

road, which is the best place they know.

Formerly, the native cultivated his taro and make his poi for the family, the children helping. This in itself was no mean occupation and was of vital interest. They did far more weaving of all kinds than is done to-day. They went very often to the mountains for roots and herbs and fruit and for pleasure, and the children with them and all was in good time. They made their own boats, their houses, planted trees and flowers and lived comparatively innocent, self-helpful lives. As a rule they did not drink *awa* to excess and were healthy and happy. But now drunkenness too often obtains, and poverty and wretchedness follow in its wake. A native told us the other day how bad the poi flour was too often, and the poi too is unfit to eat. It is wicked to cheat the natives but they are cheated every day.

Too often these poor boys and girls are on the road as soon as they give up school, and what they have learned is of no practical benefit to them—indeed it is to a certain extent soon forgotten, for knowledge is of little value if it cannot be applied. In the East, the writer visited one institution, for poor boys, where only broom-making was taught. It seems the material is quite cheap and yet brooms are ever in demand. What is more acceptable to the good housekeeper than a handsome new broom? "A new broom sweeps clean." Let the natives learn to make brooms for one thing; and in learning that, they may be able to sweep down and out, some of the vile dust and cobwebs that are now despoiling their once happy family life.

When we question the "little chap," who has trotted for miles over the sunny road and who persists in wearing that wretched, little hot cloth bag on his head, why he does not prefer the light, cool shady hat of his mother's weaving? he will reply that he "wants to wear *haole* style—all same English." There are two words that we really wish could be blotted out of use: "style" and "popular."

Instead of the comfortable *holoku* so easily made, so cheap that one can have a couple for every day, so easily laundried, the slip of a girl, wears a tight, warm waist; and if she can put over that, in going down the road, a cloth cape; her skirt hitched most any way to the waist and her petticoat hanging below, a few inches, oh then is she happy, and the envy of that school—"haole style," again!

Often, these children are in the yard by 7 o'clock and it is not uncommon for them to get up and run to school not having eaten a mouthful—sometimes, a drink of rank coffee with black Island sugar. They lie down to sleep in the same clothes they wore to school, likely.

Do you wonder their poor heads are on the desk by noon-time; where would yours be, my dear reader? and do you fancy they know anything of the terms:—"breakfast," "dinner" or "supper," name s so dear to us! They do not. They eat, literally, whatever they can catch, at any time or place—the poor little bairns.

Be it understood that I am writing never of Honolulu native children, but of what I know of country districts of three islands.

### THREE WISE STATESMEN.

*"C'est d'able en grenier."*

[ED.]

Our committee, composed of Senator Burton of Kansas, Senator Foster of Washington and myself as chairman, being a sub-committee of the Committee on Pacific Islands and Porto Rico of the United States Senate, spent twenty-two working days on the Hawaiian Islands, twenty of which (including also many night sittings) were occupied in taking testimony bearing upon the several subjects committed to us for investigation.

We visited four of the principal islands of the Territory, Oahu, Hawaii, Maui and Molokai; also the cities of Honolulu, Hilo, Lahaina, Mountain View and several smaller towns and took the testimony of several hundred individuals witnesses of all classes, some at all of these different places.

We also heard the representatives of various commercial bodies, chambers of commerce, boards of trade, planters' associa-

tions, builders' and commercial associations, boards of health, bankers, maritime boards and bodies representing the native Hawaiians.

We also visited and carefully investigated the quarantine station near Honolulu, and the proposed sites for a military post and naval station at Honolulu.

We also visited personally Honolulu and Pearl harbors, on the Island of Oahu, and Hilo harbor, on the Island of Hawaii, and took testimony bearing upon the condition and wants of each, with a view of determining as to the necessary improvements for these harbors.

Our investigations extended to the financial, commercial and economic conditions generally of the Territory, to the status, functions and operations of all territorial officials, including the executive, administrative and judicial officers as well those appointed by Federal as by local authority.

We also carefully examined into the condition and value of the public lands (these include what were formerly known as the crown lands); the Territorial land laws and the manner of disposing of the public lands, all of which is at present under Territorial control, the General Government never having extended any of the land laws of the United States to this Territory.

We required carefully into those conditions more particularly affected by the organic act, with the view of determining what, if any, amendments should be made to that act of Congress.

We also made diligent investigation of the local laws now in force in the Territory, and of the operation of the Government thereunder, with the view of determining as to the republican character of each.

We also made investigation touching several official defalcations by Territorial officials, some of which occurred before our arrival and others during our visit to the islands.

We made a careful and thorough investigation of the management of the leper settlement on the island of Molokai and the condition and mode of life of these unfortunate people, with the view of determining whether the control and management of this settlement should remain as now under the