

THE LETTER WHICH PRINCE KUHIO COMPLAINED OF

Nothing to Get Excited About--A Reasonable Statement of How Things Have Been Going in Hawaii.

Following is "Kamehameha's" letter in the Washington Star of April 26, which brought out a reply from the Delegate:

HONOLULU, April 12, 1904.—Governor Carter seems after all, to the general surprise and gratification, to be having things entirely his own way with the newly met legislature. This is only their fifth day of session, and if all things run as smoothly as they have begun, they will finish their very important work within one week more. The territory has been and is in a most severe financial strait. The governor has been giving himself most resolutely, and it is believed with skill, to devise the best financial methods to solve its difficulties. Having elaborated his plan he has convened the legislature in extra session to give it legal authority. It is the same body of men who a year ago recklessly squandered time and money for four months fruitlessly. A majority then displayed the greatest disregard for legislative propriety and honesty. It was naturally felt that neither reasonable nor efficient dealing could be expected from the same men in acting upon the difficult financial conditions.

THE FINANCIAL CONDITIONS.
To state briefly what these are: The revenue of this territory was, by annexation, cut in half, in consequence of the transfer to the federal government of all revenue from the customs and post office, leaving the territorial government only the taxes to depend upon, besides a number of sources of income, such as waterworks and rent of wharves and public lands. The treasury was in a somewhat plethoric condition when annexation came, and for the past four years we have been living upon our own accumulated fat. But this has come to an end, and the government has been finding itself confronted with a monthly expenditure of say \$70,000, and an income of only \$40,000.

For the past six weeks Gov. Carter has been diligently applying himself, with the aid of the several heads of departments, to the almost desperate task of cutting down expenditures nearly one-half. This task he has accomplished after a fashion, and probably as judiciously as was possible. A large number of salaried positions have been struck out. There has been a general reduction in the amount of salaries, especially of the larger ones.

The appropriation to volunteer military is abolished, dispensing with such display. The band is dismissed, with its music, which for over thirty years has delighted the public on all occasions. The subsidy to the Queen's Hospital is withdrawn, threatening to leave much suffering unrelieved. The costly system of education is sorely cut into. The board of health is largely cut down. Road and street improvements are remorselessly contracted, except as some of them are provided for under a liberal loan act. Altogether the whole public system is placed on short commons.

WARNED AGAINST LEGISLATURE.
Such is the governor's scheme, all elaborated in full schedule, published and submitted to the legislature. The business community regarded it with favor, as an unavoidable economic necessity, but how would the legislature, largely composed of Hawaiian natives, receive it? Their treatment of such matters in previous sessions had been largely irrational and might be described as "monkeying." What ground was there for hoping now for reasonable and efficient dealing? The young governor was earnestly warned against trusting the business to the legislature. There was another method possible of managing it. It grew out of a provision in the organic act enabling the executive in the absence of appropriations to fall back on older appropriations. It had resulted from the legal invalidity of the county act, that

all the appropriations adapted to the neutralized county system had become invalidated, and the way seemed open to let the executive arrange his own system of expenditures. This he was earnestly by many counseled to do, in distrust of the legislature.

Wisely, as it would appear, the governor discarded that policy of distrust, and summoned the legislature to act. He has preferred to trust to the popular will, even if the people are largely incompetent. Polynesians. In any case, within a year a new set of men from the same constituency would have to come together with full powers. It seemed better to act in accord from the beginning, with the popular body, however defective their past record.

THE LEGISLATURE RESPONSIVE.
And they seem to be answering very nobly and worthily to his confidence. These same men, who a year ago in the lower house, both republicans and home rulers, pursued a course of both unreason and gross corruption, came together last week with full purpose to accept entire the governor's financial schedule and railroad it through without discussion or alteration. This they are actually carrying out. There are two or three dissentients, men who were prominent evil workers last year. But now these malcontents are promptly overridden and silenced by the overwhelming majority of the governor's supporters. It is a remarkable phenomenon. The only tendency to difficulty is in the senate, where is a majority of very intelligent whites. These men naturally see points where the governor's figures and plans might be amended, and incline to make such amendments. But rather than arrest or interfere with the wholesome disposition of the lower house, the senate will probably forego urging their amendments.

NATIVES WON BY GOV. CARTER.
Altogether it is a phenomenon. I incline to account for it by what is a peculiar Hawaiian trait, to gather enthusiastically about a leader who gains their confidence. Soon after assuming the office of governor George R. Carter made an active political tour of the large islands of Hawaii and Maui. There he diligently and very successfully got himself en rapport with the native voters and their leading men. He evidently exercised a large personal magnetism, and fully got the confidence of the people at large. Now they are enthusiastic in his support, answer eagerly to his voice and are ready to do just what he tells them. I do not know how else to account for it. I have myself lacked any full confidence in Carter, not from any serious fault in him, but from his youth and hastiness. It is now growing evident that there is certainly something importantly valuable in the young man. In Washington he succeeded in gaining the warm confidence of President Roosevelt, and we may be glad that he seems not likely to discredit it.

CASE OF THE LEPER COLONY.
Among the heaviest of these public expenses which it is impossible greatly to abridge is that of maintaining in due comfort the leper colony on Molokai. The site of their settlement is on the island nearest to this one, and is fairly in sight from the eastern end of the electric road, not over fifty miles away. It occupies a low peninsula of about eight square miles area, at the foot of a nearly impassable precipice of 1,500 feet, which wholly isolates it from the rest of the island. It is a lovely spot, swept by the bracing trade winds. A copious supply of water for gardens and the culture is led by pipes from a neighboring valley. Here dwell in great comfort nearly 900 victims of leprosy, the great majority of whom are nearly or quite free from serious suffering. The disease of leprosy is not attended with pain, except in its later stages, when the vital organs begin to be seriously invaded. It is anaesthetic,

REGISTRAR THURM RETIRES AFTER SIXTEEN YEARS' SERVICE

Thomas G. Thrum, the veteran Registrar of Conveyances, has resigned his office after over sixteen years of faithful service. The following correspondence passed between him and the Governor:

Bureau of Conveyances, Honolulu, May 3rd, 1904. His Ex. G. R. Carter, Governor Territory of Hawaii.

Sir: Upon due consideration of your desire to make applicable at once the reduction of expenditures in the various departments of the Government service, in accordance with the recent appropriations of the Legislature, I beg respectfully to resign my position as Registrar of Conveyances to take effect on the 16th inst., believing this to best conform to your policy of retrenchment instead of waiting for the expiration of my commission.

And in thus severing my official connection with the Government, extending now over sixteen years through its various changes, I would take this opportunity to express my due appreciation of the cordial relations and cooperative support accorded me by my superiors in office, and others, in my efforts to conduct this Bureau in the best interests of the public.

Faithfully yours,
THOS. G. THURM.

Executive Chamber, Honolulu, Hawaii, May 11th, 1904. Mr. Thos. G. Thrum, Registrar of Conveyances, Honolulu.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 3rd inst. has reached me today, upon my arrival from Kauai, and I regret the cause that necessitates the resignation of your position, after so many years of

service for these Hawaiian Islands; and it affords me pleasure to state that your duties have always been performed with dispatch, accuracy and interest.

Yours sincerely,
G. R. CARTER, Governor.

Mr. Thrum first entered the government service in January, 1888, as Registrar of Conveyances under L. A. Thurston, then Minister of the Interior. Kalakaua was then King. Mr. Thrum has remained in charge of his office through four successive changes of government. He served under the following Ministers of Interior: L. A. Thurston, Charles N. Spencer, G. N. Wilcox, John F. Colburn and J. A. King; also under J. A. McCandless as Superintendent of Public Works. Soon after annexation the registrar's department was placed under the Treasurer, and Mr. Thrum served under T. F. Lansing, W. H. Wright and A. N. Kepopkai.

During his sixteen years' service Mr. Thrum had but one vacation, and that was taken primarily at the request of the government. When annexation was under discussion in the United States, Mr. Thrum appeared before the New York Board of Trade and explained the benefits likely to accrue through annexation from a commercial standpoint. Otherwise, aside from a few weeks' lay-off due to illness, Mr. Thrum has been continuously in service for sixteen years.

or painless, in its disfiguring ravages. Among its earlier manifestations are portions of the skin becoming insensible to pain. Swellings appear on the face, ears, hands and feet, parts exposed to the light. These are followed in time by numerous ulcerations. Joints of the fingers and toes ultimately separate. But at all the time there is no pain, and the maimed hands and feet clearize and heal. Death usually comes from disease of lungs or bowels, which the malady has impaired in their action.

A LIFE OF EASE AND COMFORT.
Thus a colony of lepers is not characterized by any general distress. They live in great ease and comfort. Perhaps one-tenth of their number are weak or ill enough to be in hospital, where they are well cared for. The rest lead lives of comfort greater than that of a majority of their fellow Hawaiians. Rations are abundant. All necessities and housing are amply supplied. There are a few score of well persons among them who have been permitted to live there as kokuas, or helpers, of feeble relatives. These kokuas often try to pass as lepers in order to remain after the death of their relatives and enjoy the easy life. The villages are very attractive with nice cottages and pretty gardens. A liberal and judicious expenditure by the government for forty years has developed a very perfect system of management. The present very capable head of the settlement, "Jack" McVeigh, reports great interest of late in athletic exercises. A race track is much in vogue. Numbers practice forming pyramids, climbing on each others' shoulders.

CARELESSNESS OF THE NATIVES.
Most of the lepers are native Hawaiians. Not five per cent belong to other races, although Hawaiians form only one-fourth of the inhabitants of this group. This is doubtless due in part to a less tendency in Europeans and Asiatics to contract the malady which has for ages existed among those races, so that they are comparatively immune. But it is much more the effect of the utter absence among Hawaiians of any precaution against communicable diseases. A Hawaiian always mingles with infected persons of any sort with absolute carelessness. They seem incapable of grasping the idea that contact with a diseased person can impair one's safety. I have personally witnessed the strangest carelessness in the matter of leprosy. I have seen at a receiving station visiting friends passing pipes from mouth to mouth through the pallings between the well outside and the hideously disfigured faces within. I have seen in their homes lepers and well persons eating with their hands from the same dishes. I have seen children in a remote country school with arms entwined with a leprosy

child, whom neither parents nor teacher had thought to segregate.

THE ONLY SALVATION.
The only salvation from leprosy is rigorous segregation of the afflicted ones. Yet we find to this day apparently learned writers maintaining that it is not a contagious or communicable disease, although its peculiar bacillus is well known, and its presence is a common test for incipient leprosy, whose symptoms are often simulated by other maladies. To one like myself who has watched the development of a large number of cases it seems strange that its communicability should be thought open to the slightest doubt. Between thirty and fifty years ago the writer was located at Lahaina, which was the chief center from which the infection spread. Lahaina was the home of the native chief who contracted the malady, in China about sixty years ago and brought it home with him. In that place I could trace its transmission from person to person, and its often rapid spread in individual households. It was not until about 1858 that the name of the strange malady became known through the visit of a physician to China, although before that time it had attracted attention, and I had noticed the peculiar tubercles on the faces and ears of pupils in a school which I taught.

COMMUNICATED BY KISSING.
I am well satisfied that the chief method of communicating leprosy among natives is by kissing, which they are fond of practicing. Hence the frequent infection of young children. The saliva of a leper abounds in the bacillus leprae more than any other secretion of the body. There have been notorious cases where white infants have thus been infected by native nurses. Apparently the danger is small of being infected by ordinary contact with a leper. Else a majority of our foreign population would have fallen victims during the period when lepers were but slightly segregated here. Leprosy is doubtless a much less readily communicated disease than pulmonary tuberculosis. Segregation is now enforced with much strictness, and the few lepers not at the settlement are carefully hidden away. I have met none for many years.

KAMEHAMEHA.
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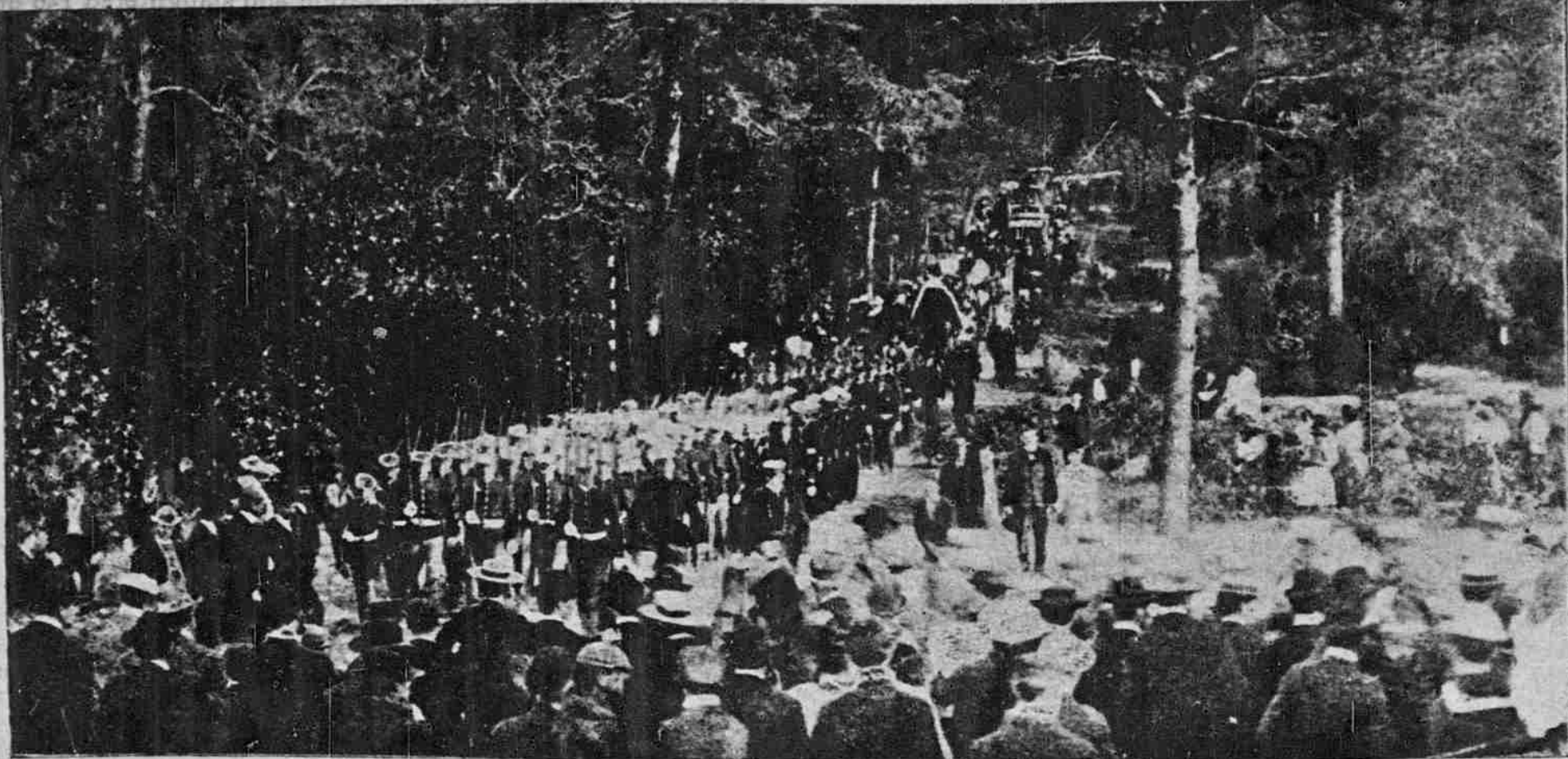
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