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## LABOR QUESTION

Some of the Objects of Mr. Ray's Visit.

Has No Doubt the Territorial Bill Will Pass at the Next Congress.

D. A. Ray came up on the last Kinau for the purpose of viewing the outbreak, says the Hilo Herald. Mr. Ray is the secretary of the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee and private secretary to Senator Cullom. He came here with the United States Commission last year, and his visit to the Islands at this time is for the purpose of investigation. Specifically he will look into the matter of labor and his report will be handed to Senator Cullom on his return.

"You will understand," he said to a Herald representative, "that the commission looked pretty generally into everything when here, but when they arrived back in Washington and framed the bill that was presented to Congress, and defeated, they found a pretty strong opposition. This came, in part, from the anti-expansionists and from men who oppose the measure with a main view to disorganizing the Republican side. The bill will be brought up early in the next session of Congress and the commissioners want to make their position as strong as possible. For that reason I was dispatched to the Islands to ascertain the exact number of laborers arriving here since the 12th day of August, and the number departing. Then I will find out the laborers and their nationality engaged on the Islands in agricultural pursuits. This labor question is apt to cut an important part in the debate in the Senate, and both Senator Morgan and Senator Cullom are anxious to be familiar with every detail.

"I cannot say whether the United States labor laws will be extended here, but I feel free to say that the present labor laws of Hawaii will be modified. Since annexation took place Chinese immigration has ceased, but the laws of the Islands permit unlimited immigration of Japanese. This can hardly be considered fair. Of course, the Japanese can come in by their treaty, but it may be necessary to make some arrangements with that government regarding future immigration. If this is to be done I guess the United States is in a position to make the arrangements.

"While I am on the Islands I will confer with the planters and others and get their views. I have had an interesting conversation with H. P. Baldwin, and he has promised to give me his views in writing. This and any other reports I may have I will hand Senator Cullom on my return and the commission will discuss them. Knowing the pulse of the Senate as I do I can say this much: The labor problem will be solved to the satisfaction of the people of the United States and the Islands irrespective of individuals. It is barely possible that Mr. Baldwin's report or any other report may be laid aside unless they are in touch with public sentiment; the opposition may not want to consider such statements owing to the fact that Mr. Baldwin and the planters are directly and personally interested, though I do not for a moment believe that he would make a statement on this subject for personal gain. There have been a number of anti-expansionist people here from the Mainland, some of them sent here for the purpose of investigating conditions and reporting their observations. Senator Pettigrew, a bright, capable man, has visited the Islands and he has a stack of documents as high as your desk. When the bill comes before the Senate he will be primed with information on the subject. Personally I have no doubt the bill will pass; possibly it may be amended slightly, possibly not. I know that among some of the Democrats the matter of franchise has been given considerable thought. There are some who oppose property qualification, others who oppose educational qualification for various reasons, but when the time comes they may let these items pass without serious opposition. Personally, I look upon a limited property qualification with certain favor, because it was in force during the monarchy when the Hawaiians were believed to be satisfied. I admit it is un-American in principle and it may not be in the bill when it passes Congress.

"So far as your election is concerned I am sure it will be set for a time when it will be agreeable for all parties and the time will be fixed in the bill. There are a few matters connected with the war that will first have the attention of Congress early in the session, but action on the Hawaiian bill will not be long deferred. Interest has not waned among the Senators or among the people in the United States and whenever and wherever I am willing to talk on the subject I find many interested listeners.

"The people of Hawaii need not be concerned as to the form of government they are to have. I do not believe a 'colonial' will be considered and I can speak almost authoritatively when I say you will have a territorial form of government, with possibly certain modifications. The commissioners have a high regard for the present government and personally I consider it the best on the face of the earth. With a territorial form you will have municipalities, and suburban towns will be governed differently from what they now are.

"Before I left Washington I met Dr. Pritchett, superintendent of the United States Coast Survey and during a conversation he requested me to secure all possible information regarding the surveys of the bays, etc., made by this Government. These will be used as a guide, and when the 'Pathfinder' the

handsome new survey vessel, comes here and the surveys are verified they will become a part of the records of the United States. The matter will be presented to Congress, and I have no doubt it will receive prompt attention. There will be no delay in action upon the Hawaiian bill as soon as certain matters connected with the war are out of the way. I have nothing to say regarding the Governorship," said Mr. Ray, at the close of the interview. "Further than that I do not believe President McKinley has made up his mind who he will appoint. When he does he will act and nothing can change him."

### At the Orpheum.

There was another big house at the Orpheum last evening. "The Diamond Palace" is full of fun and pleases the crowd. The Hartwell sisters are still the favorites they have always been. Miss Brandes received hearty encores for her singing of old favorites. Post and Marion are at their best in plantation specialties. Boggs and Miss Haewood do clever work in their bright sketch, "A Kiss in the Dark." The Salvinis in grand acrobatic feats are startling. Troibert, the wizard, is a bright and shining star with his clever legerdemain.

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