

THE INDEPENDENT

— ISSUED —

EVERY AFTERNOON

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F. J. TESTA, Proprietor and Publisher.

FREDUND NORRIS, Editor.

W. HORACE WRIGHT, Assistant Editor.
Residing in Honolulu.

FRIDAY, JULY 20, 1900.

THE LEPER QUESTION.

The special agent of the Post Office Department believes that measures must be adopted which will prevent the inmates of the Leper Settlement to correspond with their friends and business agents except through an amanuensis.

The agent knows his business of course and we have no fault to find with his ruling—if the ruling is in accord with that laid down by the U. S. Post Office Department. We will not enter on a discussion whether germs of leprosy may be spread through letters written by lepers to their friends. Mr. Flint believes they can and the greatest medical authorities say they cannot. But how about money—paper or coin—which the lepers own and forward to their families for their support or for buying supplies for them. How about the moneys paid into the stores at Kalaupapa by lepers and remitted to Honolulu? Will it be necessary to have an "amanuensis" to handle the coin or should a branch of the U. S. mints be established at the Settlement? A letter sent from a leper to one person can never spread as many germs as the money which will be circulated among thousands of people. It is well known that money is the great medium for the spreading of contagious diseases and yet it has never been suggested to deprive the lepers of their money and prevent them from making their remittances. We presume the Special Agent will also stop those suffering from consumption from writing letters except per amanuensis, and his next step will be to have an amanuensis appointed for every syphilitic person in the States.

Whether leprosy is contagious is a question which has never been settled yet. Armand Hansen, the greatest authority on the subject says it is not directly contagious and the younger scientists who have made the sickness a study follow in his steps. However, the question before us is how the people of the Territory will receive the suggestion attributed to Mr. Flint. The lepers will resent it with good reason as any other person would who was asked to write his confidential communications through officials appointed by the government. It is safe to say that no complaints against the officials would ever reach the friends of the lepers or the press or headquarters.

The Advertiser writes:

The charge is made by those who want to abolish segregation that the system has not abated the white plague in the least: that there is as much leprosy in proportion to the whole number of inhabitants as there ever was. If this is true it simply means that the rules of segregation are too lax.

We differ with the Advertiser. It means that segregation is a failure. Why haven't the countries where leprosy exists adopted segregation and why is it that the disease has decreased in all and disappeared in

some where at one time it was a dreaded and common disease. We approve of segregation from a purely scientific point of view because we would not wish to see our streets filled by lepers as the streets of Naples are by beggars covered with hideous noses and deformities. But we want the lepers treated in all respects as free citizens, and if an attempt is made to tamper with their mail and to deprive them of the sacred secrecy of a letter, we predict that the first territorial legislature will repeal the laws relating to the segregation of lepers.

Mr. Flint leaves this evening for the Settlement and he will have an opportunity to converse with many intelligent men conversant with the sentiment existing there, and we believe that he will find that we voice, not the lepers only, but the large majority of the people of this Territory.

THE REACTION.

A correspondent asks us why the banks and capitalists decline to advance money on real estate or other good securities. He asks us why there is a distinct depression in trade during the last two months, why the sugar stocks will not "go up;" why the premiums on exchange have dropped from 75 to 30, and why our imports exceed our exports.

We are not quite prepared to answer the important questions propounded, but we should say that the money lenders decline to advance money on real estate because the borrowers are placing an excessive valuation on their properties. The banks as a rule were willing to advance loans on real estate to one-half or even two-thirds of the assessable valuation. If there is sufficient money in the market we believe the banks would continue to do so, but they will certainly place their own valuation on the securities offered and not accept that of the man who believes we have a tremendous boom.

Our correspondent insinuates that the banks have formed a ring for the purpose of freezing out the small fry and more especially for the purpose of controlling the next election and the Legislature by holding the whip-hand over the small property owners. We do not believe that politics play the slightest figure in the present financial situation, or that the capitalists give a thought to the next Legislature. They have troubles enough of their own for the present.

The depression in trade is simply due to the lack of ready money and to the fact that we are over-stocked with people and under-stocked with business. This is the dull season anyway, and the outlook for strikes and wars make people who have money wary of their cash.

The sugar stocks will not, "go up" as long as the labor question is settled. Besides there are a great deal of assessable stocks to be attended to and the holders have to do all they can to meet their obligations. The market was inflated from the beginning and the balloon is ready to burst.

That the premium on exchange has dropped was to be expected. It may be construed as a sign of a drop in the prosperous condition of the country, but we really don't see why even the present premium should be as high as it is.

We have not been able to ascertain to-day whether our imports really have exceeded our exports, which, if it is a fact, would be an alarming surprise. If it is so we presume it is due to the heavy imports of machinery and material for new plantations, and to the large stock of goods ordered prior to our becoming a Territory.

That the inevitable reaction to our "boom" has come is a sure thing and some disastrous results may be expected in the near future.

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

The columns of THE INDEPENDENT are always open to Colonel C. P. Iaukea. We publish with pleasure his communication to-day and express our surprise that he for a moment can consider our remarks about the David affair as a personal attack. We simply tried to express our admiration of the gallant colonel in his fight against immorality and congratulated morality on having such a virtuous champion. We take our hats off to the Duke of Waialua. P. O. address, Haleiwa.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Iaukea Objects.

ED. THE INDEPENDENT:—

HALEIWA, WAIALUA, H. I.,
19th of July.

You seem to take especial delight when making reference to myself in the columns of your paper, to place me in the most light possible before your readers. I don't mind your making personal attacks if you will only allow me an opportunity to make answer.

In speaking of the Charley David controversy you say that I considered it a duty to go before the Court and testify as to the immorality of my neighbor, etc. Now so far as considering it a duty was concerned, I would state that I was present by request of the Court and when asked to testify I stated what I believed to be the truth.

Perhaps if the friends to whom I entrusted my communication to the Star had not taken the liberty of withholding it from publication, you would not I believe, have found occasion to make this uncalled for slur and attack upon me.

Your truly,

C. P. IAUKEA.

The Fountain of Life is pure and unadulterated. Harry E. Juen's "Fountain" near the Railroad Depot on King street is the place where the thirsty find relief. Harry's smiling face greets the visitors when they enter the building in which the Fountain is flowing.

Court Notes.

H. A. Bigelow as master to whom was referred the fifth annual accounts of the trustees of the estate of Jas. W. Gay, deceased, has filed his report. He has found everything correct submitted, and he therefore recommend that the said accounts as filed by the said trustees be declared to be approved by this Honorable Court."

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