

# Honolulu Star-Bulletin

RILEY H. ALLEN

EDITOR

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Whoever makes home seem to the young dear and more happy is a public benefactor.—Henry Ward Beecher.

## THE SALOON AND ITS NEIGHBORHOOD.

The question sent to the attorney-general by the liquor license commission involves more than a mere interpretation of law,—it involves the whole problem of regulation of saloons by the people of this and other Hawaiian communities.

The commission wishes a legal explanation of the term "holder" as used in the statutes under which a majority of property-holders can prevent a saloon from securing a license in their immediate neighborhood. The agent of the Anti-Saloon League says that "property-holder" means "property-owner", while the attorney for the license applicant argues that lessees or other tenants, as the residents on the affected property, are most vitally affected and therefore their attitude is to be consulted.

Regardless of the technical interpretation of the law, the fact that both the property-owners and temporary tenants are affected ought to be sufficient reason why both parties should be consulted. The tenants have a right to be heard. However, this factor at once comes in: were the temporary tenants to be given equal weight with the property-owners, the liquor interests might often be enabled to see that tenants were installed who would favor the saloon and thus force the saloon on a neighborhood where the property-owners were against it.

An interpretation of the law by the attorney-general should be supplemented by legislation that will safeguard the community against such an evil possibility. The citizens of the community should be able to know that opposition to a saloon in a certain location is bona-fide opposition and advocacy of a saloon in a certain location is bona-fide advocacy, not advocacy by dummy tenants colonized to secure one more foothold for the distribution of liquor.

## JAPAN'S NAVY LOSS

The storm which swept Japan Monday night and yesterday has done more than take the lives of some thousands of people. It has damaged the formidable navy structure which Nippon is building up at the expense of a tax-ridden people.

Whether the damage to the navy is the loss of four battleships or of two torpedo-boat destroyers and two battleships has not been definitely determined, nor is it known certainly that the vessels are of the late and costly types. However, the blow is a very serious one at this time. Japan is carrying a national burden that strains her people to the utmost. One night of storm has given a disastrous set-back to a navy-building program that represents years of herculean effort. Man's little implements of war are puny indeed beside the strength of the elements loosed in all their fury.

## FORTUNES UNDER PAINT

Students of art will be interested in the report that Frank Davey, formerly of this city, has just uncovered a \$10,000 Murillo, and even though the value of the painting has probably been exaggerated, Davey's good luck brings to attention the large number of fine old masterpieces that have been brought to light in the past year or two. While many of these are examples of early work on the part of the painters of little worth except as indicating a developing technique and ideal, many others are almost priceless. Some of the best of the Velasquez portraits, for instance, have been found within the past few years.

The restoration of old paintings has grown to be almost a trade, and experts are now able to accomplish wonders. Paints badly torn, burned or so dirty as to be entirely indistinguishable have been cleaned up and repainted until they reproduced the original coloring and composition faithfully.

It is an axiom of art collectors that one will find treasure where he least expects it. Some of the greatest paintings now hung in the galleries of the world have been lost for decades, to be found in outhouses, moldy old furniture shops or in the hands of owners who had no idea of their worth. It is a good plan to examine carefully any old, dirty painting that comes into one's hands, and to use tepid water and a soap free from alkali, rubbing the water gingerly over the surface. After the picture is dried, brushed

with chamois-skin and a light picture varnish applied, unsuspected beauties may stand forth. Several valuable paintings, however, have been ruined through the eagerness of amateurs to find out what lay beneath the encrusting dirt, and extreme care must be exercised.

On the other hand, if you are an American travelling in Europe and evince a desire to secure old paintings and show any indication of wealth, you will be pestered by an army of fakers, anyone of whom will swear he has a Rembrandt or a Raphael discovered in some obscure spot where it has rested for generations. Not a few ambitious collectors have been swindled with an ease and thoroughness that would do credit to a gold-brick expert.

## NEW JERSEY PROGRESS

The victory of William Hughes, of Paterson, N. J., in the New Jersey primaries on Monday which determined the Democratic nomination for United States senator is as plain a victory of the people over the boss system as any American community has ever witnessed.

Backed by Gov. Wilson, Hughes, who is now a New Jersey congressman, has apparently carried every New Jersey county except one, while the "Wilson ticket" for state offices was uniformly successful.

Jim Smith, again repudiated by the people of New Jersey, is the boss that Wilson, the college president, went out to beat—and did beat. It was Wilson's fight against Smith and against Smith's system which put the collegian in line for the presidential nomination. It was Wilson's fight against Smith that gave New Jersey its present direct primary law. Wilson saw that the stronghold of the boss system in American politics is the convention. He saw that the dirtiest deals in politics are made possible by the convention. And he went at the root of the evil.

He wrote New Jersey's primary law, one of his supporters by the name of Geran introduced it, and Wilson put it through the state legislature. That law provides for the nomination of United States senators at the primaries. It provides also that every candidate for the state legislature, which elects the senators, shall file with his own nominating petition a statement declaring either that he will support the senatorial candidate who has the highest primary vote, or that he will not be bound by primary vote. Thus the voters know what to expect of their legislators when it comes to electing a United States senator.

Gov. Wilson's attack on the boss system brought upon his head the bitterest assault any prominent man in public life has known for five years past. But he beat the boss and he beat the system. Jim Smith's power in New Jersey is broken,—broken by a man who did not fear to point out the evils in his own party and to urge their correction.

The results in New Jersey ought to be an inspiration to any man, Republican or Democrat, who believes in the rule of all the people rather than in the rule of a few.

The talk of a non-partisan movement grows stronger. But most of the leading Democrats out for office are of the type that would deliver the city voters into the hands of a perfect machine. With Fern as mayor, Jarrett as sheriff, McClellan or Petrie as head of the police committee of the supervisors, McCarthy as treasurer and enough members of the board to insure a Democratic road boss, the chain would be complete. Such facts should make the non-partisans pause and consider. Undoubtedly there are good men on the Democratic ticket. Would they be outweighed by the inevitable machine organization, so that the efforts of the individually good men would be useless?

A bona-fide citizens' movement in politics does not use the names of prospective candidates without their authority and against their wishes. That's what the matter with the mythical "Committee of Fifty". Its action was nothing less than impertinence.

Perhaps the thirteen Taft delegates who left the California convention expect to exert their evil omen in the direction of Oyster Bay.

All the International Peace Conference needs to make it a good fight is a referee and a couple of towel-wielders.

Secretary Knox will get back to Washington about the time the campaign fund furor is at its height.

## SUPERVISORS TURN DOWN AH LEONG'S NEW TENEMENT

James Rath's Arguments in Behalf of Palama School Sustained, as Well as That of Building Inspector Who Retused Permit

A lengthy formal plea by J. Lightfoot, attorney for Ah Leong, made before the board of supervisors last night, was intended to procure the overturning of Building Inspector McIlverson's decision against the erection of a tenement on Liliha street, corner of King street. By unanimous vote of the six members the refusal of a permit by the inspector for such a structure was sustained. J. A. Rath, head worker of Palama Settlement, took part in the discussion and although he had not come particularly to fight the proposed tenement, he felt constrained to object to some of the attorney's arguments and conclusions of fact.

Mr. Lightfoot said he appeared on behalf of the petitioner of Ah Leong containing an appeal from the decision of the building inspector denying a permit to construct a tenement at Liliha street, corner of King street. The plan and specifications for the building had been approved by the board of health as to location. The permit was refused by the inspector on the ground that the building would be within 100 feet of a school, reference being to the kindergarten of Palama Settlement.

Argues for Tenement. It was contended by Lightfoot that the kindergarten in question was not a school within the meaning of the ordinance. At great length he argued that tenements in that particular section were a particular benefit to the working people, especially those toiling on the wharves who needed to live near their work. Employment was so irregular for waterfront workers that many of them could not afford to live in cottages at rentals of \$8 to \$20 a month. Tenement houses were a necessary, or a necessary evil if they put it that way. The corner of Liliha and King streets was in a tenement district, and the speaker considered it well that a tenement should exist there within the saving influence of Palama Settlement. An ordinance should be sensibly, not strictly construed, and it would be admitted that the Settlement kindergarten was not a school.

Deputy Attorney McIlverson, before replying to Mr. Lightfoot, desired to put some questions to Mr. Rath. The answers were in substance as follows: "We are conducting a kindergarten, which is listed in the board of education as a private school. On the mainland kindergartens are a part of the public school system. Teachers in

the kindergartens are specially trained in different branches. There is an average attendance of 98 per day at the Palama kindergarten. We also conduct a night school with an average attendance of 60, composed of working boys from 15 or 16 to men of 25 or 30." Cross-questioned by Mr. Lightfoot, he said some of the teachers in the night school are certified by the department of public instruction.

Rath Explains Stand. Mr. Rath then on his own behalf explained his position. Mr. Lightfoot's client, he remarked, was not acting for the benefit of the poor but in his own interest. It was a fact that 64 percent of the cases of tuberculosis and 85 percent of the cases of eye disease in Honolulu came from the congested districts where tenement houses were. If the tenements were not doing the work of housing the poor satisfactorily, let the government do it as it does in other countries.

Mr. Lightfoot, replying, asked: "How do sensible boards of supervisors do—say to the people, 'You must not live here,' or say 'We must prevent the construction of tenements that do not comply with sanitary rules and regulations.' It was no worse to live in an insanitary tenement than it was to live in an insanitary palace."

Mr. McIlverson said it had everywhere been adjudicated that tenements were subject to regulation, as to sanitation and to location also. There was a class of people occupying tenements which should not be brought in contact with school children. There was no reason for the board to overrule the building inspector in this case unless it was to assume judicial functions. There were two grounds in the petition—first, that the kindergarten was not a school, and second, that the ordinance was unconstitutional. Both of these were points of law which the board could not determine.

Mr. Lightfoot said the ordinance could be modified, to which Mr. McIlverson replied that all the board could do was either to amend or repeal the ordinance.

Mr. McClellan, saying it was simply a question of law and if opponents of the ordinance wished to contest it let them take it to the Supreme Court, moved that the decision of the inspector be approved by the board. The motion carried unanimously on the ayes and noes being called.

## LETTERS ON TIMELY TOPICS

THE MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENT. Editor Star-Bulletin.—Sir: Kindly allow me a few lines in your paper to correct the article headed "Child injured by motorcycle" which states that no blame is attached to those running the machine.

When I asked Mr. Saylor why he did not turn his machine aside, his answer was that he would run into the sidewalk and probably smash his machine so in order to save his machine which he did, he smashed his son.

According to Mr. Frazier the mail man and several other eye witnesses, Mr. Saylor was entirely to blame for the accident it was a case pure and simple of rank carelessness on his part.

And what is more, Mr. Editor, after my boy was knocked down and lay on the road unconscious the Rev. Saylor (a minister of the gospel) refused to carry him in the house, but stood arguing. Mr. Frazier and Mr. McCrackin carried the unconscious boy into the house.

Thanking you for this space, I remain, JOHN E. RICE, 2151 King Street.

(This paper made no assertion no blame attaches to those driving the machine. The Star-Bulletin distinctly stated in its report yesterday that witnesses of the accident said the riders were not to blame. Whether the riders were or were not to blame this paper has no means of knowing except by statements, and is glad to present all the facts in the case, which appears to warrant investigation, if the lad has been seriously injured.—Editor.)

Creditor—How often must I climb these five flights of stairs before I get the amount of this little account? Debtor—Do you think I am going to rent a place on the first floor to accommodate my creditors?

## LITTLE INTERVIEWS

FRED POTTER—We are now having made an 800-foot fishing net for the Aquarium. When it is finished the police drag-net will be insignificant in comparison.

ALEXANDER YOUNG — It is a mistake to water grass here at any other time than early morning or late evening. The sun beating down on grass watered during the hotter portions of the day generates steam which is fatal to the good looks of lawns. This is why the grass in portions of Kapiolani Park looks withered. The hours of the prison labor is such that the grass must be watered during the heat of the day. When the winter rains come, however, there should be rejuvenation.

Marriage brings a few happy moments and many unhappy hours.

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- PALAMA—Auld Lane; House and Lot 1750.00
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