of his book or the proceeds of his lecture tour until the balance of his debt, \$70,000, is paid. This story, it is said, has aroused a great deal of feeling, mingled indignation and amazement in private circles in England. Nevertheless, no effort has been made on any hand to relieve this brave man from his tremendous obligation. His arduous labors and terrible privations for his country's sake are counted as naught. The fame of his unparalleled feat, and the practical benefits that may accrue, will belong to Great Britain. The heavy financial sacrifice is his own. No wonder England is degenerating. It is easy to imagine what would happen in America—which has financed one Arctic expedition after another in the last half century—if Dr. Cook, who has practically done little more than Lieutenant Shackleton, should announce that he had pledged his private fortune in order to win the unprecedented honor he has conferred upon America and Americans.

With Gentle Taft speaking yesterday in the Salt Lake City tabernacle and Gentle Woolley addressing the Reorganized flock in Honolulu, yesterday was a great one for the Saints of both sects.

EDITORIAL COMMENT ON THE RETIREMENT OF WALTER G. SMITH

From the Hawaii Herald.

The retirement of Mr. Walter G. Smith from the position of editor of the Advertiser will be a distinct loss to the reading-loving people of the Territory. His editorials were always looked for with interest and read with appreciation even by those who disagreed with his opinions, while The Bystander columns have been a weekly treat when written by him. There is not a newspaperman in the Territory who possesses Mr. Smith's force or facility as a writer, and there are few writers in the States who can touch him for condensed satire. The Herald regrets exceedingly that the cause of Mr. Smith's retirement is ill health, and hopes that his rest from work will restore him to that condition of sound body which he knows so well how to enjoy and appreciate.

From the Maui News.

In the retirement of Walter G. Smith from the editorial chair of the Pacific Commercial Advertiser the Territory loses its most able editorial writer.

Mr. Smith is a man of great ability and exercised very great influence in the affairs of the community. His retirement from the Territory is a decided loss.

The News extends its best wishes to Mr. Smith, and we hope that he may enjoy better health in his new field of labor.

Will Sabin in the Star.

Ten years on the 'Tiser. (Three thousand working days!) Gee, but what a lot of ink Used in diff'rent ways! Squid and quip, and paragraph, Boost, and small-farm boom! Now here's a toast to the doughty host Of the editorial room: May the city over the ocean, Whether you wend your way, Be never less dull and ever as full As the days of Hawaii nee! May the pen that you pushed in Hawaii Be as firm in the Golden State, And your sling of good Queen's English Be never a word less great.

From the Hawaiian Star.

By the retirement of Editor Walter G. Smith of the Advertiser, Honolulu loses a citizen who was highly valued by the forces of good government in our community, and whose ability as a journalist commands the high respect of all and is such as his associates and colleagues may well take pride in. We wish him prosperity and better health in the field to which he is going.

From the Pacific Weekly.

In Walter G. Smith Hawaii loses its premier newspaperman. His poor state of health is universally regretted and all except a few danderheads who are already prating of having driven him out of town, will be heartily glad to hear that health and fortune are smiling on him in whatever place he may elect to make his home.

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