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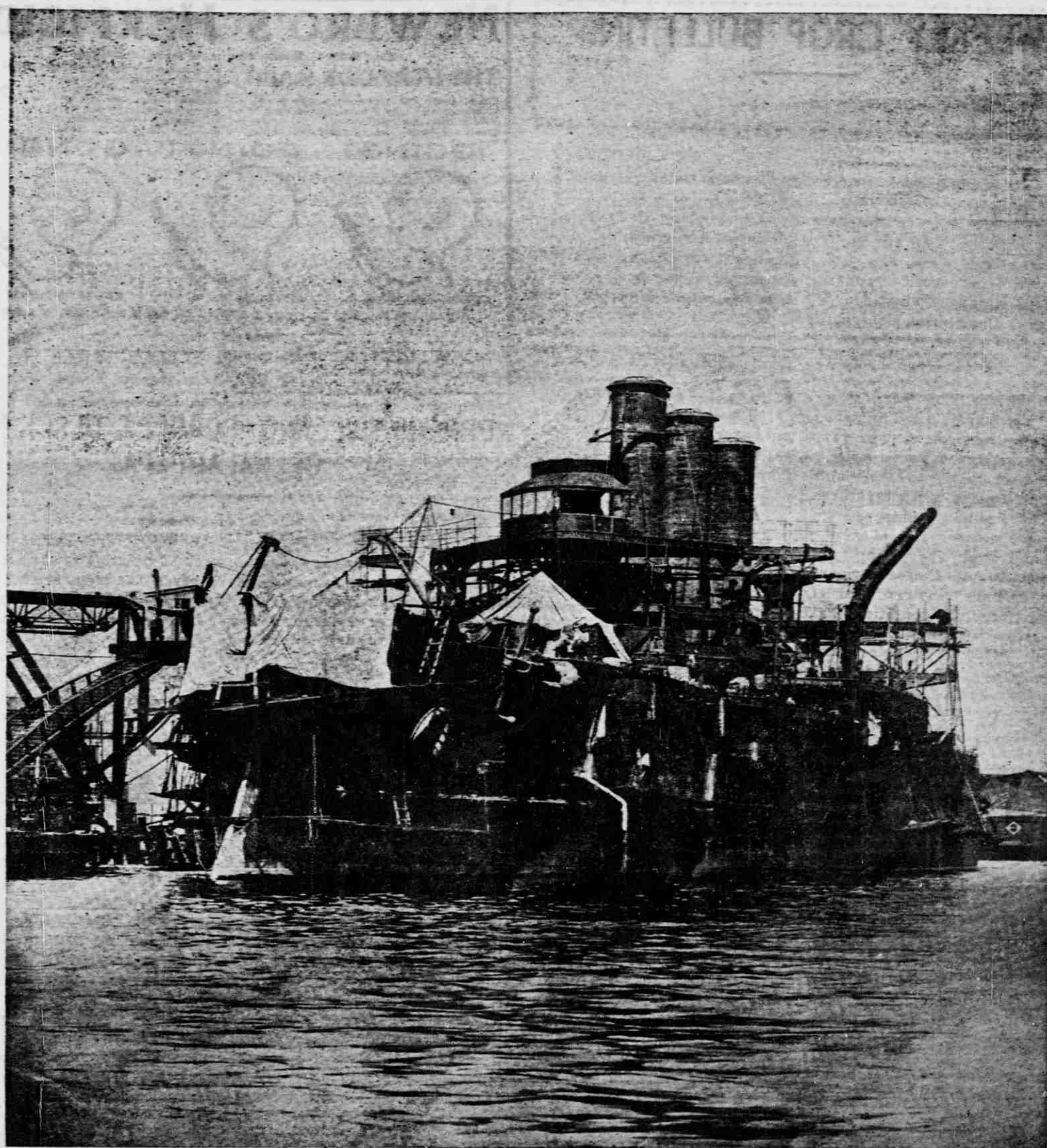
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APPRECIATIVE AND CORRECT DESCRIPTION OF KALAUPAPA

Washington Star:—To at last seek a means of healing the leper—that hitherto incurable and always most pitiable of outcasts—Dr. Walter Wyman, surgeon general of the public health and marine hospital service of the federal government, will forthwith erect upon the beautiful island of Molokai, Hawaii, an interesting institution to be known as a "leprosarium."

Upon a peninsula of eight square miles, jutting out from the northern coast of Molokai, is located our territorial leper colony, shut off from the remainder of the island by a range of bold, precipitous and rugged cliffs. Beyond this steep range—which stands as a discouraging barrier against the escape of the 900 lepers of the settlement—a mile square of land has just been turned over by the territorial authorities for this new hospital and experiment station. No more advantageous spot for such research could be found upon earth, and in the two villages, Kalaupapa and Kalawao, situated within the colony, the physicians in charge will find convenient for study all phases of the terrible disease.

NOT A MELANCHOLY PLACE.

These two groups of white cottages and churches, surrounded by tropical fruits and flowers and inclosed by fences of stone or lava, are not the melancholy and somber places which you had in your mind's eye a moment ago. Chief Quarantine Officer Cofer, who visited them recently and reported their condition to the public health service, said that among the 400 lepers who stood upon the wharf when landed on Molokai, he saw a number of distorted faces, but not an unhappy one. He could but admire the hopeful and cheerful manner in which the colonists resigned themselves to their fate. The greater part were gaily dressed in their holiday clothes—the men in white duck trousers and straw hats of the latest fashion. A leper band was discoursing lively music, and things in general took on the appearance of a country fair. Many of the lepers have saddle horses, and while exercising thereupon enjoy some of the most beautiful tropic scenery to be had in Hawaii. Some earn pocket money by working in the "taro" patches of the settlement, where are grown those starchy tubers from which the Hawaiian makes his esteemed "poi." The fresh water from the cool mountain springs is piped to their settlements. All of the necessities of life, including food, shelter and clothing—even matches, kerosene and soap—are furnished to them gratis by the government, and what extra pin money they earn may be invested at the "board of health" store for the little foibles and vanities of life. This mercantile establishment, kept by a leper employe of the board, takes in some \$12,000 or more per year, expended in luxuries contributing to the happiness of the optimistic outcasts.

CAN NO LONGER TOUCH VISITORS.

Until a few years ago, friends and relatives were allowed to visit the lepers of Molokai only once a year, but the territorial board of health, under our improved regime, has lately ruled that such visits may be made at any time. This innovation, of course, brought much happiness to the little colony, but by way of reciprocation the government now exacts that personal contact between lepers and their visitors must not occur; whereas, formerly, visitors might embrace and kiss their diseased friends, the former are now marched from the steamer landing to a corral with double fence, and the

lepers may gather about and talk to them only through the bars. No lepers are allowed within the spacious grounds of the superintendent's home. Once each year the Hawaiian board of health visits the colony, inspects all of the buildings and takes luncheon at the superintendent's dwelling. After this refreshment the president goes to the gate of the inclosure and announces himself ready to listen to any complaints and petitions from the colonists.

About 165 healthy persons live within the colony and contribute to the happiness or comfort of the lepers. Some seventy of these are employed to feed and otherwise care for helpless lepers, about eighty are non-leprous children of lepers and the remainder are employes of the administrative department—servants, Catholic brothers and sisters. It is the general opinion that, in time, these normal ones will become lepers. About one of their ranks falls a victim each year.

One of the sights of the colony is the grave of Father Damien, at Kalawao. Adjacent is the church built by this good martyr. Joseph de Veuster Damien was a Belgian priest, and when he arrived at Molokai, in 1873, he was an active, healthy man of fine physique and only thirty-four years. He remained perfectly well for eleven years, at the end of which, in 1884, he commenced to feel pains in his left foot. In six months, during which the priest believed himself only a victim of rheumatism, the disease became manifest, and after a period of nearly five years, it had gradually gnawed into his vitals and claimed him as a victim.

RACE SUICIDE NOT THE FASHION.

The four score of lepers' non-leprous children to be seen on Molokai are retained in the colony because their parents will not consent to their transfer to the Kapiolani home, at Honolulu, an institution founded for the purpose of giving such little ones a clean start in life. "Race suicide" is by no means popular on Molokai, devoutly as the health authorities wish it were. Indulgent—indeed to a foolhardy degree—is the law which gives these infected parents the right to retain their offspring on the island. It would seem to the writer that the government should not only prevent this optional retention of helpless children, but take even a more radical step and enforce "race suicide" in the colony. According to Dr. George Henry Fox, clinical professor of diseases of the skin, New York College of Physicians and Surgeons, leprosy is doubtless hereditary; but is contagious to a much slighter degree than is commonly supposed, the husband or wife of a leper often remaining perfectly free, while the children suffer. Dr. Cofer, however, reports the case of a man on the island of Maui, Hawaii, who lived fifteen years with his leper wife and had fourteen children by her, neither he nor—at last accounts—the children developing the disease.

THE BATH CURE.

The only treatment applied to the lepers of Molokai is the so-called Goto method used at the Hawaiian Home for Leper Boys, an institution of the colony supervised by Brother Dutton, a Catholic priest. The more than a hundred patients here are bathed two or three times daily in hot water containing an infusion of "hichiyoo" bark, "taifunshi" and sulphur. In connection with the bath a certain tea and pill, of unknown ingredients, are administered. In the colony there is also the Bishop Home for Leper Girls, containing a hundred inmates. It is noted on Molokai that lepers performing regular manual labor or enjoying systematic physical exercise show a much slower advance of the disease than those leading an inactive life. Some sufferers are able to prolong their existence on the island for thirty years.

The new leprosarium will receive forty lepers at a time. It will

(Continued on page 6.)

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