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SIGHTS OF ISLAND GROUP ALLURING

(By A. D. Moe)

Honolulu, February 23.

Nowhere else under the American Flag can Washington's birthday be celebrated in true Fourth of July style and true Fourth of July weather. We have been in San Diego on Washington's birthday several times, joined in the public exercises at Balboa park, and experienced warm, summery weather in the middle of the day, but most of the crowd had winter wraps along and put them on sometimes if in a shady place where the cool breeze brought a little chill to the air. But in Honolulu there is no chill to the soft breeze from the Pacific even in the shadiest nook, not even after the sun has dropped out of sight on the horizon of the blue waters, followed by the quick tropic night.

We attended the special Washington's birthday services at the native Hawaiian church, the first church organized by the American missionaries 100 years ago. It is located on one of the principal thoroughfares a block from the civic center, and adjoining it stands the first frame house built by the missionaries, and where the church organization started. This building is open to visitors and in it are many old chairs, tables and furniture used by these early pioneers. On the walls are pictures with dates and records of their services.

The church building was built later and is a very commodious one. A native choir of 50 voices makes it one of the attractions of the city to visitors, as the music is excellent, accompanied by a large pipe organ. Usually the morning service is in English. Sunday there was a biographical sketch of Washington read in English, prayers and Scripture reading in Hawaiian by the pastor and then a discourse on Washington by Senator Shingle, whose mother was Hawaiian, but whose father was of the white race. He would say a few sentences in English and then lapse into the native tongue, so we could get but very little of his remarks.

In the afternoon we went to the old Castle home, a very large house constructed on a promontory overlooking Manoa valley, the guest of Mrs. Caroline Zufelt, aunt of Mrs. C. B. Compton. Mrs. Zufelt is a teacher in the girls' school at St. Andrew's Priory. The Castle home has been turned over to the Pan-American society and is used as a place of entertainment for various affairs. Sunday the program was an exhibition of classes from one of the primary schools, nearly all native and oriental children, many of them barefooted, as is very common here. A band of 15 or 20 pieces of Camp Fire girls was a pleasing addition to the program. The children acquitted themselves very creditably.

Monday was the legal holiday and the business section closed its doors and joined in outdoor recreations and picnics. Waikiki beach was crowded, and picnic parties were seen in the parks and other places of amusement. It was a typical Fourth of July atmosphere. I even heard a few firecrackers. In the evening between 3,000 and 4,000 people gathered at the palace grounds to hear a festival of song in honor of the birthday of America's first president. The principal event was a speech by Governor Farrington.

February 18 the territorial legislature began its 60-day session. It was a colorful affair. The sessions are held in the former palace of the king. On the four corners of the building Hawaiian flags are flying, while two large Stars and Stripes tower aloft from the peak. The assembly now uses the old throne room, with the speaker's chair under the canopy which formerly hung above the throne. Pictures of the royalty cover the walls, while several of the gilded chairs formerly used by the royal court were placed inside the enclosure containing seats of the members. The opening day was an impressive sight. The room was filled with flowers, the desks being piled high with floral pieces and bouquets, especially the desk of the first lady member of the legislature, Mrs. Kellinoi, from Kauai. The majority of the members are apparently full or partly native blood. In fact, with the large majority of native vote, it is easy for them to control the legislature. And the natives like politics.

The senate room is the old royal bedchamber. Around its walls also hang paintings of native royalty, while on one wall are also portraits of Washington, Lincoln and Roosevelt.

Wide lanais (verandas) surround the senate and assembly rooms, with doors opening upon them at frequent intervals, and all of them open, so that the public has ample opportunity to visit the session, either listening from the lanais or using the few chairs placed in the rear of the rail enclosing the members' desks. Inside the rail, in the gilded chairs, sit prominent Hawaiian ladies, to whom are extended the courtesies of the legislative body.

Across the street from the palace grounds, in the front courtyard of the county building, is the statue of King Kamehameha I, who conquered the other native tribes and set up his kingdom over all the islands. An elderly Portugese man, slightly demented, can be seen every day near the entrance to the palace grounds or just inside on the lawn, reverently watching this statue. Wearing blue overalls and barefooted, he is patiently awaiting the resurrection of the king, and expects the statue to come to life. His greatest anxiety is that the statue will come to life at night when he will not be there to see it.

Honolulu, February 26, 1925.

One of the interesting trips here is the drive around the island of Oahu by automobile. The start from Honolulu was out the Nuuanu valley, one of the fine residence districts of the city, which leads to the Pali, a cliff with a perpendicular drop of 1,000 or more feet on the east side overlooking the sea. The road comes out to the edge of the Pali and makes an abrupt turn along the side of the mountain. A parking place has been made and here one gets one of the grandest views in all the islands. At an elevation of about 1500 feet one gets a grand view of the ocean to the east and several rugged peaks in the Koolau coast range, while far below the concrete road makes a series of loops, with a 7 to 10 per cent grade, before it reaches the level or rolling land below. There are also several pineapple fields laid out on side hills, small mounds or level stretches like an ornamental foliage bed or plants in our parks at home. The Pali is famous in history as the place where King Kamehameha I drove the Oahuan warriors over the cliff to instant death below in a decisive battle which made him monarch of all the islands.

Leaving the Pali we passed the pineapple fields and were soon close to the coast, which changes from time to time from a rugged rocky coast line where the breakers beat relentlessly from the trade winds that pile waves high against the rocks, to long stretches of shallow water inside coral reefs a mile out from shore. Occasionally these shallow waters are enclosed by a dike thrown around them and connected into fish ponds, where fish are propagated for market. Many native or Oriental homes are seen along the road, where the families are engaged in raising garden truck, rice, pineapples, bananas, papaias, and occasionally watermelons. The latter are hard to raise, owing to pests that are hard to control.

In the rural districts one looked in vain for the native dress that is popularly supposed on the mainland to consist of grass skirts on the women and a scantier covering for the men. They were dressed in clothes similar to our Orientals at home, except that most of them go barefooted, or with the straw sandals and no stockings. The grass skirt is not worn by the natives except on special show exhibitions for the tourists. Also the hula dance is only seen at certain public entertainments given about twice a month by a lady in the exclusive residence district to satisfy the demand of tourists. This entertainment consists of a native feast of poi and other dishes and is called a luau. The guests sit around the table and eat poi with the fingers. Afterwards is given the so-called hula dance, which is a suggestive muscle dance much like the one introduced at the World's Fair at Chicago by Little Egypt. This dance is not allowed in Honolulu except under supervision of the police or by the lady mentioned above, who charges $3 per plate. The taxi charge is $1. The original hula is a religious dance, every movement of which has a sacred meaning, and bears very little resemblance to the fake imitation given for the tourists. The only grass skirts to be seen are those in the shops made to sell to tourists. While on this subject I might add that Honolulu is freer from immorality than any city of similar size on the mainland.

The narrow strip of land along the windward coast between the mountains and the tide is of varied kinds, from sand dunes covered with a sparse growth to wider areas of fertile land. The shallower soils are used for grazing purposes, but the stock does not look as well as on the island of Kauai.

Towards the northern end of the island we came to the Mormon settlement, and at Laie bay, a new Mormon temple has recently been completed at a cost of $250,000. A large tract of land is operated as a community affair, with a sugar plantation as the principle product. All property belongs to the church organization. The temple is one of the show places of the island, the beautiful grounds being open to the public.

A little farther on is the large sending apparatus of the wireless station, one of the most powerful stations in the world.

As we rounded the north end of the island we passed through another large sugar plantation. The sugar mill of this plantation is at the end of the Oahu railway, which skirts the coast line from here back to Honolulu along the northern and west coasts. On the edge of this plantation is located the industrial school for boys.

We followed the coast to Wailua bay, where the Haleiwa hotel is located, which was the end of our former trip on the railroad. Here the automobile leaves the coast and climbs over a mountain pass and follows the valley or high mesa between the two coast ranges. In this valley is the largest acreage of pineapples on the island. There are several thousand acres in pines in this section, a picturesque sight from the highway.

Schofield barracks is located on the highway about 30 miles from Honolulu and the military reservation is of large extent. About 12,000 soldiers are quartered here, besides about 3,000 in Fort Shafter and two other forts in the city limits of Honolulu. We drove through the reservation and after making inquiries and traveling several miles of roads finally located Ray Emry, who is with the Signal Company. Mr. Emry expects to go to Hood River this summer.

After locating Schofield and the pineapple district, we passed through more sugar plantations and about 20 miles from the army barracks reached the navy yards at Pearl Harbor. It was just at closing time so had to wait for a long procession of cars of civilians who work in the shops, to be inspected before passing out of the gates. We then got a pass and drove around the roads past the shops, officers' quarters and to the large dry dock, but had but little time to spend and could give it but a hurried inspection.

We got back at Waikiki in time for our swim, which made the end of a perfect day. A swim in the warm salt waters is a regular part of the day's program. Very few of the tourists miss it, regardless of age or sex, and those who live permanently near the beach are all expert swimmers. They come afoot and in cars, in bathing suits, and can be seen walking along the roads and trails at all hours of the day.

It is said Waikiki got its name from an incident that happened in an early day. A sea captain took offense at his Chinese cook and started kicking him down the beach. At every jump the Chinese chattered: "Wy kick-ee! Wy kick-ee!" The beach was afterwards known as Waikiki, but given the native pronunciation and spelling.

Honolulu, March 1, 1925.

The pineapple industry in the Hawaiian islands, now the second in importance, bids fair to excel sugar in volume of business. The output last year was 6,000,000 cases. There are many thousand acres planted to pineapples in the islands, the largest of the companies being the Hawaiian Pineapple Co. Eleven canneries have formed an association to facilitate marketing and carry on extensive experimental work with reference to varieties, the control of pests, improvements in methods of farming, etc. Expert chemists are employed and the association has unlimited resources to carry on this work. As a result the industry has grown in 15 years from a modest beginning to the largest canning industry of a single product in the world. The Hawaiian Pineapple Co. has recently purchased the whole island of Lanai, lying just west of Maui, and will put in 25,000 acres of pineapples.

A visit to the company's cannery in the city limits, the largest cannery in the world, is one of the interesting sights of this fairy land. This is the season when but few of the pines are ripening and the cannery operates only intermittently. We were fortunate in being able to see it in operation and were taken through by a guide. The factory site covers an area of 31 acres. From the elevated causeway one looks down over a sea of pineapples; field crates filled with fruit are stacked up on the platform, 35 carloads (350 tons) at one time. The fruit is dumped into hoppers and placed on conveyors. In the first operation the pine is made to engage a high speed revolving knife and a perfect fruit cylinder is thus sized from the fruit. The cylinder then passes into a revolving turret in which top and bottom ends and core are removed. Simultaneously with the sizing operation the outer skin or rind, slit into halves, is forced against a grid within which a second knife revolves which severs from the skin the edible portion of the fruit meat remaining. This meat, a choice portion of the fruit, goes into crushed products. The pineapple cylinder slides onto an endless belt which carries it to the trimmers. Hundreds of women and girls, each wearing rubber gloves and neat cap and apron, sit at the trimming tables and with knives remove any portion of shell remaining.

The packed cans are next taken to be syruped. They pass automatically, 80 cans a minute, through a revolving machine where the flow of syrup into each can is carefully regulated. Several hundred bags of white sugar are sonsumed each day in making syrup. The cans then pass automatically to a steam-heated exhaust box, where heat drives out most of the air and prepares the can for sealing. From the sealing machines the cans are discharged into cookers, arriving at the other end in about 10 minutes to the lacquer machine, drier and cooler, then to the warehouse for packing and shipping. Over 2,000 men, women and children are engaged in this cannery, which turns out over 2,000,000 cases a year.

The American Can Co. has a large plant adjoining this cannery, the cans for which are delivered by endless carrier belts direct to places where needed. Cans for other canners are also made here, the output being over 125,000,000 cans each year.

Every convenience for the comfort and care of the workers in the cannery is provided. A free medical dispensary is provided for the sick as well as the injured. The factory is well lighted and thoroughly ventilated. A large, clean and modernly equipped cafeteria offers to every employe a generous meal at a very small cost from 5 to 30 cents. Music is a feature with every meal. Spacious and well appointed dressing rooms, with showers, lavatories and lockers, are at hand for all men and women employes. The latter have a large rest room, with a matron in charge. A recreation field of two acres adjoins the factory, equipped for baseball, basketball, volleyball, etc. A shelter is also provided for those who may prefer to eat a lunch outdoors.

No other country in the world even approaches Hawaii, either in quantity of production or quality of product. It had its beginning in 1886, when John Kidwell introduced a new variety, planting several acres, and canned a few thousand cases. In 1900 James D. Dole, with local capital and some from the States, launched the Hawaiian Pineapple Co., capitalized at $20,000. From this modest beginning has grown the present large industry.

Pineapples grow on plants about knee high, one or more to a plant. There are few sights more beautiful than a pineapple plantation. One sees mile after mile of straight, trim rows, the spear-pointed leaves softening in the long perspective, the golden fruit like jewels in a green setting.

The division of land in Hawaii between sugarcane and pineapple plantations is largely determined by irrigation possibilities. The coastal areas which can be irrigated are occupied by sugar cane, while the upland mesas and foothills over which irrigation is too expensive are given over to pineapples, since the plants require no more water than comes in the average rainfall.

A trip to Wahiawa, the chief center of Oahu's pineapple plantations, is beautifully scenic. The highway running north and south through the valley between the coastal ranges passes through these vast pineapple fields. On each side of the wide expanse of tablelands rises a lofty, jaggedly picturesque mountain range, a fitting background for the magnificent landscape spread out below, with the pineapple fields extending up the basal slopes and seeming to hang there like trim patterns on a great tapestry, nature and man seemingly having entered into a partnership to produce a maximum of artistry.

Preparation of the ground consists of plowing and discing the soil to a considerable depth. Fields are mulched with an asphalt treated paper so spread as to provide spaces necessary for cultivation and harvesting. Plants which have lain exposed to the sun for a few days to season are set in double rows to a depth of an inch or two through holes punched in the paper. In a few weeks these take root and begin to throw out new leaves. The mulching process, an invention of an agricultural expert of Hawaii, reduces weeding costs and increases the yield of fruit. In 12 to 15 months after planting the plants mature, and then in the heart of the plant the first sign of fruit appears in the form of a blossom not unlike a thistle blossom. After a week or more these flowers disappear. Next the bracts become less prominent and the crowns grow larger. In very rare cases do seeds form within the fruit. Five or six months after the first appearance of the flower heads, the fruit matures and is then ready to eat. In all, a period of 18 or 20 months has elapsed since planting. This is called the plant crop, and is usually a fine crop of large fruit. The second crop comes a year later from the same plants, which send out one or two shoots, increasing the tonnage. After the third year, however, with increasing number of shoots to the plant, the size decreases, and the field is generally plowed up and replanted.

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In an address made by a million-dollar producer of life insurance before the convention of the life underwriters of The Massachusetts Mutual Life, held at the new 6,000,000-dollar Olympia hotel in Seattle recently, said in reference to The Massachusetts Life: "There are some as good but nothing better." F. W. Woolley, the district manager of this company, is having splendid success in interesting the people in his district in this splendid company. No stockholders, every policy holder receives his or her share of the profits of this great organization to the last cent.

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GREAT POETS

Robert Browning, 1812-1889

(By Dr. James A. Fraser)

Robert Browning was born in Camberwell, a suburb of London, May 7, 1812. In the world of modern poetry, Browning must be recognized as a great figure. He is a man of great mind. In him we have strength and beauty. As a youth his enjoyment of the out-of-doors knew no bounds. He knew the birds, flowers, and the scenery of hill and dale. In his home were pictures, music and a well-stocked library. The home background was such as to promote thought in the good and great. The school training of the poet was irregular and limited. The day school, private school, and then two terms at London University comprised his conventional education. It was in the school of Life that the man received the most of his education, and how well his studies were pursued few are ignorant.

While in his teens he commenced mastering the art of rhyming and in 1833, when 20 years of age, appeared the first fruits of his reading. Two years after his first volume came "Paracelsus." This work, if failing to impress the reading public, brought him such friends as Wadsworth, Talford, Dickens, Leigh Hunt and Landor.

As late as 1855 Browning had taken no commanding position among literary Englishmen. Up to the death of his wife in 1861, life was simply the record of successive books; after that, however, his poetic genius was fanned into flame.

Lonely, and in no little sense dispirited, he flung himself anew into his creations, bringing out in 1868 the four successive volumes of "The Ring and The Book." This work was largely a monument to the memory of Mrs. Browning.

Few men are as red-blooded, direct, instant with an eager interest in the great world of realities and practicalities. It is his interpretation of Life which constitutes his value for us as a writer. His mind was always quick to probe the great questions, philosophical and religious, which are confronting us today. The whole significance of living, for him, resolves itself into a trial of the soul for the purpose of evolution.

Robert Browning is never of such value as in days when something bitter has befallen us, and we are at the point of blowing out the light,—or our brains. To the person who has been defeated he is a real friend. No poet, in any language, can more gently lay his hand upon our shoulders when we fail and fall. Here is a writer who breaks in upon our narrow passion with a strong, hopeful word. He tries to get alongside of a man in all the various discomfitures of life. He would sing him a song to heal his wound. It were well for us to add Robert Browning to our reading list, and study his message to just such an age as our own when literature lies puking and sprawling in sentimentalism. We are in need of some commanding word; some message of hope, and we have it as we listen to Browning singing,—

"This world's not blot for us,
Nor blank, it means intensely and means good,
To find its meaning is my meat and drink."

W. C. T. U. NOTES

A reception was given last week for the new members, at which a program was enjoyed. Mrs. Clark led in devotional service. Mrs. J. R. Wilson played instrumental numbers, Mrs. J. E. Smithson sang, Mrs. H. L. Garrabrant gave a reading. All who were on the program graciously responded to encores.

Mrs. Mallet, the state president, gave an address. Miss Ann Gordon, the national president, is the same Anna Gordon who, at the age of 15, volunteered to play the organ for Frances E. Willard at the time of the crusad ein Ohio, and since that time she has been constantly in the W. C. T. U. work. Mrs. Mallet also said that when Frances Willard was a young woman she was chosen dean of a college and gave it up because she thought she could serve humanity better in the temperance work. Mrs. Mallet spoke on the different departmental work of the W. C. T. U. but mostly on the temperance hygiene study in the schools. She said it took 50 years to get it in the schools. A self appointed band of 50 men worked in every way to down the movement but right always wins and today temperance is taught in the schools in every state in the United States.

Some astonishing facts about the use of narcotics show that in India, where the cultivation of the poppy is the greatest industry, the British government not allowing them tol quit the industry, he use of the drug per capita is 27 grains a year, while here in our United States, where we have advantages so far in advance of many people in the world, the use per capita is 37 grains a year.

Something for Hood River to be proud of is that outside of Portland we have the largest membership in the state. Oregon is the only state that has undertaken anything as big as the farm home at Corvallis and that belongs to the W. C. T. U. of Oregon. The money is in sight to build and pay for three more cottages. In 1920 an appropriation was made for $25,000 and in the recent legislature an appropriation for $50,000 was made to build a school and cottage.

In speaking of the temperance contest work in the schools, Mrs. Mallet told of an incident that came under her personal observation in Portland in 1910. A saloonkeeper's daughter won the prize on the ill effects of beer on the human system. The girl came home with her prize and with the facts gained through her research work proved to her father that his business was harmful to his fellow man, so he quit the saloon business very soon. The temperance essay contest work in the public schools and colleges is not a new thing just being launched. The W. C. T. U. began this work in 1880 and it has been carried on each successive year since with the hearty cooperation of teachers and boards of education. An invitation has been given to the teachers of Hood River to attend the meetings of the union.

Dainty refreshments were served by the committee. Mrs. Harriet Walters was chairman and Mrs. K. D. Peterson and Mrs. Frank Button poured.

The Loyal Temperance Legion will meet next Saturday at 2.30 in the basement of the Christian church.

Last Thursday Mrs. Mallet, Mrs. Schmidt, Mrs. Ford and Mrs. Hoover went to The Dalles to attend the Wasco county convention.

Talk with Young. Ten to 70.

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