

THE INDEPENDENT

—ISSUED—

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V. S. TESTA, Proprietor and Pub

lisher.

Residing in Honolulu.

SATURDAY, DEC. 10, 1904.

SOME BACK HISTORY.

As many of the cases of embezzlement of public funds discovered recently, since those in power began the attempt of discrediting Hawaiians and have fairly succeeded, were for shortages checked and passed over during the incumbency of the former Auditor, and quite a few since, the question naturally arises—why were not these shortages discovered earlier and before much harm had been seriously done? Take, for an instance, the Land Office shortages, covered up from month to month for years and were only discovered lately, although, their existence were previously known by the other heads of that bureau and as testified to recently before the Circuit Court in a case since become notorious on account of the Governor's refusal to obey writs issued therefrom.

If the Government could go back some years and resurrect shortages already passed over, i. e., ostensibly looked into, checked and virtually approved by the responsible officials, we would suggest to the Territorial grand jury to do likewise in other matters. Why could not an investigation be ordered made by that

coup and robbery, committed flagrantly in 1899-1900, of the Treasury surplus in the suppression of the bubonic plague?

If cases against Hawaiians could be trumped up on what had already gone by, matters practically closed and officially vied, why couldn't the same be instituted against those who helped pilfer the public vaults during the days referred to? Let's be consistent, if we mean to be just, for what is good towards one set should also be good for another set, the only difference being probably that one is a native set and the other a haole crew, considered more intelligent and better in every way.

When the first reported case of the plague was discovered and quarantine declared on December 12, 1899, and further declared on the 27th following, the latter being the second quarantine, which latter quarantine was not declared raised till April 30, 1900, they had over \$800,000 promiscuously squandered in its suppression. On January 20, 1900, the great health fire, claimed to be accidental, but it was really a part of the plans mapped out, virtually destroyed nearly the whole of what is known as the native quarter, including Chinatown, west of Nuuanu street, and from Kukui street to the waterfront.

All this is not yet ancient history, for we are about to complete its fifth anniversary only, and there are yet many among us who were participants of those days, officially and otherwise. Quite a few became flush, but a great number suffered and because worse off than formerly. Others have gone and others have come, but there are many of them still enjoying themselves "in the happy hunting grounds" and are "living on the fat of the land."

The Fire Claims Commission, appointed under an act passed by the first Territorial Legislature of 1901, did its duty faithfully between the Government and the sufferers, but it had a hard task before it, because the alleged official data as incomplete, lacking and insufficient, in some cases irrelevant and incohesive, and, in many others, ineffectual, as there was nothing to go by. What the Commission did was the best that could have been done.

It is not the purpose of this article to laud the work of the Commission nor to decry the duty imposed upon it by law, and its failures, is any, as they have no bearing whatever with its subject matter—that of instituting an investigation against those who got their fingers into the Treasury surplus pie, even though it is only five years old, and deemed "ancient history." In the case against J. H. Boyd, the Government went back further, if our recollection serves us right, than 1900, because an accusation had to be made against him, which ultimately and finally failed in sticking him.

Soldiers guarded the proscribed district and were paid for their services. They were not the only ones, but their immediate company officers and their superiors. Many of those in the latter category were employed as office-holders, receiving monthly salaries, still these men received extra pay under the military, and at the same time were pulling the Government cow's tit, drawing the money from \$5 up per day

so we understand. This, then, is the point we are aiming at.

Was it right that they should receive double pay? We think not. During the time they were doing military duty, they were doing nothing for their civil salaries, yet they drew down two salaries, for a time at least, as long as the "fun" lasted and were "making all kinds of money."

This scheme of drawing two or more salaries is illegal, or was at that time, if we mistake not, and still they were allowed to draw and were virtually overlooked, as note the quiescent attitude of the powers that were and are. But as nothing has been heretofore done in reviewing and investigating the plague expenditures, since being approved by our present Governor, we think that something must be done now to show up a few of these plague hawks, who may be said to be now living somewhere in the vicinity of or on Easy Street, on either side of Shady Avenue.

We feel that this matter should merit some investigation. Fire claims business are virtually closed and settled. But if it is good policy in other matters to stir up what has gone by, why isn't it good policy in this affair? "What is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander." A grand jury investigation should be courted, if it is desired to rake up old rottenness.

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

The habeas corpus case now being tested in behalf of an alleged leper is probably the first of its kind ever known to have been brought up here. It is a very important test case and the result is awaited with much concern. Judge Dole says that he does not know of any case of the kind being brought up here in the past.

Taking the election contest to Washington may not have the effect of un-seating Delegate Kuhio, but it will bring the rottenness of Republican management of the last election before the lime-lights of the whole nation. It will show to the American people the species of trickery, coercion and fraud practiced by the Republicans here to carry their ends, and will result in, at least, setting the Democratic party right before the nation.

Because the New York Herald has seen fit to publish something pertaining to our election from a correspondent here, the Advertiser humps and goes into hysterics because the truth is told of how things were done. It must be suffering with indigestion. The "idiot" who wrote that correspondence is no doubt its own correspondent here on the ground, who has been such for some years, who is a known newspaper man, and not a "weird fakir" as claimed. Had he written the other way, it would have been all right, you bet.

Gov. Carter is quoted, in a Bulletin interview of the other day, with regard to the "need of new law in land matters," the words quoted being the caption, as saying "in relation to the collecting of taxes" wherein and whereby "the Government is constantly losing thousands of dollars in interest on money due it. The only penalty for not paying

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MART TANNER, 321 Hamilton St., Albany, N. Y. Sworn to and subscribed before me this 17th day of September, 1899. NEIL F. TOWNER, Notary Public, Albany Co., N. Y.

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taxes in time is the ten per cent which is fixed once for all. After the ten per cent is assessed, a man can let his taxes run on without fear of any penalty or interest on the money due outside of the ten per cent assessed once for all." The Governor has hit it right. But the Government, by the Assessor, instituted proceedings, got judgment and levied executions, with the High Sheriff's assistance, enforcing them by forced sales for delinquency. As pointed out by the Governor, and there being no law, what is to become of the sales enforced and who are to suffer, the delinquents, the purchasers or the Government? Such being the case, it is up to the Government to make immediate restitution or else suffer the consequences to follow. A bad break has evidently been made by somebody in these forced tax sales.

NOTICE

Is hereby given that WONG HEN has this day withdrawn from the firm of SUN KWONG SING WAI COMPANY of Hanamulu, Kauai, and that CHANG YOUNG HUI has this day been admitted into the said firm, as one of the members therein.

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