THE PACIFIC
Commercial Advertiser.

W. N. ARMSTRONG — EDITOR.

WEDNESDAY : : : : JULY 26

PUNISH THE GUILTY.

A number of Galicians, contract laborers, are now in jail under conviction and sentence, for violating the provision of the Masters and Servants Act. This Act is still in force in these Islands, the Newlands' Resolution having failed, for reasons which are not given, to repeal it. The Resolution should have repealed this Act, for it is law which is intolerable to Anglo-Saxon civilization, unless a sailor is involved, but in such case, it is perfectly tolerable, and in accordance with the glorious spirit of our institutions, as the Supreme Court of the United States has recently decided.

While the American sailor and voter, a descendant of the Pilgrims, perhaps, is permitted to remain in his "loathsome cell," if he breaks his labor contract, it is insisted that Galicians are made of better stuff than the American mariner, and if they break their labor contracts, they must have the Flag waved over them, and incur no penalty.

There is a matter however which does not involve penal contracts, but does seriously involve the entire planting interest. It is openly and definitely charged by persons in this town, that the Galicians have been treated with cruelty by the managers or agents of the plantation on which they worked. It is said that one of them was "beaten with an iron bar," that another "was unmercifully kicked," that "another was kicked in the abdomen," that "these men were brutally treated and falsely imprisoned." These are offenses against the common and statutory law of the Territory, and if true, those guilty of these offenses should be punished promptly and severely. The Masters and Servants Act furnishes no defence whatever to such deeds. It is the duty of the government to investigate the matter thoroughly, and institute prosecutions at once against the offenders.

If, on the other hand, there is no truth in these charges, the government is under the same obligation to prosecute for gross criminal libel those who have made these charges.

There was a time when the planting interest ignored charges of maltreatment, because public sentiment was with them. That time has passed. The conduct of the planters is on trial in the United States, and will soon be discussed in Congress. Does the Planters' Association propose to let the matter go by default? Can that body afford to let it be said in Washington that the planters, when charged with brutally treating and falsely imprisoning their contract laborers, confessed by silence that it was true?

The days are over when a matter of this kind is one of merely local importance. The plantations are eagerly looking for laborers in order to maintain the great Industry. If it is conceded by the planters that such charges are true, even free laborers will hesitate to engage on their plantations. Are they willing to allow the impression to prevail abroad that they are a brutal and cruel lot?

The situation is critical, and demands prompt measures. A thorough legal investigation should be made in the courts at once, and before Congress meets. If the Galicians have been assaulted, let the offenders be punished. If they have not been assaulted, let those who are striking at the sugar industry be punished.

Neither Hackfeld & Co. or the Planters' Association can now afford to ignore these charges when men here are pressing these charges in Washington.

TENEMENT HOUSES.

The regeneration of man in the civilized lands is gradually taking place on very simple lines. The philanthropy of men like Peabody, Ogden Mills and Carnegie does not drift in the direction of setting up the American flag on the housetops, but in putting the human beings who are born in America within environments which make it possible to live decent lives and hold up the Flag.

Mr. Ernest Flagg, of New York, an author, architect and reformer, is making another contribution to the new methods of caring for the wage-earners. He is showing the rich men how they may beat the camel in the struggle to get through "the eye of the needle." Having proved in the Mills Hotel, which has 1660 rooms in it, that light, air, cleanliness, cheapness and profit may go together, he is now building tenement houses for families which will vastly improve the condition of the tenants who receive scant wages. He claims that the plan of the square should be adopted in erecting the tenement houses, and the plan of erecting buildings on oblong lots 25x100 should be forbidden. By this plan there is an increase of 25 per cent in income from a given area, and at the same time, the tenants will receive more air and comfort. Mr. Flagg has already erected several tenement houses on land west of the Central Park. The minimum price for a two-room flat is $1.60 per week, and for a three-room flat $2.50 per week. There are 373 apartments in these buildings. The stairways are of blue stone. There are mosaic floors in the corridors, gas and coal heat, range, hardwood finish, air and light in every room.

As fast as these structures are erected, the tenants leave the old rookeries, and the stingy landlords find them unoccupied. The best service commands the best profits in the long run. Mr. Flagg does not erect flagstaffs on his tenement houses, but he lifts sorrow and discomfort from the soul of many a weary woman, who travels meanly through this "vale of tears," and thanks God that a man lives who has brought air and sunshine into her humble rooms. Hurrah for such Flaggs!

Those who have heretofore believed, without real faith, in "the greatest good to the greatest number," have not, as a rule, thought there was any money in it, although the Scriptures plainly intimate that there is. A few philanthropists with wealth and erratic minds, have accepted the proposition as one of business value, and are putting it on trial. So far it is a success. Ogden Mills made his fortune out of the Bonanza mines. The coin struck from those Nevada crags has confronted barbarism and sickness and immoral environments in New York city and dislodged them.

What would the Master do if He were on earth? Plant American flags on the hilltops, or bless the Ernest Flaggs that walk "in His steps"?

TEST THE QUESTION.

If the Constitution applies to these Islands, there can be no duty whatsoever charged upon the products of Hawaii imported into the United States. This will be conceded at once. But a number of articles of domestic produce carried from these Islands to San Francisco are refused entry without payment of duties. Duties are levied and paid on our pine apples, for instance. Now if there is a serious question about the extension of the Constitution, let a protest be filed at once against the payment of such duties, and a suit be brought in the Federal Courts. If this is done, we wil soon have some law on the subject from the judges of a Federal Court, which has competent jurisdiction. If the court declares that no duty can be levied on Hawaiian products at the ports of the Mainland, then, of course, it follows that no duties can be levied in this port on American goods. Here is a simple and natural way of testing the question.

UNAUTHORIZED ANNEXATION.

The serio-comic story of the hoisting of the British flag by an irresponsible merchant captain at Palawan, in the Southern Philippines, and the prompt repudiation of his act by the Foreign Office, is told by Reuter. When the Spaniards evacuated Port Royalist, in the island of Palawan, they turned adrift all the native soldiers without food, clothes, or money, removed all arms and ammunition, and set the convicts at liberty. The liberated criminals looted and pillaged the whole country, and the people were in a state of helpless terror. At this juncture Captain Prort, of the steamship Labuan, cast anchor at Port Royalist, and, in response to the appeals of the inhabitants, gave them a British merchant ensign, with a letter, giving notice to all men that the flag was to be respected "until such time as Queen Victoria notifies her pleasure regarding the protection of the island of Palawan!" On this little experiment in empire-building coming to the notice of the Governor of the Straits Settlement, he telegraphed to the Foreign Office, which wired back orders that the British flag was to be hauled down at once. Subsequently H. M. S. Archer was sent to Port Royalist to see that the order was executed.—(New Zealand Herald.)

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Those who are familiar with the article order it by the gallon, which proves beyond all doubt that it is the proper thing.

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TIMELY TOPICS

June 1st, 1899

Now that spring time is here, have you given a thought about renovating your home. The hasty, wet weather we have had for the past month has delayed the usual spring work, but better late than never. We kindly ask you to read this list and then call into our store and get the prices. We have just received a large shipment of the following:

WHITE LEAD in Oil.

PAINT OIL.

MIXED PAINT, assorted colors.

COAL TAR, in barrels.

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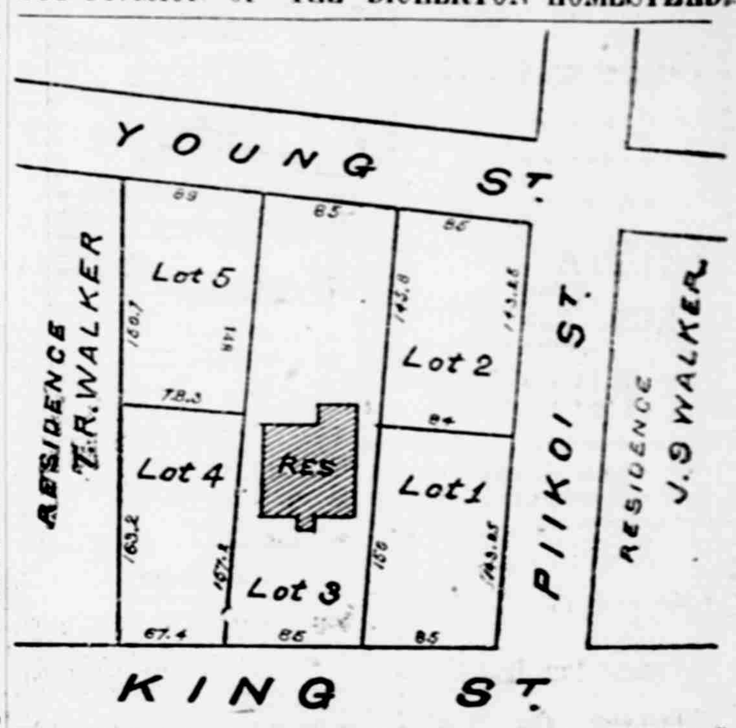

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