

Blount's Report.

Published at Last with Telltale P. G. Admissions.

Mr. Damon Advised the Queen to Surrender "Under Protest."

J. H. Soper Refused to Head the "Army" Without Backing of United States Troops—John F. Bowler's Statement that the Station Guards Would Never Fight Against the American Flag.

The New York Herald of Nov. 20 contained a long article from its Washington correspondent, which was made up from the report of Commissioner James H. Blount on the Hawaiian question.

"The curiosity of the people on the streets was aroused and they followed the troops to see what it was all about. Nobody seemed to know, so when the troops found quarters the people dispersed, most of them going to the band concert at the hotel, which was very fully attended, as it was a bright moonlight night. All who were not in the secret were wondering at the military demonstration.

"The committee met at Mr. Waterhouse's residence that evening at 7:30 o'clock. The formation of some sort of a government was under discussion and it was decided that a commander-in-chief of the forces supporting the proposed new government should be appointed. The position was offered to John H. Soper, who demurred, not seeing any backing whatever to support the movement. Mr. Soper was answered by members of the committee that the American Minister would support the move with the troops of the Boston. Mr. Soper still doubted, so a couple of the committee escorted him over to the legation, which, by the way, was in the adjoining premises, and the three came back after a time, reporting that Mr. Stevens had given them full assurance that any proclamation the Government put forward at the Government building, or any other building, would receive immediate recognition and the support of the forces of the Boston. This assurance seemed to satisfy Mr. Soper and he accepted the proposition."

The rest from Mr. Wundenberg relates to the march of the committee of 13 to the Government building, which was not guarded, and the reading of the proclamation in presence of a few curious loungers and under cover of the United States troops.

Commissioner Blount sends to the State Department a long interview had by him with S. M. Damon, who is President of the Advisory Council of the Provisional Government. Mr. Damon's interview was reported stenographically and signed by him as correct. He was one of the men who went up to the Government House Monday, January 17th, to read the proclamation declaring the Queen deposed and the new Government in control, a proceeding which Minister Stevens had suggested as the easiest way to accomplish the end in view and a thing which he would be glad to recognize as establishing the new and de facto Government.

Damon, though a somewhat unwilling witness, corroborated the statements made by Wundenberg. He described the starting from Smith's office on Fort street. There were about eighteen men in all. Damon says they divided into two bodies, taking different streets, because they were afraid they might attract attention. They were afraid of being interfered with by the police, he says, showing that the Queen's Government was still in possession of the city. The men straggled out so as not to attract attention.

At the Government house, Damon says, there was no one save the porters and officials employed there. In other words the Government was in possession and was carrying on its affairs in the regular way, without any excitement and without any attempts to organize for defense.

Mr. Cooper read a proclamation, and as the members of the committee who had assembled for this purpose felt anxious about their personal safety, they sent word to Colonel Soper, in command of their forces, for guards. Then it was that men came running in with rifles in their hands.

"How many troops came in?" asked Mr. Blount. "Enough to make us feel decidedly more at ease than before they arrived."

Mr. Dole was at the head. While we were there Mr. Corawell and Mr. Parker came up from the station house and held a conference with us.

In response to Mr. Blount's question Mr. Damon said that he and another member of the revolutionary committee went to the station house to hold a conference with the Queen's representatives.

Mr. Blount endeavored to draw from Mr. Damon the admission that the argument used to induce the Queen's Ministers to surrender was that United States troops were across the street from the Government buildings, in full sympathy with the revolution.

Mr. Damon unwillingly admitted that this was true, saying, "While I was in the station house a man named Bowler said to me, 'We are all prepared to resist, but will never fight against the American flag.'"

Being again pressed for information as to whether the sympathy of the United States Minister was talked about, Mr. Damon replied: "I cannot remember any definite thing, but, from Mr. Bowler's remark, they must have thought the United States troops were here to some purpose."

"Did you say anything to indicate there was sympathy on the part of the United States Minister?" asked about, Mr. Damon replied: "I cannot remember, I may possibly have said so."

"What was your impression?" "My impression was that seeing the troops landed in this excitement and turmoil, I suppose I might have said: 'They could not stand it any longer—Americans could not stand it any longer.'"

"Your impression, then, was that the American Minister and Captain Wiltse were in sympathy with you?" "While we were in the Government building, during the reading of the proclamation, and while we were all extremely nervous as to our personal safety, I asked one of the men with me there, 'Will not the American troops support us? Finally I asked one man to go over and ask Lieutenant Swinburne if he was going to send some one over to protect us. The man returned and said: 'Captain Wiltse's orders are to remain passive.'"

"I was perfectly nonplussed at not receiving their support. I could not imagine why we were there without being supported by American troops. We were there fifteen or twenty minutes without their supporting us in any way."

Being asked what was accomplished by the first visit to Station House, Mr. Damon at length replied: "The Queen's Minister virtually gave it up. They said that if they had only the Provisional Government to contend with and the forces of the Provisional Government they would surrender. They felt that they could meet the emergency, so far as the Provisional Government was concerned, but as it was, they were willing to yield, and the Minister and I went along with them to the palace."

"We all met in the blue room. There were present the Queen, the two young Princes, four Ministers, Judge Widemann, Paul Neumann, J. O. Carter, E. C. Macfarlane and myself. We went over between 4 and 5 and remained till 6. We asked for a surrender and the Ministers advised it. At first Judge Widemann opposed the idea, but yielded when Mr. Neumann did. It was the Queen's idea that she could surrender pending a settlement at Washington. It was on that condition that she gave up. I told her she could surrender or abdicate under protest."

"And that the protest would be considered at a later period at Washington?" "Yes, at a later period."

"Was the Queen advised by her Ministers to surrender because of the sympathy of the United States with the revolutionists?" "I knew it was the Queen's idea that Mr. Stevens was in sympathy with this movement. The Queen was reluctant to sign her abdication, but did so on the ground that it would come up for review at Washington. I told her so myself. It was the best terms of settlement we could get. I told it to President Dole, and he received and indorsed it."

"Was any message sent to the Queen after that—anything rejecting the proposition for settlement of the dispute at Washington?" "No."

"The surrender, then, was made on that proposition?" "Yes. Then the Queen sent down to the Station House that they should surrender. That would up the whole affair. We took possession. It wasn't decided upon till after this conference."

"Now, how long after that was it before the Provisional Government was recognized?" "Mr. Stevens sent Cadet Pringle, his aide, and Captain Wiltse sent one of his officers personally to examine the building and report if the Provisional Government was in actual possession. That was done between 4 and 5 in the afternoon. The interview with the Queen took place between 4 and 6."

"When this interview was going on between you, the Cabinet Ministers and the Queen, was it known then that the Government had been recognized?" "I do not think the Queen was told. I do not remember that it had been spoken of."

"Did you know it?" "I think I knew it." "What I mean is this: Before you took the message of the Queen back, this protest, the Provisional Government had been recognized?" "Yes."

"Had that been done at the time you left the Government House to go with the Cabinet Ministers to talk with the Queen?" "If my memory serves me right it had."

Commissioner Blount had a long interview with Mr. Waterhouse, who was also a member of the committee of safety, and who, though also an unwilling witness, corroborated Mr. Wundenberg and Mr. Damon in most of their statements.

LOCAL AND GENERAL NEWS.

Court Cases. A. O. F., will meet this evening at Pythian hall for initiation.

Jim Carty was busy on Saturday night distributing rifles among private parties.

Mr. Thomas Lindsay has another lot of those beautiful Hawaiian flag badges for sale.

The Japanese cruiser Naniwa is expected to arrive in Honolulu not later than Dec. 2.

A granite sidewalk is being laid at the Mutual Telephone building, Merchant and Alakea streets.

A full report of the dedication of the Masonic Temple, which was an imposing ceremony, will appear later.

It was said at the Judiciary building this afternoon that the judges of the two higher courts had a conference at the noon recess.

There is a likelihood of Mr. Edw. Hore's resigning the judgeship of Waialua, as it interferes with his duties as school teacher at the same place.

It is reported that Frank Pahia will assume the position of Deputy Sheriff at Koolaukopo, and Deputy Sheriff Aikue of the same place will take the judgeship.

The steamship Miiowera was hauled up to the Fishmarket wharf this morning. Her stern post and propeller are being repaired at the Honolulu Iron Works, and will soon be ready to be placed in position.

Two lads, Kaimi and Kaonohi, were committed to the Reformatory School for one year each by Judge Robertson this morning for truancy during two weeks last past. Both pleaded guilty and smiled when the police officer escorted them to the school.

Jack Neill, the hackman who was caught on Vineyard lane with fifty tins of opium in his possession on the night of Nov. 22d, pleaded guilty to a charge of opium unlawfully in possession in the District Court today. He was sentenced to pay a fine of \$250. The charge formerly was selling opium, but was changed. The informer was paid half the fine.

A great holiday opportunity is presented in the day and evening sales at auction of the whole stock of Japanese goods in the store of Mr. J. M. de Sa e Silva, to be conducted by Mr. Levy from Saturday to Wednesday inclusive. The stock is exceedingly rich and varied, and the sale is without reserve. Great bargains may be anticipated.

Mr. Moors, manager of the World's Fair, has chartered the schooner Vine in San Francisco for the purpose of returning his charges to Samoa. The Vine will touch at this port, and it is expected several exhibitions will be given here. After reaching Samoa Mr. Moors intends cruising among the South Sea Islands for the purpose of making a collection of curios for exhibition at the Mid-winter Fair to be held in San Francisco, in connection with the Hawaiian exhibit.

Beag Pardon Madame.

But we would like your attention a moment. Thursday is Thanksgiving day. We shall make the finest pies, cakes and ice cream on that day.

We expect a big rush; please give your orders soon; we wouldn't like to see you get left. All city orders delivered free. The Elite Ice Cream Parlors, Hart & Co., 85 Hotel street.

Business dead? Not much! Leastwise it is not so with the California Feed Company. We have made a business for ourselves, which has steadily grown through all the hard times other people are complaining about.

We have just secured from Mr. J. F. Colburn his old stand, corner Queen and Nuuanu streets, and taken possession of those large and convenient premises. We had to do so, because our old place at Lele is too small for our fast-increasing business.

In a few days the bark "Mauna Ala" will be here again with her fourth full cargo of Hay and Grain, bought by our Mr. J. N. Wright who will arrive on that vessel. We prefer to select our merchandise ourselves rather than have others do it, which means that we get better goods at a less price.

We thank our many friends for their liberal patronage for the past three years, and hope by strict attention to a business we thoroughly understand to merit the patronage of as many more.

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Fares to Rifle Range 5 cents, Waikiki, 10 cents; Sans Soule and Diamond Head, 15 cents; round trip, 25 cents; children under 12 years, half price.

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At home on the ranch I not only attend to my family household, but last summer I cared for and milked four cows. I do not feel that I can say half enough in praise of Hood's Sarsaparilla.

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