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MONEY FOR QUEEN LIL.

The senate committee on insular possessions has seen fit to recommend to congress the payment of a considerable sum of money to former Queen Liluokalani of Hawaii in settlement of her claim or pretended claim to the former crown land in the islands. If congress pays any heed to the request and pays any sum of money to the former queen it should be in form simply as a naked gratuity, not as a purchase of any rights or pretended rights to the former government property of which she was once the legal custodian, says the Post-Intelligencer.

There has been an immensity of nonsense written about the "royal family" of Hawaii. With the death of Lunalilo, the former "royal family" of Hawaii became extinct. The kingdom was largely fiction at its very best. It was simply the government which the whites had set up in the islands, in lieu of the despotic rule of the former chiefs. The nominal ruler was the dusky monarch for the time being. The actual rulers were the white inhabitants of the islands.

On the death of Lunalilo, it became necessary to select a new king, in the absence of any person claiming title by heredity. The Americans in the islands decided upon Kalakaua, whose putative father was a member of a family which at one time had furnished chiefs to Oahu before that island was taken over by the Kamehamehas, who were originally rulers of Hawaii alone. The choice of the majority of the natives was Queen Emma, widow of Lunalilo, a woman of education and character, who had won the warm attachment of the natives by her many charities. The American influence was so strong, however, that it compelled the legislature, in which the natives had the majority vote, to select Kalakaua. There was almost a revolt when the announcement was made and it was necessary to land American marines to keep the natives from mobbing the legislature.

In due time Liliuokalani succeeded her brother Kalakaua. She attempted to exercise some powers of a real ruler and the same power which put her on the throne pulled her down.

She was simply the elective executive head of the government. She had no pretensions to "royal blood" nor any right to the throne nor to the crown property based upon the fiction of heredity. As nominal queen, she enjoyed among the prerogatives of the crown the rentals of the so-called crown lands lands which belonged to the nation. When the government was changed; when she was deprived of the powers which she had sought to abuse, she was likewise deprived of this source of income, as well as of the regular allowances which had heretofore been made for the support of the throne. She never had any right, title or property interest in any of the crown lands vested in her by virtue of descent from former owners of the property, or in any otherwise save merely as the executive head of the government for the time being. If she had been deposed or had died and been succeeded by another monarch, elected by the Hawaiian legislature, it would have been the newly installed monarch, not her kinsfolk, who would have succeeded to the possession of the government property of which she was custodian during her term of office. The crown lands were part of the puca regalia of the crown, not the private property of the monarch.

This is all there is to the case of Liliuokalani and her claim to the crown lands of Hawaii. Her claim to those lands rests upon a very much poorer ground than would a claim of title by King Edward VII of Great Britain to all of those lands within the limits of the thirteen original states which were not granted to individuals by the crown prior to the Revolutionary war. She is not as much entitled in justice, in equity or in common sense to be remunerated for the loss of the government property which was taken over by the government which succeeded her as is Edward entitled to remuneration for the lands which his own great grandfather once held as perquisites of the crown in the American colonies, with right of absolute disposal at his own free will.

However, if congress desires to bestow a pension upon Mrs. Dominis (which is Queen Liliuoqalani's name in private life) no one will interpose any very serious objection to it. That is, if she is in real need of a pension.

The extreme activity and haste of twentieth century life has produced a boy progidy, whose escapades are consuming the time of detectives, and their narration much newspaper space. The lad is 13 years old and hails from Missouri. As might be expected in one so young, when business traits are developed unnaturally, they have a peculiar cvriminal tendency. This boy, Richard Murphy by name, is now under arrest for passing a bogus check on a New York merchant. At the age of 13 he has the mannerisms of a man of the world, the habits of a rounder, the tongue of a liar and the preverted talents of the thief. This is not his first escapade. More than a year ago he ran away from his home, came to New York and gained much noteriety by his wonderful tales of fiction. Youthful Richard Murphy has started to learn the world from the wrong standpoint. His efforts to get money dishonestly and his inability to tell the truth condemn him. If he were allowed to go unrestrained until he had reached manhood's estate, he would be an accomplished swindler of men and an adept in magnificent schemes, no doubt. But the place for him is in a reform school, where his genius may be applied to the making of industrial tools and appliances.

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