

Ewa, Model Hawaiian Sugar Plantation

(This is the first of a series of articles on the sugar plantations of Hawaii which The Advertiser plans to publish from time to time.—Ed. Adv.)

As no place in the islands can the high state of development which the sugar industry has reached in Hawaii be better observed than at Ewa plantation on Oahu. Ewa plantation has been in operation for twenty years and



GEORGE P. RENTON, Manager of Ewa Plantation.

during that time it has made wonderful strides, until today it is doubtless one of the finest sugar properties in the world. The cane land is of the most desirable composition and is so located that it can be irrigated at the lowest possible cost. The irrigation system is ample to all requirements and the mill is of the most modern design.

This year Ewa will harvest from 3721.48 acres of cane, and Apokan, which is controlled by the same company, will harvest from 91.7 acres.

The annual yields in sugar in tons from Ewa since 1900 have been as follows: 1900, 26,953; 1901, 32,370; 1902, 34,786; 1903, 33,213; 1904, 31,185; 1905, 30,751; 1906, 29,478; 1907, 32,929; 1908, 33,768; 1909, 33,908.

The estimate of Manager Renton for 1909 was "above 32,500 tons." As a matter of fact the yield exceeded that estimate by 1449 tons. For 1910 Manager Renton has estimated "in excess of 30,000 tons." There seems to be no reason to suppose that the actual crop will not exceed the estimate by a substantial figure.

The management of Ewa plantation is decidedly conservative and the agents have never issued any statements calculated to hurt stocks. In fact the agents have at all times been very conservative in their statements and have as far as possible refrained from giving out particulars concerning the property to any other than those actually interested.

Harvested Area.

The big crop of 1909 was harvested from 3732.44 acres, practically the same acreage as will be cut this year. The percentage of short ratoons, which always yield rather less than plant and

this year and favorable weather conditions have made the cane well advanced so that it compares favorably with long ratoons.

On several sections of the plantation which in times past have not proved very productive, the cane is growing in fine shape this year. This is largely due to improved methods of fertilization.

The first cane on Ewa plantation was planted in 1890, the year that the company was formed. The incorporators of the company were: S. N. Castle, W. R. Castle, J. B. Castle, George P. Castle, J. B. Atherton, W. A. Bowen, E. P. Tenney, C. M. Cooke, B. F. Dillingham and W. J. Lewis.

At September of that year forty acres of cane was planted for seed. From that planting was done on an ever increasing scale. The greatest elevation at which cane is planted is 200 feet, and the lands held by the company are so well located topographically that practically all of the fields can be irrigated with a steam plow.

The pumping system of the plantation is of the best. The most modern



Ewa Mill.

long ratoons, is comparatively small machinery only is used and the pumps have a combined capacity of nearly 90,000 gallons every twenty-four hours.

All of the pumps are housed in suitable masonry buildings and each is under the immediate control of a skilled engineer, while the chief pump engineer makes daily rounds of inspection. W. A. Ramsay is the chief pump engineer.

Ewa plantation is filled by nearly 2000 laborers, fully a dozen nationalities being represented on the payroll. Many of the laborers are homesteaders and have very attractive homes.

The different nationalities have villages of their own and each is a miniature town. The Japanese village is particularly fine, the little cottages being kept up in very attractive style. The plantation furnishes good houses with well-shingled roofs. There is also ample garden room around each cottage. In this space most of the laborers have planted gardens and in the Japanese village the yards are particularly well utilized, every inch of ground being filled.

The Japanese have almost without exception put matting on the floors and walls of their cottages and their little places are far better than the average shanty laborer in America can afford. In the Japanese village is a fine horse ball diamond, laid out by the plantation for those who follow the American national game. The field is level and as good as any in Honolulu.

Little Trouble.

Considering the number of workmen

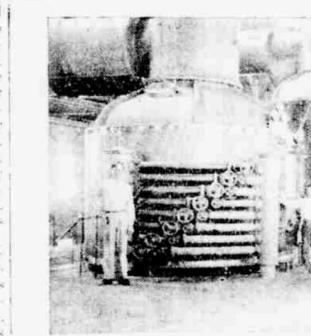
employed on Ewa plantation little troubles have been very few and far between. Even during the strike of last year, caused by agitation among Japanese laborers by outside troublemakers, Ewa experienced the minimum of trouble of any plantation affected. This was due in no small part to the fact that the cottages of the Japanese laborers are such that none felt like leaving when the ultimatum was issued—"Go to work or leave the plantation."

Both Manager Renton and Head Overseer McKeever have made a thorough study of the labor situation and every effort is made to keep the laborers contented. As a matter of fact the plantation laborers, on an average, receive fully as good remuneration for their work as do much or farm hands on the mainland and the houses which they have allowed to them are far better than the average farm hand ever hopes to see.

In many instances married couples are making upward of eighty dollars a month in addition to which they receive free house rent.



The Vacuum Pans.



Fine Hospital.

The hospital is one of the show places of the plantation and is something in which the management has a right to take pride. No private hospital anywhere is more carefully kept and the accommodations are such as should meet with the approval of the most fastidious. The wards are light, airy and fitted with the most modern of sanitary hospital beds.

The operating room is supplied with the very finest and most expensive furniture and the surgical instruments are the best that money can buy. There is ample window light for daytime operations while over the operating table is a cluster of electric lights which enables the surgeon to work as satisfactorily by night as by day.

The hospital proper is surrounded by broad lawns which overlook the cane fields and furnish ideal lounging places for convalescents.

The dispensary is fitted up for the most expeditious treatment of patients while the static machine, X-ray instruments and other electrical apparatus are the finest that money can buy.

Records in the office of the surgeon show that sickness is chiefly notable by its absence on Ewa plantation. In sixteen months there has not been a case of typhoid and most of the cases treated are not simple colds, caused by the carelessness of the workmen themselves. On an average thirty persons a day report at the hospital. Where the complaints are of minor importance the patients are given medicine and sent on their way. But any sickness likely to prove serious is treated in the hospital.

Where patients apply at the hospital suffering from bad cold they are at

once put in bed in one of the wards. The surgeon finds that in this way he is able to send the men back to work much more rapidly than would be possible were they given medicine and sent to their homes to look out for themselves.

Not only are there separate wards for women and children, but the different nationalities are also separated. There is absolutely no choice between the different accommodations and the nearest employee receives as careful attention as an officer of the plantation, the only difference being that a private room is provided for officers.

Sanitary Supervision.

The surgeon in charge is Dr. R. McLean. Doctor McLean's duty is not only to treat those who are sick, but also to look after the sanitary arrangements on the plantation that there may be as little sickness as possible. The hospital records show how successful he has been along the latter line.

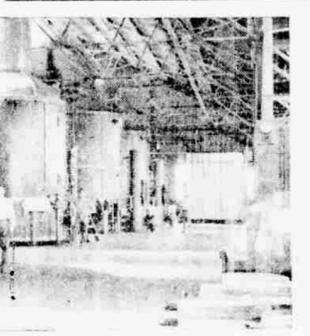
In the different villages ample bathing accommodations are provided for the workmen, the racial peculiarities of each people being taken into consideration in planning the bath. Thus the Japanese have large tubs, while the Filipinos have shower baths which they prefer.

Railway System.

The railroad system of Ewa plantation is very complete and in 1909 it was valued at \$2,102,641. Since then extensions have been made. Many of the locomotives are of Baldwin manufacture and the permanent roadbed is well adapted as thoroughly as is customary on cases being a general traffic business.

Ewa plantation holds long term leases largely from private states, and the leasehold improvements alone are valued at \$10,107,486.

The milling plant consists of two roller mills with crushers arranged to run together also as a fifteen roller mill with crusher. The mill has a capacity of approximately 300 tons of



The Finished Product.



Head Overseer McKeever and Doctor McLean.



The Japanese Village.

Since then they have been increased somewhat.

Officers.

The officers of Ewa Plantation Company are: E. D. Tenney, president; C. H. Cooke, vice-president; T. H. Petrie, secretary; J. B. Castle, J. S. McAndrews, directors; T. Richard Robinson, auditor.

The officers of the plantation are: George F. Renton, manager; A. M. McKeever, head overseer; A. S. Guild, head bookkeeper; Thomas O'Dowd, head sugar boiler; F. E. Greenfield, head chemist; Dr. C. R. McLean, surgeon.

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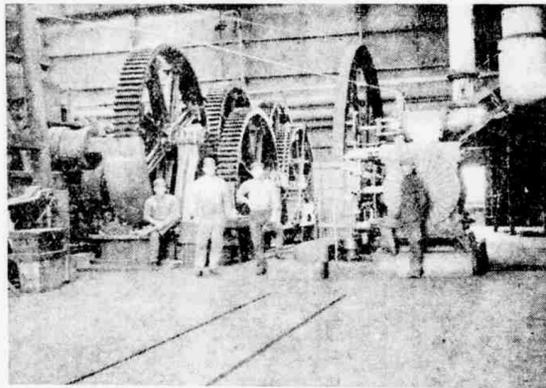
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