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**TRENT ATTACKS ADVERTISER**

(Continued from Page 1)

lele lots which seventeen men of this city want for summer homes that the stories were written which criticized the action of the Board.

Member Trent's communication, which was spread on the minutes of the Board, follows:

"In the Daily Pacific Commercial Advertiser of Saturday, September 3, there appeared a news story which was apparently designed to impugn the motives of and cast discredit upon certain members of this board, and it is so palpably evident that the said story had its inspiration, if not its origin, in the office of the Commissioner of Public Lands, that I wish it to have a place in the records of this board." (This story deals with the action of the board at its last meeting, on the matter of the Kawaloalele lots.)

"In order that the true facts of the case may appear of record, I beg to state them, and if I am in any respect mistaken in my statement of the facts I will be obliged to any member of the board who will be kind enough to correct me.

"(1.) There is no ground whatever for the insinuation that the meeting was held without proper notice, and 'unexpectedly.' When the meeting of the Monday afternoon previous was adjourned, it was agreed and announced that the next meeting should be held on Thursday night, September 1, at 8 o'clock p. m., and it was so held.

"(2.) After the reading of the minutes of the meeting at which permission was voted to allow the putting up at auction of the Kawaloalele tract, Mr. Trent stated that he had read in the papers that twenty-five of the residents of the district had applied for the land on the homestead plan, and asked Commissioner Campbell, who was present, if this were true. Mr. Campbell replied that it was, but that the applications had been withdrawn. Mr. Trent thereupon remarked that he recalled the fact that when the lands were first voted for auction very enthusiastic stories appeared in the press concerning their desirability as beach homes, etc., but that when it was announced that homestead applications were in for the same lands the printed stories were very different; and it seemed strange to him that so many homestead applications were being withdrawn, and he thought that the board ought to make an investigation on its own account of the circumstances of this particular case before the lots were auctioned off; and he therefore moved a reconsideration of the former action of the board respecting these particular lands until such investigation could be made. With very little discussion, this motion was put and unanimously carried, not a dissenting voice being raised.

"Thereupon Commissioner Campbell, uninvited, arose and announced in an impatient tone that the lots in question would be put up in January on the homestead plan, and muttered a veiled threat to the effect that if the applicants whose petition had resulted in this action of the board did not make good on the homestead proposition, they would hereafter receive no consideration from the land office, or words to that effect.

"The chairman announced that nothing further need be done, since Mr. Campbell had announced that the land would be homesteaded, thus taking it out of the hands of the Land Board. And Mr. Campbell's action had the further effect, whether so intended or not, of forestalling any investigation on the part of the board as to the reasons for the withdrawal of the homestead petitions."

"Now, Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, in order that you may judge for yourselves whether I am right or not in assuming that the inspiration for the news story that has furnished the basis for these remarks found its inspiration in the land office, I beg to be allowed to submit portions of two other published reports from the Advertiser of August 9 and from the Advertiser of August 17.

"Mr. Campbell's admission in this last article that only eight applications had been received for the upwards of 1000 homesteads that he had prepared to offer, while hundreds of applications had been received for other lands, may possibly suggest to some minds that the department, though probably obeying the letter of the law, is not offering the people what they want. In providing for the formation of this Board of Public Lands, and fixing its duties and powers, Congress plainly showed a lack of confidence in the administration of our public lands; and after three months of close observation and careful study of the subject I feel convinced in my own mind that if the common people (by which I mean ordinary folks as opposed to special interests)

are to get a square deal they must get it through this body—and therefore our responsibility is great.

"If the people of this Territory are to get a square deal in land matters it must be through this Board," concluded Trent.

"What do you wish done, about this matter," questioned Brown.

"Nothing at all except to spread my statement and this newspaper story on the minutes of the Board," said Trent, and this was done by motion of Judge Andrade.

One of the stories referred to by Trent spoke of faked homestead petitions and brought in Andrade's name, to which that gentleman pleaded ignorance of anything of the kind. Report from Attorney General Lind say was read relative to the exchange of public land for that privately owned. The opinion was that such an exchange could be made lawfully only when the private land was necessary for public uses, and could not be made for mere convenience.

Then Brown brought up the question of the expense attached to advertising in the opening of lands.

The decree of the Board passed when it was first organized was that all lands for sale, lease or exchange should be advertised once a week for seven consecutive weeks in three languages in Honolulu and the district in which the lands were located.

This procedure said Brown was making terrifying bills and it was his opinion, as well as that of Governor Frear with whom he had discussed the matter, that some method must be found to make this less expensive.

He suggested that as the papers of Honolulu had general circulation in the Territory that the advertisements should run in these papers alone and clippings from them be sent to sub-agents of the land office for posting in their districts.

It was the opinion of both Trent and Andrade that expense ought to be curtailed, the amount spent so far on advertising the first lots to be opened being more than five hundred dollars.

After discussing the matter for some time Andrade made a motion that a new resolution be prepared by Brown amending the former one and providing for publication in Honolulu in three languages and distribution of these notices.

Here again the discussion came back to the sand lots at Kawaloalele by Campbell introducing a statement which had been made by two of the men who had applied for homesteads there.

In this statement they said that they wanted a small piece of land near the shore where they could have a hut and dry their fishing nets. They did not want to live on the land permanently, nor to cultivate it for it would grow nothing.

Campbell said that he did not think the lots should be thrown open to homestead as they were not fit for that purpose.

Trent thought that under the circumstances sale was the proper thing, but that the Board should first investigate for their own information.

Andrade was in favor of immediate sale and then Brown said that he had some curiosity to see the lots himself and talk with the men who had asked for homesteads.

Campbell offered the use of two machines for the Board to make the trip and it was decided that the members should start at one o'clock on the 17th for a special investigation of their own and meet the Hawaiians on the other side for a conference.

Next came up the Kapaa leases and for the remainder of the evening the Board seesawed back and forth on these matters.

No objection had ever been made to the granting of these leases and the water rights, but the members thought they knew only a little about the proposition.

In that event Brown thought a reading of the proposed Kapaa lease would be of benefit to all concerned and he proceeded to wade through the legal and other verbiage of a large number of pages, stopping now and then to tell the other members of the Board his version of what the lease really meant.

At the conclusion of the reading Trent thought that action should be deferred until the next meeting as he thought none of the members knew enough of the proposition to vote intelligently upon it.

It was at this point that Andrade suggested bedtime, telling Brown that everyone in the room had yawned at least twice during the past half hour.

"We have accomplished nothing here tonight, and I suggest that we hold afternoon meetings two or three times each week in addition to the Thursday evening meeting in order that we may dispose of some of these matters accumulating before us and get caught up with the work."

"Since this Board was organized it has not disposed of more than six matters finally, and something must be done to get rid of the large amount of work accumulating every week before us."

In this connection Campbell stated that his office was tied up in many matters waiting action of the Board and that there were many other propositions to be submitted as soon as they had disposed of a few more still before them.

The afternoon session scheme caused considerable discussion and it was finally decided to adjourn to this afternoon at four o'clock and hold a two-hour session to its to clear up some of the pending matters.

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