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HONOLULU, HAWAIIAN ISLANDS, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 1898.

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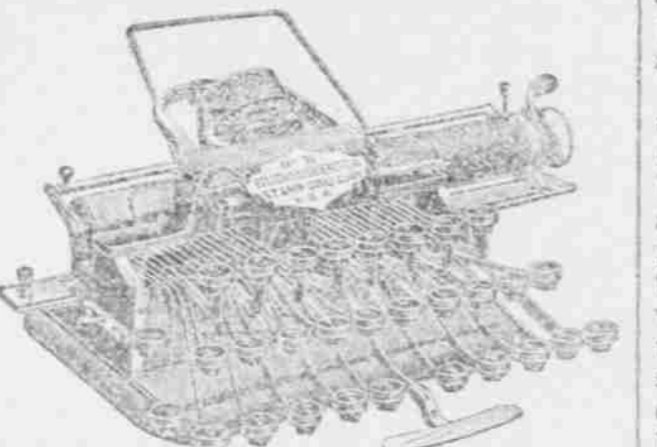
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**JAS. I. DOWSETT**  
Citizen Passes to Great Beyond at Advanced Age.

**WAS A NATIVE OF HONOLULU**  
Had a Most Interesting Career. Confidant of Monarch—Successful in Business—Funeral.

JAMES ISAAC DOWSETT, one of the best known citizens of Hawaii and a man all his life held in high esteem by his fellow men, died last evening. The end came at the Queen's Hospital at 7:25 p. m. Quickly the news was telephoned over town and expressions of regret and condolence and proffers of assistance came to the family by the hundreds.

Mr. Dowsett was 68 years of age on the 15th day of last December, having been born in the year 1829. He has always been strong and healthy up to a few weeks ago. When he had passed the fiftieth mile post it was a common saying when his age and physique were mentioned that he would certainly live to round out a full century of existence. It was willed differently and he has departed at the time that was to an individual of his vitality and temperament but middle life.

About a month ago Mr. Dowsett took to his bed at his home in Palama. For a few days he ailed only slightly. Then his condition became more serious. Relatives were summoned from the other Islands. The trouble was not easily defined by the physicians. There was nothing of a constitutional nature, but rather the results of the wearings of close attention to business. Mr. Dowsett gradually became weaker and less cognizant of what was going on about him.

On Thursday of last week, the 9th inst., five physicians held a consultation on the case. Mr. Dowsett was taken to the Queen's Hospital the next day and on the following day, Saturday the 11th, while the royal named he loved so well was upon the lips and in the thoughts of so many people throughout the group, an operation was performed. This was a severe draft upon the strength and was a serious and trying surgical expedient, though by no means the cause of death. The spark of life dimmed and fluttered and finally went out. Mr. Dowsett died with those about him to whom he was devoted and dear. An eventful and in many respects a remarkable and extraordinary career was closed. Mr. Dowsett was part of the life of Hawaii and his life story is entwined with the life stories of scores of others.

James I. Dowsett was born in Honolulu. The house in which he first saw the light of day and which was built by his father, still stands and is occupied. It is the 2-story building in Union street, next to the old bell tower fire station. The parents of Mr. Dowsett came to this country from New South Wales, where they were married at Sydney in 1825. The mother was originally from England. She died here July 4, 1860. The father was a sea captain. He lost his life at the hands of savages in the South Seas. He went ashore from his whaling vessel with a boat's crew and all were murdered by the natives. The elder sister of James I. Dowsett was the first wife of Capt. Howland, a sea captain. The younger sister is Mrs. M. C. Monsarrat of this city.

The wife of Mr. Dowsett was the beautiful Miss Annie Ragsdale. There survive Mr. Dowsett seven daughters and four sons. Two sons have preceded their father to the grave. There are a number of grandchildren. By the death of James I. Dowsett, a blank is left in the community. He did not care for public office. Had he yearned for political preferment, any office was at his disposal for many years. He was appointed a Noble of the Kingdom of Kamehameha III and was friend and confidant of Kamehameha IV and V. His advice was often sought by the monarchs and was given as one entirely disinterested and he held the trust of those in the highest positions as well as the implicit confidence of the common people. He was a great favorite with the native Hawaiians and spoke their language beautifully. Mr. Dowsett was quiet in the conduct of business, but was

capable and successful as a man of affairs. In the earliest days he soon saw the opportunities for money making in the whaling industry and was a capitalist in that field. He still has pending Alabama claims, showing that when the fleet was young he was active as promoter and manager. He had since reaching man's estate owned schooners plying in Hawaiian waters, had extensive land and stock interests and owned the salt works at Pearl Lagoon. He owned an undivided one-half interest in the quarantine island and reef property more generally known as belonging partly to the Sumner estate. Mr. Dowsett amassed a large fortune. Up to the very day he was compelled to take to his bed he was at his office in Queen street, where he handled merchandise and schooner business and



**JAMES I. DOWSETT.**  
(Photo by Williams.)

dealt in live stock. There were always natives about the place. The Hawaiians called Mr. Dowsett "Kimo Pelekane" (Jim the Englishman.) They would ask him about anything and everything concerning their interests. Being interested in shipping, Mr. Dowsett had a place in big heart for the men who go down to the sea and he was a trustee of the Sailors' Home. He was very proud of the new building and visited it often. The Queen's Hospital had his name on its directorate and this was an institution for which he had the warmest affection. He was a charter member of the Chamber of Commerce. Of late years Mr. Dowsett gave nearly all his time outside his business hours to the Sailors' Home, the Queen's Hospital and the Chamber of Commerce. He took little or no interest in current political affairs, though he always knew what was going on both at home and abroad.

Mr. Dowsett was a man of kindly, genial disposition. It was a habit of his for a number of years to make a trip to Walkiki each evening in a street car. It was genuine treat to be a passenger with him. It was a study for one not acquainted with him to watch him in the car and to see all the natives and even the Chinese pay their respects to him on entering the car. Everybody knew who he was and strangers liked him in advance, while those who came to speaking terms with him valued the privilege. Mr. Dowsett was very clear minded. He was a quick thinker and an excellent reasoner and while not a talkative man was always willing to supply any information from his great storehouse that might be useful to another or that might interest an inquirer. He knew the town, the people and the country. He never left the Islands but once in his whole life and then four days in San Francisco was enough of life in foreign parts. He was a perfect encyclopaedia of history and biography not only of Honolulu and Oahu, but of the entire group. The common suggestion to one in search of obscure historical data was to go to Mr. Dowsett and he never failed. He could always supply day and date and all required details. He was not even close to the end a man who lived in the past, but he was pleased to talk of the old days.

There are not here many men who knew Honolulu as did Mr. Dowsett. One day about three years ago the dredger in the harbor struck part of the frame of a sunken vessel. Mr. Dowsett was told of this and going to the scene described the schooner as she had looked half a century ago, told all about the owner and captain and the circumstances of the sinking of the vessel. Mr. Dowsett had in his life the com-

pleting links of old and new Honolulu and Hawaii. He remembered when California sent to the Islands for flour, salted beef and vegetables. He had the most vivid recollection of the advent of the whalers, of the tremendous growth and proportions of the whaling business, of the early and discouraging experiments in the production of sugar. He has watched the Islands progress from the germ of test and trial and failure and partial success and full success, to the proud commercial position of his day. He has seen the school and church systems develop and grow. He was acquainted with young Pacheco when that boy, destined to in full life become the Governor of the Golden State, was in Honolulu from San Francisco because there were no schools on the Coast. Honolulu then had the

## HAS FURTHER TIME

Oahu Railway Construction Bill Signed By President.

## HOUSE HEARS ROAD REPORT

One Appropriation Bill Passes Second Reading—Discussion on Estrays.

## SENATE.

One Hundred-second Day, June 14. Notice was given that the President had signed the act granting a further extension of the time for constructing the Oahu Railroad.

The reports of the examination of the books of the Attorney General's office and the tax department were read and ordered filed.

The House substitute bill passed third reading specifying in what circuits cases and actions shall be brought. The bill is intended to simplify the work in the different circuits and relieve the First Circuit of much business.

The bill passed third reading defining the eligibility of persons to hold office under the Government.

Upon his request Minister Damon was voted further time for answering the questions asked by Senator Brown on the assessment taxes.

At 10:40 o'clock the Senate adjourned to Thursday.

## HOUSE.

Rep. Robertson reported for the Judiciary Committee on House bill 88, relating to a public administrator, in part as follows:

"We believe similar laws have worked well in some countries where they have been tried.

"This bill was evidently hurriedly drawn, it contains provisions inapplicable to this country. Many changes would have to be made in the bill before passage. As the present session is drawing to a close, and there being no urgency in the matter requiring early action, we recommend that the bill be laid on the table.

"A. G. M. ROBERTSON,  
"S. K. KAEAO."

"I think the bill ought to be given to a special committee of this House, with instructions to prepare a bill which may suit the conditions in this Republic.

## "W. C. ACHIL"

Rep. Loebenstein reported for the special committee on road contracts, presenting 54 pages of typewritten matter. The findings at the end of the report are as follows:

"That your committee has endeavored to obtain and present a statement of facts may be easily perceived when review is had of the many matters which occupied their very careful and impartial consideration. The complaints, so numerously presented, of poorly constructed and improperly completed roads, infringement of private rights of way and the illegal exercise of the right of eminent domain by the Superintendent of Public Works, all of those complaints, also others relative to the apparent favoritism and utter disregard of the interests of the Government and of the rights of the tax-payers, have been carefully investigated by your committee and the result of their investigations appear in the recommendations respectfully submitted herein to

(Continued on Page 2.)

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## Salvation Army.

Col. Evans and 4 others of the Salvation Army, left for Kauai on the Hall yesterday afternoon. It is their intention to hold a rousing meeting in Lihue this evening. Tomorrow evening they will hold a meeting in Koloa and the following night at Waimea, returning to this place on Sunday.

The Army has two posts on Kauai. One takes in Lihue and Koloa and the other takes in Waimea and Makaweli. It is the intention of sending Captain Peterson to the latter place to work in the near future. Lieutenant McKeever is already there.

## A GENERAL INVITATION.

The millinery displayed at L. B. Kerr's Queen street store is a sight long to be remembered. Hats and bonnets are many and beautiful. The style of trimming most artistic; the arrangement of colors most exquisite, and must be seen to be appreciated. An inspection is solicited. All are cordially invited.

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