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### A FORMER HONOLULAN ELOPES WITH AFFINITY

SAN LUIS OBISPO, December 2.—Embert M. Brown, a real estate operator of Santa Cruz, who has a wife and child at his home in that city, has been arrested on a southbound train in company with pretty seventeen-year-old Ora Flagg and charged with abduction. The two were in a sleeping compartment of the train when awakened at 2:40 o'clock in the morning. Brown made no attempt to conceal his identity.

Miss Flagg, who is the daughter of C. E. Flagg of Santa Cruz, recently graduated from a business college there and entered Brown's office as a stenographer. On pretense of visiting friends, she went to San Jose some time ago, and was followed by Brown, who was seen in her company in the Garden City. The girl's father heard of their departure for the south and had them intercepted at this city. Brown was taken back to Santa Cruz in handcuffs and the girl went north in the custody of her father.

Embert Brown is a former resident of Honolulu. He was employed for some time by the Hollister Drug Co. He was married and divorced here.

### NEWS BUDGET FROM FAR EAST COUNTRIES

VICTORIA, B. C., November 27.—The Blue Funnel line steamer Bellerophon, from Asiatic ports today bound to Tacoma, brought news from Macao that the French gunboat Argus was driven into a paddyfield 600 yards from a river in which she took shelter from a violent storm last month, and that Chinese farmers have demanded \$7000 compensation for destruction of their rice crops by the gunboat's travels. The Chinese insist also that the French sailors remove their gunboat from the fields.

The British warships Hyacinth and Prosperine went from Singapore to Batticaloa a month ago to destroy the wreck of the steamer Sir John Jackson, laden with chemicals, and abate the nuisance caused by her fumes, which killed twenty men engaged in wrecking the vessel before the work was abandoned. Seventeen bodies were found by bluejackets in the wreck. It had been intended to bombard the vessel and destroy her with the warship's guns, but it was decided to blow up the hulk with gun cotton. Divers were sent down and eight holes made; 800 pounds of gun cotton being used to blow up the vessel. The explosive was fired by means of a cable laid to the Prosperine. Fumes of poisonous acids from the wreck overpowered the divers on one of the two occasions. The steamer went ashore a year ago when bound from Singapore to the United Kingdom.

Sensational charges have been made by the directors of the Dai Nippon Sugar Company, involved in the sugar scandals of Japan, against cabinet ministers and elder statesmen of sharing in the graft of \$3,000,000 secured by the Formosa Sugar Company. Director Isonura made a statement to the court that his company had sought to monopolize the sugar industry in the Orient and that the government permitted the exemption of taxes to the Formosa company alone. This made possible profits of 6,000,000 yen, in which elder statesmen, cabinet ministers and other distinguished personages shared as compensation for their assistance. He excused the bribing of Japanese members of parliament by his company on this ground.

The Japanese government ordered that geisha girls be eliminated from entertainments given for Field Marshal Lord Kitchener owing to the belief that he was a woman hater. At the entertainment given at Tokio municipality, the geisha girls, usually so prominent in such entertainments, were replaced by men in ancient armor carrying weapons used in medieval days. The girls who usually act as waitresses at the Maple Club were for the occasion replaced by men.

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