

J. MOTT SMITH, Director of the Government Press.

HONOLULU, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 1883.

BY AUTHORITY.



Notice is hereby given, that Hon. A. M. Kahananaohe has resigned in the hands of His Majesty the King, which His Majesty has graciously pleased to accept.

It is wise and prudent, all points considered, for us to do anything towards securing frequent steam communication with San Francisco? Past experience has demonstrated, that neither the good wishes of our neighbors, the Californians, nor any argument yet brought to bear upon Congress, is sufficient to cause the establishment of a steam line to our islands, such as ought to be laid on, in order to be of any material aid to our business, or enhancement of our commercial prosperity.

The business of San Francisco with these islands will not be quickened or depressed by the mode of carrying it; it makes no difference with her merchants whether our produce is ten days or twenty days on the passage over—the loss of time, interest, insurance, and risk being wholly with us.

Nor will they derive any advantage from quickened communication, by its tendency to draw capital, population, or any of the aids to material prosperity from our islands to their own shores. Hence we may safely conclude that California, sure of being the natural market for our produce, is quite indifferent whether they reach her by steam or by sail.

The opinion long prevalent in the United States, that neighborhood makes these islands of commercial importance to them, and other considerations of a general nature, did induce Congress to order that the Great Trans-Pacific line to China should stop at Honolulu. Still later, these reasons caused a subsidy to be granted towards establishing a terminal line. Both of these laws, as originally passed, contained regulations as to the frequency of trips, which, though not all that could be desired by us, were sufficient to be the promise and germs of better things in the future; the development of a steam-communication which should afford us all the help and benefit to be derived from such a connection.

But hardly had these two laws passed Congress ere they began to be changed; the provision in one was repealed altogether, the other so modified, that however it may meet the needs of Californians, is not at all equal to our necessities.

Only one deduction can be drawn from this bit of steam-communication-history, it is, that the interest of the American people in us is not large enough to induce either Congress or the Californians to aid the bill for keeping up frequent trips of steamers on this route, nor do they propose to saddle themselves with the undertaking.

We may deduce a little more, that having granted a subsidy for two years and found an American company willing to try it—should the route prove financially disastrous—it will require no great persuasion for Congress to annul the contract altogether. There is no substantial reason at present why American capital or American public funds should be lost on this steam route.

When we can bring no convincing argument why our neighbors should help us any more, it is wise to propound the question, can we help ourselves, and is it prudent to do so?

Steam communication with San Francisco is a desirable thing. Its establishment may interfere at first with other private interests, but in the long run its benefits will accrue to all, and its stimulus be felt in all kinds of business. Trips once in six weeks, all that is now required by Congress are rather a disadvantage than otherwise to us. Trips once in twenty days would enable us to derive the practical benefits which we desire.

There can be no expectation that Congress will raise their subsidy to increase the frequency of trips, our own calculations show that our trade will warrant the putting of another steamer on the route by the company at their own risk. Careful analysis of the Collector-General's tables for 1867 shows that the freight value at \$6.00 per ton on our principal domestic products, hence to San Francisco, amount to \$62,575.

And goods thence here, say \$7,000. Passenger transportation both ways with Cabin @ \$70 and Steerage @ \$40, say \$45,000.

Total \$114,575. If all this carrying could be concentrated on a steamer line, (which will never happen) the vessel making twenty-one day trips, or eighteen per year, could only earn \$1,476. The cost of each trip may be averaged in whole numbers at \$14,000.

There is no inducement then for capitalists to put on steamers for the profits, nor are the prospects so flattering that they will risk heavy losses with the expectation that the future will recuperate them. Neither the subsidy by the United States, nor that sought from us, will balance the account so as to insure from loss. There is margin enough to be set off to that risk, which every business must encounter. We may be sure that without putting our own

shoulders to the wheel we shall not have two steamers on the route, and we may try harbor the suspicion, that as one steamer does not pay at run at present, we may lose that too, at no distant date.

The subsidy mentioned in the Appropriation Bill is quite within our power to grant, without either increasing taxation now or prospectively.

It carries with it the right of imposing conditions which may provide for all the points deemed essential to free and cheap communication necessary to the protection of commerce and agriculture, and the general welfare of the public.

The whole matter is one of grave importance, being so closely connected with all our business relations, and interwoven with our future development and prosperity. We notice, that on Monday, by resolution, it was referred to the Committee on Commerce for thorough consideration. It lies wholly within the province of the Assembly, and we are sure they will acquit themselves of the responsibility with an intelligent regard to the greatest good of our whole country. Internal improvements are popular. The Assembly justly look upon them as steps in the right direction towards facilitating trade and opening up our resources—in this light, what internal improvement more satisfactory, and sure of profitable returns, than steam-communication with San Francisco every twenty days.

THE ERUPTION!

Up to Wednesday, 29th ult., there has been no further accounts of volcanic action on Hawaii. The earthquakes have ceased in violence and frequency, although the whole island is still moved by slight vibrations. There was a smart shock felt at Kohala on Thursday, also the same day, a slight vibration here in Honolulu.

There are reports that the lava has again broken out in Kapapala, but we do not credit it. We are happy to give our readers a clear and intelligent account of the late volcanic action on Hawaii, from the pen of the Hon. Wm. Hillebrand, M. D., who has just returned from a close examination of the disturbed districts.

The account of the lava fissure at Kapaolu, is entirely new to the public. H. I. M.'s Commissioner and Consul, M. Berger, who made the tour with Dr. Hillebrand, has made a number of sketches of the most interesting volcanic appearances.

To the Editor of the Hawaiian Gazette: Six: Having just returned from a journey across the scene of the late volcanic convulsions, I have the honor to acknowledge you a statement of what I observed there. Let me state here at once that I started from Honolulu, with a few friends, for Kilauea April 2nd, and returned on the 12th. I examined the extensive fissures near the Puna road on the 20th; the so-called mud flow on the 21st, and the lava stream in Kapaolu on the 22nd. I also examined the lava stream on the road to Kona, and reached Kilauea Bay on April 25th.

Of Kilauea Bay I have little to say, as your correspondents have communicated to you the most remarkable events from that place. I saw several fissures in the earth near Waialeale, and from eight inches to one foot in width, which were caused by the earthquake of April 2nd, and ran in the direction of Manna Loa. The earthquake waves all ran in the same direction, and were accompanied by overturned movable objects standing at right angles with that line. A heavy bookcase in the Rev. Mr. T. C. Coan's library, holding a number of books, was overturned, while another heavy case, filled with shells and minerals, which stood parallel to it, remained standing.

The ground around the crater, particularly on the eastern and western sides, is rent by a great number of fissures, one near the Puna road, and another near the Puna road, and very deep; others of lesser size run parallel to and cross the Kona road, so as to render travel on it very dangerous. The look-out house is detached from the main building by a very deep crevice, and stands now on an isolated, overhanging rock, which, at the next severe earthquake, may tumble into the sea. Many smaller fissures are hidden by grass and bushes, forming so many traps for the unwary. The volcano House, however, has not been shaken, nor is the ground around it broken in the least. From the walls of Kilauea large masses of rock have been detached and thrown down. On the west and south sides, the ground is broken up by the most active before the great earthquake of April 2nd, the falling masses probably have been set on fire by the lava and carried down the mountain side, and are now seen as perpendicular as they were before, but that this part of the wall has lost portions, but that this part of the wall has lost portions, but that this part of the wall has lost portions.

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north to south. Very hot air rose from it. Around it toward the north, the lava is thrown up into an insupportable confusion; pile upon pile of ash, gorge and ridge by turns.

The crater of the flow seemed to be still in progression, for twice during our exploration of the crater, our nerves were disturbed by a prolonged heavy rumbling and rattling noise, coming from the northwest corner. In the afternoon I visited Kilauea, and found that the lava had advanced to the small crater, hardly half a mile distant, from the great one in 1882.

When the bottom and sides were covered with ash and small trees. Now the bottom is covered with a shining flow of black lava, and the dark patches along its sides, give abundant evidence of fire in grass and brush. I take its depth to be about the same as that of the large crater.

Thus far, as far as we have seen. Now allow me to relate what I learned from Kaina, who has resided near the volcano without interruption for the last five months, and whose nerves sustained him during the fearful catastrophe introduced by the earthquake of April 2nd. He, and the Chinese who accompanied him, were the only persons who remained at Kilauea. He says that for two months preceding the first shock, viz. from Jan. 10 to March 20, the crater had been unusually active, light lakes being in constant ebullition, and frequently overflowing. During all this time, (the date of its first appearance could not be ascertained exactly), there was a constant rumbling, a "blow-hole" from which, at regular intervals, of a minute or less, with a roaring noise, large masses of vapor were thrown off, as from a steam boiler, and on the 17th of March. At the same time the activity of the lakes became greatly increased, and Kaina anticipated mischief. March 27, the first shock occurred, and the bottom of the crater overflowed with fresh lava and incandescent lava.

Thursday, April 30, at a few minutes past four, P. M., the big earthquake occurred, which caused the ground around Kilauea to rock, and the lava to flow in a new direction, commenced fearful detonations in the crater, large quantities of lava were thrown up to a great height, portions of the wall tumbled down, and the ground was covered with a rattling noise, and a hissing sound, which was accompanied by a strong vibration of the ground, continued from that day till Sunday night, April 5th, but from the 5th to the 10th, the activity of the volcano was less, and it was already confined to the regular lakes; on Saturday night, it only remained in the great south lake, and on Sunday night there was a smart shock felt at Kohala on Thursday, also the same day, a slight vibration here in Honolulu.

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first, to pass around the tail end of an stream, then to cross two or three streams, and at last the pahoehoe. From a prominent hill near Capt. Brown's house the scene can be seen in all directions, and the lava flows, the several streams, many cattle and horses found refuge, most of which were saved after the cessation of the flow. On the hill stands a house which contained three poor sick men. When they became aware of the approach of the lava they attempted to escape, but not having strength enough left they returned to their houses expecting death. The lava however only surrounded them, and as there were some provision and water in the house, they kept themselves alive until cooled and succor was afforded them. The eruption must have ceased either on Saturday or Sunday night, the 11th or 12th of April. The accounts do not agree, about the exact time of the outbreak also there is some obscurity. The great fissure having been formed, in all probability, on April 2nd, the final breaking through of the lava seems to have begun almost without notice. Capt. Brown only became aware of it by the sight of fire appearing toward his house, after darkness had set in, and he immediately fled to save himself and family, the lava rushing down the last gulch ten minutes after he and his family had crossed it. From Mr. Williams' account, it appears that the lava on the Kona side, I learn that a gopher assured him that he had been prevented from returning to Waialeale as early as the morning of April 11th by the lava flow.

As the principal interest was the discovery of the main source of the stream, we at once went to that part of it, where, according to custom, the lava had been confined. A very tight dark brown glistening pumice stone lay scattered about long before the lava was seen. Near the flow it increased so much that the lava itself sank deep into it, and at every step. We soon reached the ridge of a hill from which we surveyed the place where, according to our guide's account, the fountain of lava had been confined. The upper portion of the lava stream fills a broad valley or depression, between two parallel low hills of not more than 300 feet high, both running west and east. The western one of these hills Mr. Whitney had witnessed the eruption. From the eastern hill I can plainly see the lava flow, and the western one of these hills Mr. Whitney had witnessed the eruption. From the eastern hill I can plainly see the lava flow, and the western one of these hills Mr. Whitney had witnessed the eruption.

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