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Solons Inspect Kauai Lands

Continued from page 1)

plicated system of generating power and operation of pumps would hardly work out as a proposition for homesteaders. The plantation might also be given a lease on undeveloped lands existing above Kekaha and Mana to encourage the improvement and development of this great tract. The 3000 acres of highly fertile bottom land would then be opened for homesteaders.

Such was the general opinion of the solons, but later on at a mass meeting in Waimea, W. O. Crowell brought up the proposition of turning the entire estate over to the homesteaders, just as it stands, and let the government handle the thing for the homesteaders as far as it would be possible. He recommended leaving no cultivated land for the plantation, giving them only the arid waste above Mana and Kekaha and letting them go ahead with the development of the same. Crowell also favored the construction of a ditch from Waimea Canyon at a much higher level than the present ditch. Such a ditch would bring water direct to the upper cane lands, thus doing away with generators and pumps.

Hydrographer Hardy was called upon to testify regarding the feasibility of such a plan. He claimed that it was entirely feasible, but that he had absolutely no data regarding the outlay for such a project, as so far he had not been authorized to survey such a line or estimate its cost.

Mr. Brandt Wants Kekaha Homestead

Mr. Brandt, of the Bishop Bank of Waimea, expressed himself as strongly in favor of the homesteading proposition, maintaining that Kekaha must be homesteaded. He says that it is the will of the people of this island, and we have waited eagerly for many years to get a chance at this homestead drawing and nothing but a homesteading proposition will be tolerated by the people of Kauai. Mr. Brandt believes in House Resolution No. 28, claiming that the Governor's policy is a good one, and that by letting the plantation run the mill and the pumps and cultivate enough land to insure cane to keep the mill supplied, was only a protection for the homesteader who could not expect to go into the business of milling cane.

Preference Right Claims Heard

While at Waimea the committee took up several matters regarding preference rights. Several matters of this nature were settled for the benefit of Waimea and Kekaha people who had preference right claims to present to the land department.

Situation at Hanapepe

At Hanapepe, Commissioner of Public Lands C. T. Bailey pointed out the boundaries of the public lands there, showing the committee thousands of acres that could be opened up for homesteaders at this time, but for the water rights that are still unsettled. The water for these lands upon which the lease has expired, is claimed by Gay & Robinson. Without water these lands are practically useless for homesteading, though some small farming could be carried on here during the rainy season. The water question is now in the hands of the Attorney General for settlement. Much of the land is now under cultivation of cane by Makaweli plantation, under contract provisions of the presidential proclamation. Walter McBryde, sub-agent for the land department is at present collecting rents from the rice planters in Hanapepe Valley who are cultivating government land.

Kalaheo Land Situation

Very little government land remains at Kalaheo. Walter McBryde suggests a few matters re-

garding lands in that section. Many of the homesteads in this section are very small, averaging about five acres. As such small homesteads are not of sufficient size to permit a man to earn a living, there is much dissatisfaction. The new land policy, if approved by congress, will permit homesteaders who have previously not taken up more than ten acres, to draw more land, up to 80 acres. As this will apply to many Kalaheo homesteaders who have drawn over the former limit of three acres and less than ten acres, the community is very much in favor of the new land policy.

At Wailua

The committee spent Saturday visiting Wailua and Kapaa. At Wailua the committee investigated the new lands in Wailua-uka, that land commissioner Bailey says will be opened next fall. These lands are in Lihue district. The lots have been surveyed but the roads are not yet completed. As the new homestead law states that the homesteader must get on the land in 90 days, it will be necessary to install roads before the lands are opened. There was much agitation on the part of Kaahu to have lower appraisals on these lands. The committee looked well into the matter of appraisals and could not get together on an opinion. At present Hon. J. H. Coney has a bill in the senate to have homestead lands sell at the uniform price of \$25 per acre. This bill is aimed to aid poor homesteaders who can not afford to pay the appraised prices of homestead lands as they are appraised at the present time.

The Homesteading Problem at Kapaa

A thorough tour of inspection through the Kapaa homesteads brought many things to light. Although the roads were in fair condition at the time, all members of the committee agreed that a macadam road as proposed in

Aguiar's bill appropriating \$13,000 for seven miles of macadam road in Kapaa homesteads, would be a great benefit to the homesteaders. The bill stands a good chance to get through. Land Commissioner Bailey is in favor of it, stating that the money is there for the purpose.

At a mass meeting in the Kapaa Court House the committee and land commissioner heard the various grievances of the homesteaders. The meeting was full of complaints, and at times some very startling rumors came to light. The chief topic of discussion was on the matter of contracts between homesteaders and the Makee Sugar Company. Apparently most of the contracts expire this year and with no provision for a new contract in sight the homesteaders are at a loss as to what they will do should the plantation be unwilling to accept their cane when it is mature. At present Manager Wolters of the Makee Sugar Company is not authorized to give written contracts to grind anybody's cane, but he has made verbal agreements to accept cane from various homesteaders at a fair price.

Joe Correa made a strong plea for a government ditch to bring water from the north fork of the Wailua stream to the Kapaa homesteads, claiming that if the same were not forthcoming a water famine would exist at Kapaa. The present acreage under cane, he said, along with the acreage that will soon be under cultivation, is far in excess of the previous acreage, and irrigated from the present source of water. There is much truth in the statement as in past years the plantation has followed 20 per cent of the land and with the homesteader coming onto the land he is required to cultivate all of his land which permits no fallow.

Government control of the water system at Kapaa was advocated by many of the home-

steaders, the claim being made that there is sufficient water if the ditches were properly looked after and the water distributed exactly in proportion to the requirements of each individual homesteader with no wastage. Such a measure has been introduced in the house, and that an effort will be made for its passage was presented by several of the committee.

Regarding water for domestic purposes at Kapaa, a good deal of agitation was advanced to have steps taken to supply drinking water to homesteaders in the fourth series and others along the main line that supplies the town of Kapaa. The measure introduced in the house by one of our representatives for the distribution of water for domestic purposes was tabled in the house because they considered it a matter of county supervision.

It is to be regretted that the legislators had to get back to Honolulu so quickly for there was much more to be said on all matters pertaining to homesteading, and the meeting had to be cut short to allow the committee to look into some other important matters before sailing time on Saturday evening.

How Makaweli Handled the Flu

The following statement is the result of an interview with a resident of Makaweli, independent of the plantation who was there through the whole epidemic and has had exceptional facilities for knowing the situation from the inside

It Came With a Rush

The Spanish Influenza at Makaweli started on the 13th of February, and came with a rush out of a clear sky. 22 cases the first day, and of a very virulent (Continued on Page 4)

Kauai Gave \$21,000

to "help the boys over there"

Kauai Y. M. C. A.

needs \$7,200

to "help the boys over here"

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