

Honolulu Star-Bulletin

RILEY H. ALLEN

EDITOR

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FIDDLE ALONG—OR FIGHT?

House Bill 13, providing a new city charter, is moving serenely on its way, steered by men shrewd in politics and "playing the game" for all it is worth.

This is the bill carrying the "convention charter." The Chamber of Commerce, Ad Club, Rotary Club, Civic Federation and Commercial Club through their joint committee have gone on record against the bill, and its political "jokers" were smoked out in a report this newspaper printed in full.

The Chamber of Commerce proposed several plans for a new charter and finally decided to work for certain amendments. It is needless to review these amendments. Suffice it to say, they aim to provide the "short ballot" and unification of powers. They also launched a blow at the kind of charter-making which is inspired by machine politics.

Out of the various conferences, caucuses and confabs of the Oahu delegation come fairly specific rumors showing that with few changes the so-called "Andrews-Murray" charter—that is, the convention proposal—is to be put through the house. It is proposed, if reports be correct, to make what may on the surface appear to be a compromise—to have an appointive instead of an elective superintendent of city works, and to create the appointive office of chief of police, reducing the sheriff's job to that of a civil officer with little to do but serve papers and draw his salary.

If these same reports from alleged "insiders" be correct, the principle on which the civic and commercial bodies have taken their stand—that of centering responsibility and unifying powers—will be ignored. It will be violated. It will be repudiated. There will be no short ballot. The same old, familiar opportunities will exist for officials to "pass the buck" when some citizen and taxpayer comes around with a specific kick.

This is the situation. What is the answer by the businessmen who a few nights ago crowded the hall of representatives to support a modern, efficient, forward-looking charter? Where are they now? Where are they going to be as this fight goes along? Will they sit in swivel-chairs or get out and fight for what they have already endorsed? Are they going to take program from the politicians?

If the members of the civic and commercial organizations are going to stay out of the fight while the forces on the other side are working night and day, the Chamber of Commerce amendments will be swept to the junk-heap.

What is it—fiddle along or fight?

MILK INSPECTION UNDER FIRE.

Where the advocates of milk control by the territory probably failed before the judiciary committee of the senate yesterday was in not proving their claims that the present city inspection is faulty.

The supporters of city and county government hence could get a hearing for their accusation that the three bills are directed toward robbing the local authorities of rightful functions.

The Milk Commission which reported to the governor on February 1 unanimously recommended that the control of milk and dairies be exclusively under the territory. The report was signed by Dr. J. S. B. Pratt, chairman, John Effinger, William H. Heen (deputy attorney-general) and A. W. Hansen, territorial food inspector and a recognized expert. In that report many statements are made concerning poor condition of dairies. However, it fails to make out a case absolutely in favor of territorial inspection.

On Oahu, the municipality has taken over control of dairies. On Kauai, Maui and Hawaii the territorial authorities still have jurisdiction, since these counties have not exercised their right under the territorial law to pass ordinances that would place milk supervision in county hands.

Now the commission's report finds much to criticize in these outside counties as well as on Oahu. In other words, no clear case is made out for the argument that territorial supervision is more efficient than county supervision. It is not shown that dairies on Oahu have retrograded while those on the other islands have advanced.

There does exist a very lively suspicion in Honolulu that politics has been played with milk inspection. The mayor's brother, alleged to have been dismissed from the territorial board of health as incompetent, is the milk inspector. Nor is there any doubt that the milk commission has found conditions on Oahu that should not exist.

In the opinion of a great many people, the present dual system of sanitary inspection in the territory is absolutely, inexcusably weak. There is a "twilight zone" of irresponsibility—where neither the territory nor the city appears able to get effective action. A few years ago there were ridiculous disputes between the two as to market inspection. Certainly the laws need revision, and sanitary control should be unified as far as possible.

The milk commission has pointed out specific faults in the city inspection results. If the legislature does not take from the city the right of control, Mayor Lane ought to lead a movement to eradicate these faults, whether or not it costs his brother the

much-discussed job. Because a case has not been made out in favor of territorial inspection is no excuse for the conditions which the milk commission finds are a menace to the health of the people—particularly to the babies.

NO DANGER OF DESPOTISM.

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger.

Nervous politicians who fear that the republic will be in danger if the president is given ample powers to deal with the emergencies of war, should overhaul their American history and when found make a note. The truth is that the kind of party government which works very well in time of peace is inadequate to deal with situations that require prompt decision and immediate action. Lincoln was denounced as a despot during the Civil War, but no one now believes that he used his powers for any other purpose than the common good. Senator Fall justly says that "the other democracies of the world, more democratic in their forms of government in many respects than this, have found that they were inefficient, that they were not prepared even to preserve their national lives." This is most conspicuously the case with Great Britain, whose parliamentary system has been most highly developed. Coalition government had to succeed party government, and now comes cabinet government—cabinet government reduced to five men, even in effect to one. France, harrassed ordinarily by a group system adverse to a definite ministerial policy, has rallied to the crisis with less change in method. M. Briand has great authority, as Senator Fall remarks, but the significant thing is that parliament has not abdicated its authority, but rather consolidated it behind the premier.

WHISKY ON THE TOBOGGAN.

"Whisky on the Toboggan" is the headline over a news item in a Philadelphia, and a glance at the statistics shows that the statement is true.

Statistics are available to show that in three banner distilling states—Kentucky, Pennsylvania and Maryland—there is a marked decline in the production of whisky.

Table with 2 columns: Year and Gallons. Data for 1912-1916 in Pennsylvania and Kentucky.

In Kentucky the production of whisky dropped from 43,622,098 gallons in 1912 to 1,980,200 gallons in 1915. In Maryland it dropped from 5,950,827 gallons in 1912 to 506,919 gallons in 1915.

One of the favorite dodges of the booze interests is a juggling of figures to show that although "dry" territory is steadily increasing, the amount of liquor consumed in the United States is also going up. In view of the facts concerning the decrease in production of whisky, the statements of the booze advocates must be discounted.

Now comes the information that a well at Sour Lake is producing oil of a gravity of 37. Drillers and oil men were sure no such oil was to be had in this territory. This goes to prove that everything is possible in Texas—and the home prophet will continue to be without honor here.—Houston Post.

This indifferent attitude toward the pacifist conspirators against the good name, the good fame and the essential unity and peace of the nation is destructive of the elements of freedom. The guilty persons should be taken account of in adequate fashion.—Baltimore American.

Well, if nothing else happens, the seizure of the Appam by American customs officers has at last aroused curiosity as to why the navy department ever named a revenue cutter Yamacraw.—Indianapolis News.

More big game fishermen are coming this way. Hawaii is becoming known the world over for its gamy denizens of the deep. The Tuna Club is a one hundred per cent investment for the islands.

Germany's press finds fault with the president's recent inaugural address. That is to be expected. Germany can't derive much comfort from any of Mr. Wilson's recent utterances.

Cuba's rebellion is so far suppressed by President Menocal that it has become necessary for American marines to be landed at Santiago to maintain order.

How doth the little German plot improve each shining hour; mit scheme and Kultur, "me un! Gott" would bomb the Entente power.

Nobody need get particularly excited over the revival of a project to import 25,000 Chinese coolies here. It will not be done.

It might be remarked that all the Germans who are leaving the United States for Mexico can be spared.

Nobody has yet called Lawson to find out who "leaked" the German-Mexican plot.

They're busting the filibuster.

Letters of TIMELY TOPICS

(The Star-Bulletin invites free and frank discussion upon subjects of timely interest by letters in this column, but neither assumes responsibility for the utterances of the writers nor necessarily indorses the view they express. No attention will be paid to anonymous communications, but names of writers will be held confidential if such request is made, unless the tenor of the letters is such that the views in fairness should be expressed over the signatures of those wishing to voice them. Contributors to this column are requested to typewrite communications when possible, to use but one side of the sheet and to make their letters brief. The Star-Bulletin cannot undertake to publish long letters nor return unsolicited communications or manuscripts.)

A CARNIVAL FLAW—THE POLICE

Editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin. Sir: There appears to be but one rift in the Carnival lute, and that is the handling of the police. They seem to be at sea without oars or rudder. It happened several times during the Carnival just closed, that an officer would order a crowd to do this or that, and he would be followed a few minutes later by another police officer who would countermand the other's orders and tell the crowd to get back where they were before.

One of the many instances along this line of reasoning, happened on Thursday night of Carnival week, before the Japanese lantern parade arrived. A line of autos had been parked at the curb on King street opposite the Hawaiian Electric Company's office. The people in these autos had come early and held the position with their autos, this same privilege being allowed the year before. Half an hour before the parade, along comes Police Officer Branco on a motorcycle and orders the whole line of waiting autos to move off the street, as no autos would be allowed to stand there. He was reminded of the privilege so granted the year before, but no argument would convince him, so the whole line of autos must needs move to side streets where all points of vantage had been preempted. Five minutes after they had vacated their positions on King street their places were taken by other autos which came late and were not entitled to be so favored, but they remained there throughout the passing of the procession.

Complaint to the mounted police officer of that section only brought the answer that the late comers were told they could stand there by the sheriff. Communication with the sheriff brought out the fact that he knew nothing about the matter.

Such actions on the part of the police do not sweeten the disposition of those who were "bumped" from the places they had held for an hour or so, and, besides, the public would like to know by what right the sheriff can grant such a privilege to one and not to another, also if he has any right in the matter at all.

KICKER.

A VISITOR'S APPRECIATION

Editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin. Sir: Here is appreciation of the Hawaiian Islands expressed in a very few words, but it contains a word of praise which will make any islander feel amply repaid that he lives in such a country, and has such tremendous possibilities in the way of scenery, climate and hospitality to offer to the stranger. Here is the letter: "Honolulu, March 6, 1917. "Hawaii Promotion Committee. "Honolulu, T. H. "Dear Sirs: Being a stranger within your gates and at the same time an ardent admirer of your beautiful islands, I hope you will not think me presuming if I just make a slight suggestion.

"On a circular handed me by a Mr. Benford, who took my party around this island (a most delightful trip, although a little bumpy in spots), I found the following: 'I have clipped and send with this. I think it is a most fitting description of the paradise, and would suggest that you use it more publicly. It made me feel that I would like to write something like that but, while I feel it I cannot express it as this "Merrill" has done, who is probably a visitor like myself and has been charmed to an extent, that while I sail for my home on the mainland on the Matsonia, I feel I shall surely come again. "Yours truly, "G. A. NEWLANDS."

(The description is as follows:) "HAWAII—Semi-tropic Isles mid summer seas; the land rich in legend-ary of the past; the land of the oo-oo; the land that offers you perfect climate, recreation and complete rest; the land with alluring features; the land of fascination; the land with a personality that forever haunts the memory of those who have once abided there.—MERRILL."

The clipping he refers to is a praise expression by Merrill and certainly lives up to the reputation which Mr. Newlands gives it.

"Very truly yours, A. P. TAYLOR, Secretary."

(It might be added that the "oo-oo" to which Mr. Merrill refers in such glowing terms, is the bird from whose plumage were secured the feathers for the feather cloaks.)

"PHRASE-MAKING"

Editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin. I think that a contemptuous reference to any writer of good English as a "phrase-maker" is generally occasioned by a condition of our grapes.

If the phrase helps to express an idea clearly, it is as much to be commended as a full road or a good bridge. It is the result of study and practice—it is good workmanship.

I wish more Americans were effective phrase-makers. Mr. Wilson's ability to say what he thinks effectively has not made him a less adequate president; poor English would have added to our national calamities.

Orators like Mr. Bryan and thousands of other pleasing "spouters" who talk much without saying a great deal, are rarely criticised for their verbosity, because it is sound, and pleases the ear; while writing which indicates that the writer has learned to use effectively the words of his own language, is ridiculed.

Clear, forcible English shows clear thinking—that's all. There's no special credit to a man for being able to say what he thinks, but he ought to be struck dumb if he can't.

To flounder among words like a porpoise in shallow water, gasping and panting for expression, is pretty bad, but a good many men who criticize phrase-makers are exactly in this kind of a fix.

ONE WHO VALUES A GOOD PHRASE.

RECALLS PIONEER ALPHABET WORK

Editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin. Sir: The visit to Honolulu at the present time of a business partner of the late John Pickering of Salem (Mr. Charles W. Moseley) recalls with interest that it was to the father of this Mr. Pickering of the same name, who was the most distinguished American philologist of the time, that the early missionaries to the Hawaiian Islands were indebted for suggestions as to the alphabet to be adopted in giving a written and printed language to Hawaiians.

It was not an easy matter for the natives of the different islands of the group had used in producing the same word different sounds as aloha-aroa, Taui-Kauai, Kapa-Tapa, and it was necessary to standardize. John Pickering published in 1820 in the Memoirs of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences an essay on a uniform orthography for the Indian languages of North America, and as our missionaries were educated men they doubtless knew of this. Rev. Hiram Bingham evidently was familiar with this essay for in his History of the Sandwich Islands (p. 155) he says, "Compound consonants, recommended by J. Pickering, Esq., for writing the Indian languages, are not adopted in the Hawaiian, though the basis of his alphabet, in respect to vowel sounds, is followed." W. T. B.

LITTLE INTERVIEWS

—HARRY MURRAY, superintendent of the water department: If the entire city was metered only 10,000,000 gallons of water a day would be used, a saving of nearly 6,000,000 gallons.

—JOHN H. HARRISON, newspaperman, Danville, Ill.: It is remarkable how many times I have been to California before I took the trip to Hawaii. Now I don't see how I stayed away so long.

—WALTER PONTIN: The Raymond & Whitcomb guests here have no kick to make against Hawaii. We have found the roads very bad in a few places on the windward side of the island but the beauty of that wonderful "round-the-island" trip overshadows such little inconveniences.

—L. W. DE VIS NORTON: To those who are to be disappointed I express my regret that the steamer Kilauoa is nearly booked to its capacity for the personally conducted tour to the Volcano on Saturday. Another personally conducted tour to Hilo and the Volcano will be made on the following Saturday, and those who wish to make the trip are urged to make their reservations early.

30 MINUTES IN JAIL FOR MAN WHO SLEW INSULTER

NEW ORLEANS, La.—E. J. Calhoun, who was convicted of killing Green Columbus, after Columbus made improper advances to Calhoun's daughter, was sentenced to serve 30 minutes in jail.

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The net paid circulation of the Star-Bulletin February 9 was 6501



VITAL STATISTICS

BORN. KEPA—In Honolulu, March 5, 1917, to Mr. and Mrs. David Kapa of Campbell avenue, Kapaeha, a daughter—Kaupunakabelohelan.

MARRIED. FERNANDEZ-CARDOSO—In Honolulu, Mar. 8, 1917, John Fernandez and Miss Julia D. Cardoso, Rev. Kekipi, officiating; witnesses—M. Souza and Mrs. M. Souza. HOGWOOD-TILLANDER—In Honolulu, Mar.

7, 1917, Joseph L. Hogwood and Miss Juanita Tillander, Mr. Peters officiating; witnesses—Miss Hilda Tillander and Herbert Popp.

DIED. ANAU—In Honolulu, March 8, 1917, Mrs. Lucy K. Anau of 22 Alapai lane, native of Lahaina, Maui, 56 years old. SPENCER—In Honolulu, March 7, 1917, Kakuaka, 1-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Spencer of Leilani street, Kalihi. KULA—In Lahai, Kauai, March 7, 1917, Robert, son of Representative and Mrs. J. K. Kula of Koloa, Kauai, unmarried, student, a native of Kauai, 19 years, 10 months and 22 days old.

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