THE HAWAIIAN GAZETTE

RODERICK O. MATHESON, EDITOR | FRIDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 17, 1915. | THE ADVERTISER'S SEMI-WEEKLY

Cane and Other Crops

THE sugar planters in Hawaii are losing five per cent of their crops every year because it is impossible through lack of adequate labor supply to harvest the cane when it is ripe. Because of this limited supply of laborers the harvest must begin several months before and be continued some months after the cane is in its optimum condition of ripeness.

Two methods of overcoming this difficult condition are obvious. If the planters could be permitted to import a yearly surplus of laborers during the harvesting and planting months, returning them to their homes abroad at the end of the rush season there would be no serious interference with labor or social conditions as they now exist. Whether special laws would be passed by congress to permit this annual influx and exodus of oriental laborers is an open question. Other tropical industries in other lands are handled in this manner although there is no American precedent for the custom.

The second method, which is exactly in line with the recommendations of many political and industrial economists who have studied Hawaiian conditions, would be to build up other industries the requirements of which call for the employment of large bodies of laborers during the slack sugar season. Coffee and tobacco might be mentioned as crops where the main call for harvesters and day workers comes during the months from September to February. Both these industries have long passed the experimental stage and there are a number of others that it would pay to expand.

If the present laboring population can be kept busy at a maximum rate of employment in the production of wealth throughout the twelve months of the year, the plantations will be the direct gainers. This second remedy is worth considering seriously, for economic as well as political reasons. It would not depend on special legislation, which always attracts undue attention to the industry which benefits directly from special privileges granted.

Stupid Censoring

PACIFISM cannot be exterminated by official edict. The postmaster general crosses the line of a reasonable censorship of the United States mails, under the existing laws, in placing the ban upon some writing by Jack London, attacking the soldier's calling. The complaints of the military censorships in Europe are very bitter, and doubtless they are in part well founded, even if the countries over there are at war. But the United States is at peace and American citizens should not be muzzled in the sincere expression of their views concerning the theory and practice of fighting.

Mr. Burleson decrees that the following analysis of soldiering by Mr. London, entitled "A good soldier," shall not be allowed the privileges of the United States mails:—

> Young man, the lowest aim in your life is to be a good soldier. The good soldier never tries to distinguish right from wrong. He never thinks, never reasons; he only obeys. If he is ordered to fire on his fellow-citizens, on his friends, on his neighbors, on his relatives, he obeys without hesitation. If he is ordered to fire down a crowded street when the poor are clamoring for bread he obeys and sees the gray hairs of age stained with red and the life tide gushing from the breasts of women, feeling neither remorse nor sympathy. If he is ordered off as one of a firing squad to execute a hero or a benefactor, he fires without hesitation, though he knows the bullet will pierce the noblest heart that ever beat in human breast.
>
> A good soldier is a blind, heartless, soulless, murderous machine. He is not a man. He is not even a brute, for brutes only kill in self-defense. All that is human in him, all that is divine in him, all that constitutes the man, has been sworn away when he took the enlistment roll. His mind, conscience, aye, his soul, are in keeping of his officer.
>
> No man can fall lower than a soldier—it is a depth beneath which we cannot go.

The tone of that is to be resented, no doubt. The picture of the soldier at his best, in his noblest moments, is not presented. One sees outlined only the soldier who takes his place in a firing squad to shoot the Edith Cavells. The soldier who obeys implicitly from a sense of moral duty, who leaps forward exultantly to the assault that must cost his life because he is burning with the passion of self-sacrifice for home and country—this type of soldier, and it is the American type, is certainly ignored by Jack London and his extreme pacifist friends.

Yet nothing is more common than violent language in denunciation of war. 'War is hell." "War is organized massacre." "The battle was sheer murder." "The soldiers fought like fiends." "War turns the combatants into savages." One cannot easily match the writers in every language who have sought to describe the atrocities of war and the beastly effect of fighting upon the warriors of every nation and clime. In describing a "good soldier" as "a blind, heartless, soulless, murderous machine," Jack London expressed in his own downright way what has been said a thousand times in all literatures. The poet expressed much the same idea who wrote, "Theirs not to reason why; theirs but to do and die."

The postmaster-general thinks the Springfield Republican, will have a merry time suppressing literature, modern or classical, which paints black the soldier's calling. He cannot hope, surely, to Prussianize America by censoring utterances concerning war either in the abstract or the concrete. Such expressions harm nobody, least of all the soldiers, whom we must have when we need them. Mr. Burleson is stupid—comically stupid—and is only increasing the circulation of Jack London.

A Good Sport

LORD ALVERSTONE, former lord chief justice of England, whose death was reported in the press despatches on Wednesday, came into prominence before the American public as the representative of England on the Alaskan Boundary Commission. His vote in support of the chief claims of the United States gave America the practical victory. Many Canadians professed to believe, and strongly and with bitterness asserted, that the American government went into the arbitration only after it had reached an understanding that the American case should win, and that Alverstone was put forward to carry out the diplomatic bargain.

No confirmation of that theory has ever appeared but Lord Alverstone was for months bitterly attacked by Canadians, particularly in the west, where it was thought that England, as in the case of the Oregon boundary case years before, was giving up what she thought useless territory, but which Canadians knew to be rich, simply to placate America. Previous to the Alaskan Commission, Lord Alverstone, then Sir Richard Evereard Webster, rendered good service to his government as one of the British counsel before the Venezuelan Boundary Commission, which met in Paris as a result of President Cleveland's famous war message.

These were the pleasanter incidents of his professional career. He had had one case at least that was far from pleasant. When Attorney-General in the Conservative administration of the time, he appeared as leading counsel for the "Times" before the Parnell Commission, and it fell to his melancholy lot to pick up the pieces after the breakdown of Pigott. The storm settled fiercely about the head of the counsel for the "Times" for weeks and for once Alverstone's remarkable physique showed signs of wear and tear.

He was one of the most popular, human and many sided men in British public life. Tall, athletically modelled and vigorous to the time when his fatal illness overtook him, he was physically as mentally, a splendid specimen of the old school of English gentlemen.

At Cambridge, where the finishing touches were put to his education, he was perhaps more famous as an athlete than as a scholar, although his studies were not neglected. On the campus on the other hand he was invariably first in those events in which he took part and was particularly noted as a distance runner, being in fact "the best of his year."

His interest in sports he carried from Cambridge out into the world and his collection of trophies was an evidence of his great success on the cinder track. When he could no longer take part himself he remained a keen patron of every class of sport and until his seventieth year was an enthusiastic rider and a good hand at golf. His tastes in sport were in fact catholic and in the earlier days of the big ring contests was a frequent visitor to the National Sporting Club, a quiet spectator of "the game."

His interest in the men, too, was keen, as was evidenced at a dinner a few years ago of the Sphinx Club. The club had down for discussion "The Value of Advertising to Sport." Lord Alverstone was the guest of honor and Tommy Burns, then heavyweight champion of the world, was one of the principal speakers. Burns was a better boxer than speaker and Alverstone seeing his apparent embarrassment went over to him and grasping his hand, said: "Well, I'm glad to meet you. You're a plucky little devil anyhow." The diners, needless to say, gave a hearty cheer as the big six-foot judge and the stocky little fighter stood smiling at one another.

His interest in sport, too, helped him to throw off the cares of his office when the day's work had been done. It is recalled that just after sentencing Doctor Crippen, the American dentist to death for the murder of his wife, the lord chief justice drove to watch the conclusion of a billiard contest for the championship of England between Inman and Stevenson. In many other ways he encouraged sport of every kind.

A Worthy Cause

ONE need not be unneutral to sympathize with the Belgian refugees, for whose sake a "tag day" is being celebrated in Honolulu tomorrow, nor need any sympathizer with any of the belligerents hesitate over contributing their bit to the collection being taken up for the purpose of buying some warm clothes for little Belgian kiddies and enfeebled, homeless and almost hopeless, aged Belgian men and women.

Honolulu has given and is giving generously to many causes, all pressing, all necessary, but there is no more pressing and no more necessary demand for aid than that of the Belgian babies and old folk.

Let's make "Belgian Day" a big one, remembering the war-driven folk who are today suffering from both cold and hunger. From these Isles of Peace let us despatch a worthy gift to the Belgian Queen in the name of the Christ Child.

* * * * *

Governor General Harrison isn't the first one to get out and get under by denying the thing that he said, after publication brings undue attention. These indignant denials are weaknesses of all but really big men. The latter know what they say and are always ready to stand by their words.

What Will Happen?

AUSTRIA wants to know just what will happen if the demands made in the Ancona note are not complied with, and has asked for definite information.

A good many Americans would like to know the same thing. The communication denouncing the sinking of the Ancona as "an inhuman, barbarous, wanton slaughter of helpless men, women and children" sounds the right note, but does it mean anything besides words? The President, it may be recalled, informed Germany that she would be held to strict accountability for the actions of her submarines and Germany replied by sinking the Lusitania, an act worse in every way than the sinking of the Ancona. The Austrian at least gave the passengers a few minutes to escape, while the destroyer of the Lusitania struck out of the dark, giving neither warning nor opportunity.

Germany has not as yet disavowed the Lusitania sinking, and Austria is quite justified in entering a plea for information whether the "strict accountability" in her case is to be of the "made in Germany" brand.

The Lusitania case, while it may have passed out of the region of diplomacy, is far from being forgotten by Americans. Constant reminders come almost daily, in explosions, murders, fires, bombs and other violations of American neutrality, and each adds a bit more to the fire of resentment that is smouldering beneath the apparent calmness of the United States.

The mainland press is bitterly outspoken for the most part, like sentiments being expressed from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from the Canadian line to the Gulf. The New York Tribune, in a recent issue, speaks for a great part of the American nation in the following, which is bitter but true. Says that paper:

> At the present time there exists in this country a condition of disorder and crime which is unequalled in its long history. In the interests of a foreign nation American lives are being imperilled and domestic property is being destroyed on a scale that approaches actual war. Every day Americans read in their press the authentic reports of new crimes, of manufacturing plants in flames, of ships that break into flames on the high seas hardly out of sight of American ports. The detailed accounts of conspiracies and plots, which lack nothing of proof, would be incredible if they had not become so common as to lose even a challenge to the imagination.
>
> In the interests of Germany and Austria certain American citizens and other non-naturalized residents of this country are making war upon the citizens and interests of the United States. Certain of these crimes having been traced back to the Austrian ambassador, he has been recalled at the request of the state department, but not only have his acts not been disavowed, but no successor has been sent and he has been welcomed home with a decoration conferred only for recognized service to his own country, while many of his lieutenants remain.
>
> To have imagined ten years ago that a time would come when this country's safety and peace would be imperilled in the interests of a foreign nation by residents of the United States would have been impossible, yet the thing has happened, the evil visible on all sides, and there is no mistaking the fact that it is mounting. Nor is there any mistaking the equally clear circumstance that no adequate or determined attempt is being made to deal with a crime that strikes at the very root of national existence and is undermining the fabric of American life.
>
> What is the explanation of it? There can be but one answer, and the answer exposes utterly the folly of the present foreign policy of Mr. Wilson and the peril at home that has come as a result of the betrayal abroad of American life and safety. When Mr. Wilson told the world on the morrow of the Lusitania massacre that America was too proud to fight to protect American women and children he told the Germans and the agents of German activities something which they had long believed and something that even Bernhardi had ventured to include in his interesting volume.
>
> No American should mistake the meaning accepted by the Germans for Mr. Wilson's Lusitania course. To them it was a frank confession that the national administration was too much concerned with the political possibilities of German-American opposition to take any prompt or definite action to protect American lives. For them Mr. Wilson's words "too proud to fight" meant exactly one thing; they meant that it was safe to proceed with a campaign of violence in the United States, just as to the German government they meant a guarantee that the submarine campaign of massacre on the high seas would be met with words, not acts, and that the sole protection for American lives would be found in phrases.
>
> A country that will not protect its citizens abroad because it is afraid of the political consequences at home, an administration that hesitates and falters in the presence of the plain duty of protecting lives, is not an administration or a country to be feared either at home or abroad by those who know no other restraint than force and respect neither the dictates of humanity nor of international law, save as these are enforced by arms and warships.
>
> We have the present violence within our borders because Mr. Wilson permitted the murder of American citizens to go unchallenged save by words that were rendered harmless by the explanatory speech that preceded them. We have violence at home because Mr. Wilson's secretary of state eagerly informed the Austrian ambassador, himself the captain of the industry of murder and violence in the United States, that the words spoken in protest at the murder of Americans on the high seas were only words. And when Mr. Bryan told Doctor Dumba this he only confirmed in private what Mr. Wilson had proclaimed in public in his "too proud to fight" speech.
>
> The German government believed that Mr. Wilson did not mean his warnings over the Lusitania massacre, because they were told so by those who had every reason to know. They were also told that the words were not meant, because the national administration was afraid of the local political effect, if it took the natural course with Germany. They were told and they believed that the President was too afraid of losing the German-American vote to resort to anything but notes in the cases of murder abroad.
>
> We have domestic disorder today because on the morrow of the Lusitania massacre Mr. Wilson wavered between duty and politics and in the presence of murdered American citizens hesitated to take the only step consonant with honor because of the possible peril to himself and his party—a peril utterly and completely imaginary—which the German-American vote might constitute. The eyes of the nation and of the world—above all, the eyes of Berlin—were upon Mr. Wilson in those critical hours. When he broke his silence with his Philadelphia speech, made after he had completed his first Lusitania note, there was no mistaking the effect of his words in Berlin. For von Tirpitz they were a license to kill; for the German-Americans in this country they were a guarantee that their own political influence was held so potent that they could pursue their campaign of anarchy, then just beginning, with complete immunity.
>
> On the morrow of the Lusitania, if Mr. Wilson had made it clear that at all costs, political and otherwise, American lives were to be protected; if he had demanded of Germany that disavowal which alone could have served as a reason for withholding a declaration of war, we might or might not have had war abroad, but we certainly would have had peace at home. To such a note, to such a leadership, Americans without regard to party or to politics would have responded with such unanimity that the alien fringes would have seen in American solidarity the utter frustration of all their plots and the complete answer to their menace.
>
> There never was in human history a better example of the impossibility of escaping duty or running away from responsibility than that supplied by the Lusitania. We sacrificed our citizens, we forebore to give them the protection in honor after death which we had promised them in life. We uttered notes, we compromised, we twisted and turned, we adopted every device of the coward and every subterfuge of the weak to avoid having to take any action which carried with it the possibility of war. And in consequence we not only failed to escape the ultimate possibility of war abroad, but we invited and reaped a harvest of sedition and anarchy at home.
>
> Months after our citizens were murdered on the Lusitania we have failed to get a disavowal from Germany, we have not dared and the present administration does not now dare to demand such a disavowal, because this would destroy the poor fiction of its diplomatic triumph in the case of the Arabic, a diplomatic triumph which is fully comprehended in the details of the slaughter of the men women and children of the Ancona. For weeks after the Lusitania the Germans continued to sink passenger ships when they could; they gave over the practise only when the British fleet had put approximate term to the submarine campaign in the North Sea and the Channel, and they promptly resumed it, through Austrian agency in the Mediterranean, when there was a military purpose to be served thereby.
>
> In the German mind the American foreign policy is dictated by fear and cowardice. Germans believe that we are afraid to defend our citizens abroad because of the political menace of German-Americans at home, and too timid to risk the dollars of our business by taking the stand that might involve action. The view in England and France is not different. The British censorship has already warned British journals to refrain from that criticism of American policy which is alike on German and British lips. THE WORLD BELIEVES THAT AMERICANS HOLD DOLLARS ABOVE THEIR DEAD; it finds the proof of this in the fact that our dead of the Lusitania still drift with the tides, forgotten it would seem by men and government alike.
>
> And for all this what have we gained? Peace? Certainly not peace abroad, since the sinking of the Ancona raises anew the whole question and the most eager of the Washington apologists for Austro-German activity confess that it may prove impossible for the American government to find an adequate excuse for Austro-German murder of American citizens. Peace at home? Assuredly not, when every day's news contains further disclosures of plots and conspiracies and further proof of anarchy and violence.
>
> The Lusitania case is not settled. The Lusitania case may be forgotten at this moment by the Wilson administration; it may be forgotten by a majority of the fellow citizens of those men, women and children who went to death under the promised protection of the American president contained in his "strict accountability" note; but it will return to demand the attention and command the action of Americans hereafter. It is easy to run away from the duty now; but the running away advertises to the world that the nation is a fair field for internal conspiracy and it advertises to the world that American lives can be taken with impunity abroad.
>
> For all this we shall pay a price far greater than that which could have been demanded had we met the Lusitania massacre with courage instead of with cowardice. The American people will not permanently endure the anarchy of the hyphen at home or the crimes of the enemy abroad. Some day we shall have to protect Americans abroad and put an end to anarchy and treason at home. The task will be the harder because we have deliberately permitted the world to believe that in both cases the criminals were safe, that they could operate with impunity and that their paltry votes and insignificant political influence were sufficient to terrorize a national administration and nullify patriotism.
>
> There is a day coming when all Americans will have bitter reason to remember the Lusitania, and on that day what will be the verdict of a whole nation on the betrayal of the present day?

Return To 'Cannonism?'

A few years ago, when Joseph G. Cannon, then speaker of the house, was shorn of his powers, that result was proclaimd everywhere as a great reform. "Cannonism" subsequently became a term of reproach as implying intolerable tyranny. The Washington Post, however, declares that "gradually it is dawning upon majority leaders of the house of representatives that a mistake was made when the speakership was stripped of control over the appointment of committees." And the paper adds:

> President Wilson himself in his earlier writings expressed the belief that control by a committee of committees in the house would result in disorganization, but the Democrats had made so much use of the slogan against "Cannonism" that they felt under obligation to change the existing order for a system less businesslike. The chairman and members of the appropriations committee, not feeling that they are responsible to the speaker, but rather to the whole membership, are apt to ignore all demands of the leaders for greater economy in the preparations of appropriation bills. Owing their appointments to a committee selected by the house, they are likely to yield more easily to the demand for political "pork."

* * * * * * *

So far, however, nothing has been suggested that compares with centralized control in the hands of the speaker. Under the old system the speaker, having the right to appoint the members of the various committees, could exercise such control that if economy was desired it could be brought about. If the chairmen then in power refused to respond to the demands for economy, other men could be appointed in their places.

The concentration of control is accompanied also by responsibility. The speaker could be held responsible for the failure of an economy program. The majority in power at the present time might well restore the old order, which, despite its defects, certainly is better than the existing chaos.

* * * * *

L. D. Timmons, the energetic editor of the Garden Island, which he has placed on a dividend-paying basis, is fast accumulating the rewards that come to a hustler. He is secretary of the Kauai chamber of commerce, president of the industrial board dealing with the application on Kauai of the Workmen's Compensation Act, identified with a few sporting and social organizations and is now, by presidential appointment, to become postmaster at Lihue. And the best of the last job is that it pays a real salary. Congratulations.

BARON SHIBUSAWA AND LABOR LEADERS DISCUSS JAPANESE

Noted Visitor From Orient Tells Countrymen That America Seeks Closer Relations

(Associated Press by Federal Wireless.)

SAN FRANCISCO, December 17.—Baron Shibusawa, the famous Japanese financier and publicist, who has just completed a tour of the United States on an unofficial peace mission, was the guest of honor at a dinner given here last night by the Japan Society of America.

In his address, the baron expressed his pleasure in having been able to note that America is now awakening to the consciousness both of her opportunities and of her responsibilities as a world's power in the true sense of the term. He finds, he says, that the merchants and financiers of the United States are now earnestly studying the needs of and the conditions in foreign countries and are gaining a world view point.

"Americans find that they have an advantage in our development," he said, "and are seeking closer relations between America and Japan. Experience has proved that it is mutually profitable for the two nations to stay close together."

LABOR LEADERS DISCUSS QUESTION

(Special Cable to Nippu Jiji)

SAN FRANCISCO, December 16.—The anti-Japanese feeling in California was discussed at a luncheon in honor of Baron Shibusawa today at the Palace hotel. Labor leaders present frankly spoke their opinions on the matter and Baron Shibusawa expressed his appreciation of the candor of the speakers in the discussion and also stated that he was pleased to note the improvement in the conditions confronting Japanese labor in California.

Asks Opinion of Guests

He asked for the opinion of the guests as to what would further tend to improve the conditions of the Japanese laborers in the coast states and help solve the problems which had arisen on the mainland in regard to his countrymen.

Among the speakers were B. Suzuki Bunji, delegate to the recent meetings of Japanese laborers in San Francisco; Editor Murren of the Labor Magazine, and Messrs. McArthur and Sharrenburg, the latter the secretary of the labor union. With the exception of McArthur, they said that in their opinions the anti-Japanese movement was chiefly based on economic reasons.

Prejudice Is Racial

McArthur gave it as his opinion that the movement was on account of racial prejudice, the economic objection to the Japanese being only secondary and used by ambitious politicians as campaign capital from time to time.

Consul General Numano, who presided at the dinner, spoke on "The Gentlemen's Agreement," and the guest of honor thanked the speakers for their full and free discussion of the subjects touched upon.

WAR HAS DEVELOPED TRANSPORTATION EVILS

LONDON, November 30.—(Correspondence of The Associated Press)—"From the point of view of the shipping man, the whole history of the war as far as the transport service is concerned is a wicked story of ignorance, ineptitude and colossal waste," declares the editor of Syren and Shipping, the leading journal of the shipping trade. He adds:

"Costly and useful ships were used for months as prison ships. Superships like the Aquitnia were employed on scouting missions, their magnificent passenger equipment gutted. Ships were allowed to load cargo or to book a full passenger list and then owners were informed that that the admiralty required these boats."

An instance is given of a 7000-ton boat, which was all ready to sail with 200 passengers, when it was taken over and sent empty to the west coast of South America, although it might have been loaded with coal and realized a small fortune. Another case is given of a 6000-ton boat at Huelve, about to load with a cargo of iron-ore for England, which was requisitioned suddenly and sent empty to the Pacific, although there should have been plenty of merchant ships available much nearer the desired destination.

"How long," asks the journal, "will these methods be tolerated? In the national interest a committee of shipping men should have been selected to organize the Admiralty chartering."

TURCO-TEUTON SUEZ DESIGN

(Associated Press by Federal Wireless.)

ROME, December 16.—Reports are rife here that extensive preparations are being made by the Germans and Turks for a Turco-German campaign against the Suez Canal and Egypt next spring. It is said that large forces of men and quantities of material are being assembled for the new campaign.

FRENCH RESERVE IS LARGE

(Associated Press by Federal Wireless.)

PARIS, December 16—The stock of gold held in the Bank of France has reached the record figure of a billion dollars.

THE CHILDREN'S COLD.

Watch the children's colds and cure them before they weaken the vitality. Use Chamberlain's Cough Remedy freely. It is perfectly safe. It has been tested by chemists and pronounced free from injurious substances and costs but a trifle. For sale by all dealers. Benson, Smith & Co., Ltd., agents for Hawaii.