

Hawai'i Holomua

PROGRESS.

The Life of the Land is Established in Righteousness.

HONOLULU, NOV. 8, 1893.

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

The comfort which the annexationists have derived from the ordinary, every day diplomatic language contained in Minister Willis' letters of credentials, and in his speech is a source of some merriment and some surprise. We understood all along since January the 17th, that the object of the revolution on that day, was to get Hawaii joined as a member of the United States. We thought that the reason for the existence of the P. G. was to gain the same object, and that "closer union with the United States" was its mission here. And we believed that the organization of the annexation club, the display of American bunting in the streets, the sending of Commissioners, professors, envoys and secretaries was for the purpose of deceiving the people of the United States into the belief that Hawaii and the Hawaiian nation were ready and willing to surrender their independence and be deprived of self-government. And now after all their schemes have been frustrated and their hopes finally stamped out and Minister Willis' very presence here has put the seal of the United States on their defeat, these men, sing out triumphantly, "we are saved," and the Star goes into hysterics and fat type.

And what does this artificial enthusiasm prove? Simply that all these patriotic (!) disinterested (!) unselfish (!) men who induced a disgraced American Minister J. L. Stevens and an irresponsible naval officer to put them by display of force, and by the misuse of the United States name into power only wanted to get there, because they hated to be "outs" and were longing to be "ins." They in their ignorance of diplomatic language and usages believe or pretend to believe that Minister Willis' credentials assure them of permanency as a government and assist them in depriving Hawaii of a right to self-government. History should have taught them that the will of a people always ultimately carries the day, and so made them bottle up their enthusiasm for some other occasion.

That closer union with the United States was not the true cause for the revolution as has been stated heretofore can be seen from the happiness among the annexationists on the day that they finally learned that the United States will not annex us. It was government pap and boodle, they were after, and we are sure they have made the most of their brief opportunity.

The resolution which was introduced at a meeting of the Board of Health for the purpose of preventing sale of fish outside the public market looks very

much like a job. We don't believe though that the Board of Health has sufficient power to make such an order unless a law to that effect be passed. Nothing was said about the object of this remarkable step, but we suppose that sanitary reasons will be given as the cause for putting a number of people living in the suburbs to great inconvenience. Fish is a wholesome food when it is fresh. But we cannot see why people cannot as well judge of the good quality at their kitchen-door as they can at the market. People of ordinary means who keep no horses and carriages, finds it a great convenience to occasionally have fish brought to their door and sold as cheap as at the market. If the absurd step is really taken, it will mean that many households will be deprived of a variety of food and forced to eat nothing, but meat—of the poor quality often sold in Honolulu or they will have to live on frozen fish which the Board of Health is kind enough to offer as a substitute for fresh fish. What guarantee has the Board that the frozen fish imported here is of sound and good qualities? We doubt very much that any of the fish brought down here on ice in the steamers is ever as fresh and wholesome as the fish caught in the night and peddled around early in the morning. The whole business looks like a job and a very "sell-fish" one at that.

It is surprising why the organ of the Annexation Club should oppose the taking of a plebiscite in Hawaii. The club we learn claims that on its Register appear the names of *bona fide* members to the amount of 6,596 or about 63 per cent. of the votes cast at the last general election. Of course when the club makes such a statement it is for the purpose of impressing upon people abroad, the alleged universal popularity of annexation among all the voters of the country. An analysis of the figures of the club compared with the registered voters does not bear out the statement made, but proves that there is something rotten in the figures somewhere or in the club.

Classed as to nationality the club claims according to its statement to present the following: American 1,449; Hawaiian 1,671; Portuguese 2,386; German 420; British 351; Norwegian 72; Unclassified 247. As registered voters (at the last general election) we find the following: American 637; Hawaiian 9,554; Portuguese 2,091; German 382; and so on. Now we would like to know where the club has got its members from? The number of foreign residents in Hawaii is steadily decreasing and it would therefore be interesting to know how the club has succeeded in scraping up 1449 American members when there only are 637 voters of that nationality. The total amount of Americans according to the last census was 1,928, and in that figure are included all men, women and children. We can hardly believe that the club would have the gall to claim that every American is a member of it, and that both women and children have been registered.

But whatever the club should claim in that regard its 1,449 Americans cannot be voters. Indications are that every transient traveller, every tourist, every sailor, or any other bird of passage has been labeled American, and registered and represented to be residents and voters of Hawaii. The figures are fraudulent and the method is characteristic of the annexation schemers and plotters who have attempted to settle the destiny and policy of Hawaii through the common methods of ward-politicians and sand-lotters. That they have utterly failed is as satisfactory as it was inevitable.

The Circuit Court is working its weary way through the unusually long calendar. It is worthy of notice and comment that there are not less than 46 cases against people charged either with selling liquor, gambling or offenses against the opium law. There must certainly be something radically wrong. Of course we believe that every man should have all possible facilities to be tried by a jury, but it is both waste of time and of money to try before juries the petty sale of a bottle of swipes or the possession of che fa tickets. If the government had desired to show itself an improvement on former regimes it should have occupied its time by changing and regulating all the license laws and the illicit transactions now flourishing all over the country would soon be abated if not stamped out. But the cant and hypocrisy which are the leading features of the Reform Party will continue to prevent wise and beneficial legislation at least as long as matters of state and of church are hopelessly tangled up and mixed to gether.

FIRING THE ROYAL SALUTE AT WINDSOR.

The ordinary idea with regard to the firing of the Royal salute is that it is performed by means of a heavy gun or guns. That is true in respect to naval and military stations, and some other places where big guns abound; but it is not correct as to Windsor.

It might be supposed that at Her Majesty's principal home, which as one of our oldest castles was in past times intimately associated with large weapons of warfare, the salute would be fired from at least a great muzzle-loader, if not one of the modern breech-loaders, with soldiers in attendance. It might seem, too, that here, above all, the ceremony would be accompanied by some show of dignity worthy of a closely observed and much respected function. But, alas! for supposition and exalted associations of Royalty, this not the case. Readers who have not witnessed the performance may be interested in a brief description of it, as carried out in Windsor Park.

The principal occasions on which the Royal salute of twenty one guns is fired are on the anniversary of Her Majesty's birthday, accession, and coronation, and of the birthdays of the Prince of Wales, the Empress Frederick (Princess Royal of

England), the Duke of Edinburgh, the Duke of Connaught, Princess Christian, Princess Louise (Marchioness of Lorne), and Princess Beatrice (Princess Henry of Battenberg). The salute also extends to the eldest son of the Heir-Apparent, and was accordingly fired on June 3rd for the Duke of York.

Formerly the salute was made also on April 25th and April 7th, in honour of the late Princess Alice (Duchess of Hesse) and the Duke of Albany (Prince Leopold), but it, of course, ceased with their death. On the morning of each of these anniversaries, an officer, called the Queen's Bombardier, has conveyed to the Park, not in Royal van, but in a "common or garden" wheelbarrow, twenty-one small guns, which are somewhat profanely called "pop guns."

Each of these "formidable" weapons is about 14in. long and weighs about 6lb. Taken from the barrow, they are placed in a row in the Long Walk, facing the Queen's entrance to the Castle, and each having been duly charged with a blank charge, the *feu de joie* takes place. The Bombardier has a long rod with a slit at one end, into which he inserts a fuse, and then lighting it with a match discharges the guns one by one, refitting the wand each time with a fresh fuse.

The performance occupies about ten minutes, commencing at half-past twelve, and is usually witnessed by a small crowd, largely composed of idle little boys, who, at each discharge, roll over in simulation of having been shot.

At the conclusion the officer walks off, leaving his henchman to collect and stow away the miniature cannon for the next celebration. Such is this important ceremony at Windsor, and although the guns are powerful enough, and everyone respects their significance, the function lacks impressiveness and dignity to a degree almost of incongruity.

The "pop-guns" are of a special make, and have to be renewed every few years, but the old ones are carefully preserved. There is thus a large collection of them, and it is a very curious fact that among them are some actually 200 and even 300 years old. Such is the respect paid to some old and worn-out servants of the Crown. The duties of the Bombardier do not appear to be too arduous (only that he is a bit of a pluralist), and one wonders what would happen if he should on any of these anniversaries forget the date. One can imagine what would have been the result of such an oversight in the days of Henry VIII., but things have changed since then.

Besides the anniversaries, there are special occasions when the guns are fired, the latest of these being July 6th, when the salute was made in honour of the marriage of the Duke of York and Princess May.

The connection between the Royal salute and the flag that floats over the Round Tower of Windsor Castle may not appear very close, but it is perhaps near enough for a brief reference. While the Queen is residing at the Castle the Royal Standard is hoisted to the summit of a lofty staff upon the high tower; but while Her Majesty is absent, if

only for a day or a few hours, the Standard is replaced by the Union Jack.

Prior to last winter no flag was flown during the Queen's absence, although the custom now adopted was in vogue early in the century; but through the exertions, it is believed, of the Marquis of Lorne, Governor and Constable of the Castle, the custom has now been revived, so that the flagstaff is never left bare during the hours of daylight.

Hoisting the Union-Jack there, however, is not a mere arbitrary desire of the Queen, for every fortress in the kingdom is entitled to fly the "Jack," and Windsor Castle ranks as a fortress. The Standard is lowered immediately the Queen leaves Windsor, and is run up on her return directly she crosses the Thames and comes within the limits of the borough. Hitherto the Royal flag was displayed only for Her Majesty, but a new departure was made on November 9th last when, by the Queen's command, the Standard was hoisted in honour of the Prince of Wales' birthday.

The fair-weather flag is of immense size, but the stormy weather Standard is somewhat smaller and of stouter material. The same may be said of the "Jack." The raising and lowering and changing of these flags is in the charge of the Queen's master gunner, and a very busy time he has of it occasionally.

The flagstaff, by the way, is at least 3ft. thick at the base, tapering away slightly to the apex, and it is 170ft. high, rising from the Round Tower, which itself attains a great altitude above the Home Park. These Standards last about five years, and when discarded are sent to the Tower of London, where great care is taken of them. Here, again, used-up servants are provided with an idle and a comfortable future of indefinite length. —Tit Bits.

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