

THE INDEPENDENT

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FRIDAY, OCT. 25, 1901.

THE GRAND JURY REPORT.

The Grand Jury has closed its work for this session and has made a report on several matters of public interest. In discharging the Jurors from further duty, Judge Gear spoke to this effect:

"I was much interested in the report," he said, "and it gives me great pleasure to see how the members of the Grand Jury grasped the idea of what they were expected to do, and I wish to sincerely thank you for the way you have gone about the work and carried out the suggestions of the court. You have gone into the matter thoroughly and I will see that your excellent report is not pigeonholed. The reforms suggested by you will be called to the attention of the proper authorities. The insane asylum especially must be attended to immediately, the conditions reported there are appalling and should be looked into at once. I shall also see that the attention of the Federal Jury is called to the matter mentioned in your report."

"Concluding he said: 'This grand jury was a grand grand jury, and I would like to have you serve in that capacity again.'"

We are not well acquainted with the system of Grand Juries, but it seems to us that the report rendered by the last one indicates that the gentlemen, serving as jurors assume the powers of a Legislature. It is very nice to hear a Grand Jury report that "we recommend so and so," and it is pleasing to the Jury to have the Judge say that he will see "that the reforms suggested are called to the attention of the proper authorities. What in the name of common sense can the Jury, the Judge or the Authorities do, without the necessary appropriations which can only be made by the Legislature? The recommendations of the Jury were excellent in some instances, but what effect can they have? There is not a suggestion in the report which has not been ventilated by the press, pro. and con. and the further recommendations of the Grand Jury mean simply waste of paper, and money for hackhire.

The criminal report is the main business, and we think that the Grand Jury acted just, fair and honest in every indictment presented by them. We are not Americanized yet, and we are anxious to be taught the benefit to be gained by the report on matters, absolutely within the control of the next Legislature. There are no funds with which to rebuild the Asylum, there is not a bean to pay for night schools, there are no sure laws in

regard to the issuing of liquor licenses, there are no money for the increase of the numerical force of the police. We all know what ought to be done, and what should have been done, but we fail to see why a Grand Jury should, at the expense of the taxpayers, tell them what all of us know and agree upon.

The recommendations of the Grand Jury are excellent generally, and most of them have been thoroughly discussed in the local press. That does not minimize the value of the suggestions presented. That the Insane Asylum should have the immediate attention of the authorities goes without saying after reading the following report:

"Ward number one, known as the violent ward, consists of eighteen cells, all occupied. Its ventilation should be improved.

"Ward number six has twenty cells, which are poorly ventilated, and eight of them are without cot, mattresses being placed on the floor. Eighteen cells are available, and there are seventeen men in the ward. The roof of this ward has been punctured by a rock from the quarry blast. Ward number two is the oldest ward in the asylum, being built in 1886. It is in a bad state of repair, and though as we were told, it has been condemned three times by different Grand Juries, it is still crowded by occupants, there being thirty-seven in its one large room, all of which are in use. Its floors and porches and foundations are decayed and the building is unfit for its present occupancy. In this building are the men's dining room and the general kitchen from which the meals of the women patients are carried to them in baskets, and are eaten by them on the grass in fair weather, and otherwise on their ward porches, as their ward dining room has been turned into a dormitory, owing to the crowded condition of their quarters.

Ward number three has thirty two cells, occupied by thirty-three patients. Here the floors are more or less rotten. The cells have overhead ventilation, and the solid doors are fitted with a small grating.

Ward number four is women's ward, and had normal accommodations for nineteen patients, yet thirty-three women are now housed there, many sleeping on the floors of the cells, owing to the scarcity of cots. In this ward the ventilation is better than in some others, the ceiling being of open work.

Ward number five is a private ward for pay patients only, and is not in use.

The bathing facilities for men are good. The women's quarters are provided with two tubs.

The report deals with the question of commitments of persons to the asylum. That is also a matter for Legislation and for the past ten years we have harped on the question, and met the same failure as the Grand Jury will. Charles B. Wilson urged a change when he was Marshal of the Kingdom and had a "pull" in the Legislative halls. We notice his name on the list of the Grand Jurors, who signed the report. Does he think he will succeed in his righteous suggestion now? The report on this subject says:

"A magistrate, on the certificate of a single doctor of medicine, should not commit any person to the insane asylum, and in all cases the patient should be produced in court. And we would suggest that a commission of at least three doctors, one of whom shall be a specialist in nervous diseases, pass upon the merits of every proposed commitment before judgment be rendered in the case, and we further suggest that from time to time, a visiting commission of three well qualified physicians might well be appointed to visit the asylum to ascertain if all the inmates thereof were properly treated and rightly detained therein."

A receiving hospital at the station

is an excellent plan, but again, where are the money to come from? There was not a man on the Grand Jury who could get an election to the next Legislature, and their advice will be pigeon-holed as far as the Legislature is concerned. We say it with all due respect to the members of the Jury, because, as the foreman knows, we got it, where the chicken got the axe as well, as he did once.

A recommendation which all will approve of, and which can be attended to, without waiting for the next Legislature relates to physical examinations in schools of children and reads:

"The grand jury has seen fit to inquire into the practice under the old established regulation of the Board of Health which requires physical examination at least once a year by government physicians of all children in public and private schools, not provided with health certificates in order to detect contagious and infectious diseases. While this rule undoubtedly acts as a safeguard to the public health, the grand jury finds upon investigation of the various methods under which it has been carried out on this and other islands and in the city of Honolulu, that there is much in them to condemn. When it is known that the authority given to the physicians under this rule is without qualification or restrictions, so that boys and girls (often-times entirely deranged) must submit to the requirements arbitrarily fixed by the respective physicians, it will at once be apparent that positive rules of practice should be adopted in the premises, so that the proper sensibilities of parents and children and of teachers who are usually expected to be present at these examinations, are not in any way ignored, nor even affected. The grand jury would therefore recommend that the Board of Health hereafter employ women physicians exclusively in the annual physical examination of school girls, and provide also that no physical examination be made by any physician of any children, unless due notice thereof be first given to their parents or guardians."

There are other excellent suggestions, for the welfare of the public in the report, which our space prevents us to touch upon in this issue. The Grand Jury, however, took up the fight for the night schools, where adult Asiatics were "educated" at the expense of the taxpayers, so they may be able in the future, to drive our children to the wall. The report says:

"In the matter of the discontinuance of night schools in the city of Honolulu, the grand jury is of the opinion that such action was unwise, for the general reason that ignorance and crime often go hand in hand, and for the special reason that drunkenness, at least, seems, by reliable testimony, to have increased in special localities since these schools were abandoned."

We defy the Grand Jury to produce "reliable testimony" that drunkenness has increased in special localities since the night schools were abandoned. And for the guidance of the voters we publish the names of the jurors, who desire to re-establish schools at public expense for the education of adult Asiatic coolies, the standing menace to the future generation here of Hawaiians and whites. The jurors were: David Kawanakoa, Foreman, Henry Waterhouse, Chris J. Holt, J. M. I. Foster, E. S. Cunha, B. S. Kapu, H. G. Middleditch, Harry T. Lewis, S. T. Peck, Horace J. Craft, C. A. Graham, Moses K. Nakuina, H. De Fries, Charles B. Wilson, J. T. Crawley, Charles T. Wilder.

As a whole the report is a most interesting and intelligent document and the Grand Jury is entitled to the highest compliments for their efficient services.

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