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IN THE CABINET

Various Questions Brought Up at a Meeting.

NEW RAILWAY FOR HAWAII

One Protest From Town People One Request—New Corporations—Next Election.

There was an unusually long session of the Executive Council yesterday. The Minister of Interior was compelled to be absent a part of the time on account of demands for this present in his department. President Dole and the other members of the Cabinet were in attendance and gave close attention to business for more than three hours.

Attorney L. A. Thurston appeared before the Cabinet in the interest of the Hawaii railway line to be promoted by B. F. Dillingham and Col. Whyte. The attorney explained at length a number of points that the corporation wished to have covered in its charter and that it wished to enter upon the development of the country in the neighborhood of Hilo on such a basis that there could not hereafter be disagreements with the Government. The Cabinet is favorable to the plan in general, but is taking time to see that the interests of the public are completely protected. There is no intimation that the company is offered exceptional advantages, but the Cabinet is cautious and will take another day or two to consider before deciding on several quite important features.

A protest signed by a number of ladies and gentlemen of the city was presented and referred to Capt. King, Minister of the Interior. This is against continuance of a hack stand at the corner of Nuuanu and Beretania streets. It is claimed that the stand is a bad feature of the surroundings of the extensive free kindergarten that is maintained in Queen Emma hall at the corner indicated. It was mentioned or remarked incidentally that there are one or two other hack stands in Honolulu that were proper subjects for reform in one way or another.

The committee that is arranging for the monster Sunday School rally of which considerable has been said in this paper, waited upon the Cabinet. The use of the Executive Building grounds for the rally day is very much desired. It is likely that the request will be granted, but no action was taken yesterday.

Articles of incorporation of the Maudslayi Plantation company have been filed with the Minister of Interior and have received the approval of the Attorney General. The capital is \$1,000,000 in shares of \$100 each, with the privilege of increasing to \$3,000,000. Term of existence, fifty years. Incorporators: T. F. Lansing, Wm. M. Minton, Geo. D. Gear, C. B. Gray, A. V. Gear and Wm. R. Sims.

By permission of the Cabinet the Honolulu Iron Works Company has increased its capital stock from \$100,000 to \$200,000 and has the privilege of going to \$1,000,000. The Iron Works company, it is known, is soon to move its great plant from Queen street to Kakaako.

It is apparently the understanding of the Cabinet that now Hawaii has no Washington legislation, there is to be an election here as usual in September next. There was considered at the meeting yesterday the advisability of filling in the vacancies in registration boards in order that the list might be opened in the months of April, May and June.

Columbia Sale.

The Columbia case occupied the attention of the Supreme Court during all of yesterday. Geo. Davis, the senior attorney for Evans, concluded the presentation for his side. His closing argument was forcible and eloquent. The attorneys for the parties petitioning that the sale be set aside will present their case today.

Base Ball Today.

Today the Kamehameha base ball team will play against a team from the

U. S. S. Scindia. The Kamehameha team has been putting in considerable practice and is in good form. Some of the players of the Scindia team are said to be first class. This game will be of great value to the "Kam" boys and will go far toward helping them win the next game with Punahou, which is to be played on the 25th. Today's game will be played on the college campus. Admission will be free.

New Beef Combine.

A brand new beef combine comes from Hawaii by the Mauna Loa and the scheme is a big one. It is to the effect that the Parker, Woods and two or three other ranges are to be amalgamated. After the union a slaughter house is to be built and instead of shipping the beef on the hoof to Honolulu they will ship the dressed carcasses in a refrigerator steamer yet to be purchased. An important part of the plan as outlined is to put the beef in here at a figure much below the present quotation.

MANY PASSENGERS.

Heavy Bookings for Liners Soon to Leave.

The following passengers are booked for the San Francisco liners, sailing within the next six days:

For San Francisco, on the steamer Doric, sailing Saturday, March 18th.—Mr. and Mrs. P. R. Isenberg, Miss Williams, Miss H. A. Wheeler, Miss L. C. Turner, G. M. Sanders, Jr. and Mrs. E. A. Renouf, Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Wood, child and maid, W. Walters, Geo. G. Winchester, Mrs. W. A. Mackee, Mr. and Mrs. W. Lee, the Misses Kitchen (2), Mrs. W. H. Bailey, Miss M. H. Bailey, Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Lowrey, Miss Agnes Lowrey, Mrs. T. Mulford, T. Henshaw and wife, H. L. E. Meyer, wife and two children, Mrs. F. A. Lackey, Mrs. A. S. Knudsen, L. F. Grant, Miss Schultz, Mrs. Schultz, Mr. and Mrs. K. Tosawa, two children and maid, Mr. and Mrs. L. Lynn, Mrs. J. J. Raby, M. L. Gerstle, B. R. Hecht, F. F. Hart.

For San Francisco on the Australia, sailing Tuesday, March 21st at 4 p. m.—A. L. Young, C. D. Hardin and wife, E. K. Miller, D. H. Hoestander, F. Rayner and wife, A. R. Owen and wife, Mrs. J. H. Schnack and two children, Mrs. Sgt. Barr and child, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Lindsay, Mr. S. Hardin, Mrs. L. Wight and two children, Geo. Campere, wife and child, M. Grossman, D. S. Hardin and wife, V. Golding, S. Burritt, Mr. and Mrs. Meyers, W. B. Parson and wife, Misses Kitchen (2), Mr. Boomer, Mr. McNab, Miss Phillips, Mr. and Mrs. L. Phillips, B. R. Hecht, M. L. Gerstle, Mrs. Schultz, Miss Schultz, Mrs. Boomer, Misses McNab (2), J. McCarthy, J. O'Brien, H. A. Wideman, Chas. Boyce, V. C. Gray and wife.

LEAGUE AWAKENS.

One of the Teams Calls Practice Games.

The Wela Ka Hao base ball team is actually practicing. They commenced Monday and intend to keep it up until play is called for the first match game. Most of the old regulars have turned out, among whom are Al Moore, Gorman, Kiley, Davis, Watson, Pierce, Jackson, Weaver and Pierce.

Willie Lucas, who was elected captain, will be unable to act. A successor will be selected this week. The schedule of games for the league season, which will open next month, will also be agreed upon in a few days. All the players unite in saying that they intend to make this year a banner one in a base ball way.

Athletic Girls.

Next Saturday the girls of Kamehameha and Punahou will play a game of basket ball for the college championship. There is quite a strong rivalry between the teams. Each is determined to win. The base ball game which was to have been played next Saturday has been postponed in order that the girls may have as many sympathizers as possible on hand.

ON THE VERGE OF STARVATION.

That's where we found ourselves yesterday p. m. in the matter of fresh fruits, oysters and other cold storage items, but we expect to transfer a bountiful supply from the Australia's refrigerators to our own town, and you can't afford to miss the display. There'll be turkeys, chickens, geese, oysters, apples, navel oranges, lemons, cream cheese, etc., etc.

A DOZEN AND ONE

Thirteen Priests Direct From the Philippines.

THEY WERE LUCKY TO ESCAPE

Aguinaldo Against Them—Safe in Manila—Church Property—The Future—Cruelties.

There were thirteen in the party of priests that was here the other day aboard the American liner China, of the Pacific Mail Company's fleet. They are missionaries of the order of St. Augustine Recoletos and had been laboring in the Philippines, some of them as long as forty years. These were the names given:

Fathers Felix Guillen, Julian Cisneros, Bernardino Garcia, Francisco Malagamas, Meliton Martinez, Isidoro Musita, Antonio Armendariz, Paciente Corral, Miguel Lascaras, Hilario Sanchez, Eusebio Orturo, Celestino Falces, Demetrio Arqueta.

A representative of this paper, for the purposes of an interview, was able to secure the services of Dr. L. F. Alvarez of this city, the resident being a finished Spanish scholar. This is the story told by Dr. Felix Guillen, a fine old man who had been in the Philippines a quarter of a century and who was very careful in answering the many questions. In utterance he was smiling and deliberate, yet with a tone of sadness over leaving the country he had known and loved so well:

"We are all from Bohol, in the group of the Visayas. We are going to Central and South America to continue on our life work as missionaries. It is best on account of language for us to go to a Spanish country, though any land where we could be of use would be acceptable. The Philippines, of course, we like the best. We would gladly turn back now for our old home."

"From our various stations we are fugitives, fled in terror of our lives, but not from Manila. We might stay there indefinitely in perfect safety, on account of the flag of the United States being shown from the staff."

"The rebel leaders incited the natives against us. We have not great happiness of feeling towards these leaders, because they had several reasons to believe that we were with the Spanish Government. The people we do not blame at all. They wanted to protect us, but it would have been at the expense of their own lives and small properties, for the rebels, directed by the bloodthirsty Aguinaldo, a very bad man, are desperate indeed. What little pay we received came from the Spanish Government, being shipped out from Madrid. Then again you know the priests must learn the languages of the various localities in which they are located. The vernaculars are many. All orders, instructions, decrees, etc., from Spain and from the head of the see at Manila came to us in the Spanish language and we translated to the natives. When we told them that we were not the authors of the instructions, whatever these might be, but were simply the medium of communication, they believed us, for in the letters were many erroneous statements which they knew we could not make. But the rebel chiefs told them that we made the orders read to suit our own purposes. Then, of course, all knew we were educated in Spain."

"We leave Manila and go to the new fields because Manila is congested with priests. We could stay there and live with our brethren, but we made up our minds that it is best to travel and work."

"It shall not be said that we fear or that we complain greatly. Our lives are dear to us, but we do not want the people to sin so greatly as to end our lives unnaturally. It was, as I have said, not their disposition to do so, but they were urged by the agents of Aguinaldo, who hopes to drive from the islands every vestige of Spanish supremacy or rule."

"Aguinaldo's fighting did not amount

to much till the Americans came. Then his forces greatly grew and he sent men everywhere. All people able to fight were forced into the revolution and were told that they would be established as rulers of the land by the Americans.

"There was much slaughter by the rebels, but I will tell you chiefly of their cruel treatment of the missionaries. There are not so many priests in the Philippines as many suppose. All that come are trained in Spain for the work especially. There are four religious corporations in the whole of the islands and the work for them is assigned by the Bishop of Manila, though over one or two of the orders he has but slight supervision, they being responsible directly to their superiors in Spain. The Bishop is of course practically an officer of the Government. The orders are the Dominicans, the Augustines, the Augustin Recoletos and the Franciscans. The priests have their charges the same as in any other country, but are in all cases also school teachers and, frequently physicians and surgeons. I can say to you that some really very able men are buried away in that historic isolated quarter of the globe. The church has not been progressive. All the fine buildings are in Manila. The head machinery has been running things in a rut for a long time—many, many years.

"Priests to the number of 500 were made prisoners by the rebels. Of these about 150 were put to death. Of the whole number put to death, forty-six were of the order of myself and my fellow travelers. Ah, we lost some noble, devout, industrious, earnest fathers. A few are still prisoners, but most of them, through the aid of fearless natives and friendly Chinese, made their way to Manila."

"It was with extreme care that the Father spoke of the church property in the Philippines. He was diplomatic in his utterances under this head and frankly said that he desired so to be. He had read and heard of the charges that the church had collected all the best property and held it and was immensely wealthy."

"In the hundreds of years it has worked in the Philippines, the church has acquired considerable property. I cannot, even now, after all that we have suffered and even considering the great love I have for the United States state the thing in any way other than I believe it. It is the civil and the military authorities who have become so very rich and not the church. But the church has no small amount of property that would be very valuable if properly developed. Of money, it has had but little, for as I say, poor salary comes from Madrid still. The church, you see, has been a part of the Government, rightly or wrongly. That has been the system. But the church has had within it in the Philippines many men who have labored for the natives. The natives have not been oppressed or robbed by the sign of the cross. It is not true."

"This last was spoken with much warmth of feeling."

"In Manila the church has some fine old cathedrals that were built by the Government. There are no such buildings anywhere else in the whole group. The church has some agricultural land in and about Manila, but the amount or area of the holding has been greatly exaggerated. And the fact has not been told about the rental of it. With the Chinese and the other foreigners who have secured leases of the soil, which is very productive, sharp lease bargains have been driven. But the natives have been lightly imposed and we have figured closely and have shown that no son of the soil was taxed more than one and a half per cent of his crop for the use of the land of the church. And there is available always for use much land besides that of the church, but not so well kept up. On the islands away from Luzon the church holdings are small and are kept up in the highest state of cultivation. At my parish we had 500 mango trees, besides much other fruit. Now in the Philippines a mango tree will yield seven crops in a year, or at least six. While the fruit is falling fruit is maturing. The trees are never without both fruit in all stages of growth and numerous blossoms as well. These trees are rented to the natives for twenty-five cents a year apiece, the revenue going to the maintenance of the mission. A native can make a good deal off a tree in a year, selling the fruit to Chinese. In many cases the native wants to re-rent the tree to the Chinese direct, but we do not permit this. The natives are not regular workers. It was with the mangoes for one thing that we tried to occupy them. All through the group it is the ambition of every native to get

(Continued on Page Two.)

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