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TUESDAY, JUNE 29, 1897

**HAWAII AND THE UNITED STATES.**

The Hawaiian question, which is now so prominently before the country, is one of far more than passing moment. Should this government decide to take under the stars and stripes the little island republic, a new departure in our foreign policy will be made, which may lead to results not now anticipated. It cannot be denied that there is much which can be said on both sides, but the more the matter is considered, the more favorable appears the project of annexation. It seems as if circumstances have so adjusted themselves that we are compelled to adopt Hawaii whether we wish or not. Annexation seems bound to come from the logic of history and the logic of propinquity, though we have taken no steps to hasten it.

We have protected the independence of Hawaii against foreign nations, and our citizens living in Hawaii and their children, out of a sentimental loyalty to the family of Hawaiian chiefs, supported them on the throne until forbearance could no longer be practiced, and then joined with other citizens, of native and foreign origin, in giving the islands the substance and the form of a republic. When, in the Samoan matter, England and Germany desired us to join them in assuring the permanent neutrality of Hawaii, we refused, because we would not forbid union with this country when Hawaii should desire it. Twice annexation has been asked, and the islands have been told to wait. The administration four years ago was not convinced that it was the desire of the Hawaiian nation. The opponents declared that the revolution must first be legitimized by an election of the people of a legislature of two houses which should confirm the request. That was done. Hawaii has its congress as thoroughly representing the permanent population, of all nationalities, as does that of France. As an established republic it now comes to us and asks us to receive it as an integral part of the United States.

As we do not want to annex Hawaii except by the free will of the people, and by their initiation, so we do not want it except after full consideration of the terms by our people. The senate has done well to publish the treaty to the country. The terms are substantially what they were in the treaty drafted five years ago. Annexation has been fully considered, and everybody knew that the treaty would be brought up again as soon as it could be offered to the new administration. There is no surprise, as there is no force or pressure.

Yet there must now be no least appearance of what has come to be called "jamming" through the measure. We are in no hurry; we can wait. Annexation is sure to come, just as treaties of arbitration are sure to come, even although a bare third of the senate do not understand the great movement of things and the will of the people. Let it be fully discussed at this session, and then, if the minority of the senate insists on handing it over to the regular session next December, so let it be. We can wait, for the will of both people will be achieved at last, and a few senators cannot prevent it.

The provisions of the treaty, given elsewhere, are very simple and very reasonable. Hawaii asks to come as

a territory, and not a state. She has not the population for a state, scarce a hundred thousand souls; and we have had enough of states with two senators and only one representative. This is all there is, except the provisions for the interval before the new territory shall come under the laws of the United States, and as to the public lands and immigration. The treaty itself has evoked no criticism beyond what is urged against annexation itself.

Most insignificant of all the objections to annexation is that which fears that we should be endangered by the complex population of Hawaii. We have pretty much settled our Negro problem by doing the Negro justice. Besides we have as complex a population in a dozen cities.

So without compulsion, without pressure, we accept, but do not ask, the annexation of Hawaii. We accept the sons of our noblest Christian patriots who gave Hawaii its civilization and its institutions. We accept the fairest gem of the Pacific, and we will be glad to add the wonders of its volcanoes to the marvel of our Niagara.



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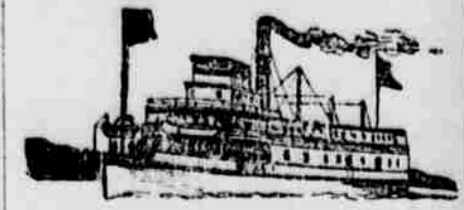
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