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THURSDAY AUGUST 20, 1908

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The splendid results which the Chamber of Commerce may place on its credit-list this year amply warranted the action of the members in re-electing the complete list of officers. While this involves another twelve months of hard work, it is, nevertheless, a very good means of expressing the members' appreciation of what has been done. It is the only reward sought by men who devote their time to the advancement of community interests.

WORK FOR EUROPEAN IMMIGRANTS.

The conclusions of Mr. Trenor on the labor conditions of the Territory are of the utmost importance, and it is highly gratifying that he is able to comment so favorably. Mr. Trenor came to the Islands as a rank outsider, so far as any previous connection with local people or interests is concerned. He was recommended by mainland Federal officials as an expert in the work which Hawaii's Immigration Board is to do. He came here as free from previously formed prejudices as any man could be. He has gone over the field to see conditions for himself—investigate as intimately as he chose.

When Mr. Trenor says that the condition of the laboring people employed on the Hawaiian plantations is far better than that of thousands on the American mainland, and a paradise compared with that under which the workers of Europe exist, we have the carefully drawn decision of one who has been through the mainland centers and the European centers, and knows whereof he speaks.

This is pleasant reward for those who have worked steadily to improve the comforts of our laborers and establish them more permanently in the Islands.

The opinions of Mr. Trenor, coupled with the mission he has undertaken, should go far towards upsetting popular and erroneous opinions prevailing on the mainland, some of which are very well expressed by the California correspondent whose letter appears in another column. Furthermore, what measure of truth there may be in the Californian's idea makes more impressive the importance of Mr. Trenor's work and the absolute good faith of those who are backing the Territorial Board of Immigration.

What Hawaii aims at is a proper balancing of the labor population, and a steady increase of a citizen population that will become permanent workers in the main industries. The speediest practical method of gaining this end is to enlist the European immigrant who comes to a new country to establish a new home for himself and family. This is the work to which the agent of the Territorial Board of Immigration will devote his experienced effort. It means more to the Americanization of this Territory than any other movement that has been started or proposed.

We believe that the plan will be a success, and should it fail in some details, this partial failure will not be considered by the true Americans of Hawaii as condemning the whole program.

It is the duty of every citizen of the United States, here and on the mainland, to lend all the moral and active support it is possible for him to render.

The precinct meeting held last evening is variously estimated as promoting personal interests and purely for the welfare of the party. The Bulletin has only to suggest that every precinct of the County should hold such a meeting if it will promote party harmony, a good working convention, and a first-class ticket for the Republican party.

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ends meet. Would the Japanese in their own land do this—have their own people walk around idle whilst Americans were kept steady to work?

Any white man, American or English, endowed with good common sense and intelligence, knows the Japanese would do no such thing as the Americans are doing today.

An American citizen should be given the preference every time whether in work or any other way. If it should ever come to a war between Japan and these United States, where would the Japanese be found? Why, on the side of the Mikado, to a man. But the American citizen, whether of American or English descent, I venture to say, would be looking to the interests of the Anglo-Saxon race and the future welfare of the white race in general. I was formerly a depositor in an Oakland bank and during a conversation with one of the tellers I expressed my disapproval of their keeping three Japanese janitors while so many white men were half starving for want of work, and who could produce the best of reference. His answer was, "Oh, we would not let our Japs go for anything."

Fancy this taking place in a Japanese bank, even in Oakland or San Francisco! But place the same conditions in a bank in Tokio. Not much! It would not be tolerated for 24 hours.

The views I have expressed are held by many intelligent people on the Pacific Coast, and who look at the matter from an unprejudiced standpoint, looking to the welfare and preservation of their own race. I am neither ungrateful nor forgetful of a kindness done me, and I will here acknowledge an act of kindness on the part of two or three Japanese to myself when a refugee in San Francisco during the earthquake and fire period of 1906, and will do to them as much when the time presents itself, but when I see so many of my own kind of people making desperate struggles, within the past nine or ten months to keep their heads above water, it makes me feel like expressing my views in regard to the wrong line of action of the various employers, both here and in the Hawaiian Islands.

One man of intelligence, who worked with me, and whom I met on the street a short time ago, told me he was trying to keep body and soul together on 7c a day. One family here in this town was found to be without food in the house. The mother had committed suicide and the children were crying for bread. Many such cases could be mentioned. A skilled machinist who operated a big lathe at \$4 per day is now trying to eke out a living by sweeping out a saloon and cleaning spittoons, etc. Another man who was formerly foreman over about 50 men is now picking fruit on a ranch. Another skilled machinist was peddling, and making possibly \$4 or \$5 per week to keep a wife and child. For my own part, I would like to come out there, take up a piece of land and become a bona fide settler in the true

sense of the word; working at my trade when possible and cultivating my land when trade was dull would fill the bill in my case. Governor Frear's suggestion to give the land for almost nothing would tend to encourage an honest, struggling man who wants to provide a settled home-stand for himself. If these remarks are worth printing, you are at liberty to do so. I have no chance of seeing an Hawaiian paper this way, even a back number would be welcome.

Very truly,
An Unfortunate Sojourner,
J. F. GOUTBURN,
California, Aug. 7, '08.

HAWAII AND ITS LABOR PROBLEM

(Continued from Page 1)
in the islands—the four principal ones having been thoroughly gone over—and many years given to a like study in the United States and the greater part of Europe possibly warrant the drawing of a comparison between the condition of the so-called "common laborer" here and elsewhere.

I can state, without the slightest reservation, that with notably few exceptions the substantial and airy quarters furnished the men and their families, the plot of land frequently cultivated to its capacity, the sanitary conditions enforced, and the general air of comfort encountered are all in striking contrast to conditions found in other lands. One has only to visit the noisome dens of the criminally overcrowded tenements in our large cities, or to see the peasants of many European countries herded like cattle—when they are not literally herded with them—to be convinced of the truth of my statement. When one further realizes the rigor of our climate in many sections of the mainland, that of the Territory is a veritable glimpse of Paradise. The workers in the sewers, tunnels, mines, and like exacting occupations are constantly threatened by hygienic and physical dangers absolutely unknown here. Free rent and grounds, fuel, water, and medical attendance form the background of a very attractive picture to the toiler in the fields. Whether the wage will attract the man is a problem to be threshed out. All things considered, it seems there is more than an even chance that it will. One most important factor in that connection is the certainty of continuous work here. The difficulty seems rather one of securing continuous workers. Other localities offer apparently far greater inducements. They exist frequently during limited periods of the year only. When labor has to bear the cost of transportation from place to place in quest of employment they become more imaginary than real.

An impression seems to prevail that labor once assigned to a particular location is not at liberty to seek work elsewhere and that a kind of "black-list" is maintained which precludes its so doing. This has no foundation whatever. Perfect liberty in that connection is assured. The only bar to a man's employment is his known unfitness or unwillingness to perform the work offered.

The already established rule in some places of throwing open the positions of semi-skilled labor to those among the white element found capable of filling them is commendable in every way. Its assured extension is both a wise and deserved step.

The situation may be summed up in a few words. Abundant labor is the prime necessity of all industrial enterprises. Aside from any humanitarian viewpoint, it is essentially a commercial proposition to so treat it that it will be attracted and held. My best efforts will be directed to the attraction of your needed supply.

Further discussion might carry me beyond limits I have prescribed. I

shall therefore content myself with a few remarks of a purely personal character. When the invitation to visit the Territory reached me in Greece last Spring and a message for Honolulu was handed in at the cable office there I was regarded with amazement. The assurance that it was in Oahu, Territory of Hawaii, shed no light. Recourse being had to an atlas and the Islands pointed out, I was informed that I probably meant to say "Sandwich Islands." I mention this as illustrative of what to a great extent is true of the United States. To many, Hawaii is practically an unknown land. I must confess that at the time of my call I had much to learn. But now, taking possibly pardonable liberties with Caesar's memorable words, I can heartily say:—
"I came. I saw. I was captivated."

The number of those willing to be held in like bondage will be immeasurably augmented when the countless attractions of your Islands, through a campaign of education, shall have become a household word.

It would be difficult to fittingly describe the charm which your "Garden of the Gods in the Pacific" must always possess not only for those who have seen little of the world, but particularly so for those to whom its many attractions are familiar. Associated in my mind with this natural charm will always be a recognition of and indebtedness for the "trade-wind" of cordiality and hospitality which on every hand has greeted the stranger within your gates.

I feel under so many obligations in that connection that I avail of the opportunity of making public avowal thereof.

It only remains for me to add the almost unnecessary assurance that should my efforts in any way contribute to the welfare of a people to whom I have, unaffectedly, become much attached, the knowledge of that fact will be enshrined as one of the most cherished records in my book of not-unextended travel.

APPEAL FILED IN DREIER WILL CASE

W. A. Kinney, attorney for Emil Dreier, has filed an appeal from the decision of the Court at Chambers in allowing the will of the late August Dreier to be admitted to probate. He states that he feels aggrieved at the decision of the Court in the matter, and asks for a jury trial of the case. From the filing of the appeal in this case today, and the complaint served against Cecil Brown, as trustee, yesterday, it may be seen that this case will be fought out along every line possible. It seems that not a stone will be left unturned to break the will of the late August Dreier.

The Weekly Edition of the Evening Bulletin gives a complete summary of the news of the day.

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CALIFORNIA MAN GIVES HIS VIEW OF HAWAII CONDITIONS

Editor Evening Bulletin: With very great interest I read the speech delivered by Governor Frear last January regarding the conditions in the Islands at the present time. He looks with some degree of anxiety to their future status if more of the white element is not encouraged to become permanent settlers in the Islands; more in the shape of small landed proprietors, which idea, I think, is a good one.

There are many respectable white men around this section who would be glad to come to the Islands if they could be assured of obtaining work when they get there. A white man—of the respectable element—will work at anything when his trade is dull, but he does not care to work with either Chinese or Japanese, because they will always prove the disagreeable aggressors. The Oriental is only fit to work and associate with his own kind. If the Islands should eventually become Japanese, the employers will themselves be to blame. Some time ago I wrote to the Honolulu Iron Works, stating my experience as a skilled machinist, having formerly had charge of work, and although I enclosed stamp for reply they did not show sufficient courtesy to answer the same. The other firm answered, but could not give me any encouragement. Yet I understand both firms and also the plantations employ Japanese machinists, whilst white mechanics are allowed to remain idle, scarcely able to make both



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