

C. SPRECKLES ON HAWAII.

Claus Spreckles, the sugar king, returned here Thursday on the Australia from the Hawaiian islands, where he has been since April 19th, says the San Francisco Chronicle. He was brim full of strange things relative to the provisional government, an attempt to assassinate the deposed queen, Liliuokalani, as well as himself and a dozen others, the attitude of ex-Minister Stephens and the annexationists in forming a conspiracy to capture the islands, Minister Blount's firm course, which he commends, and many other things upon which the correspondents have not enlightened the public.

Mr. Spreckles was looking very well and said he was in excellent health. From first to last he gave his views and what he had learned in a straight-out manner, and in a way that was very interesting. He seemed to have weighed his words well, and what he asserted, he said, were facts that had been thoroughly corroborated.

"I went to the islands," he said, "to thoroughly inform myself as to what has been done, and for six weeks I did not say a word. I did not wish to express myself till I had got the very inside of things. Now I state unequivocally that it was by a conspiracy that the island government was overturned, that it does not meet with the approbation of the people and that Liliuokalani ought in justice to be placed back on the throne.

"Annexation under the conditions would be wrong, and I don't think the United States wants to go into the business of robbing anybody. I state this as an American citizen, who is paying more than one-fourth the entire taxes of Hawaii. Let me tell you how I came to these conclusions.

"When I arrived there Minister Stevens sent for me, and when I called to see him he said that in all probability he would only be on the islands forty days longer, and that he had thus far done all he could in the interest of annexation, and now wanted to secure it completely before he left. He said that Sam Parker and Paul Neumann were the ones who had the most influence with the queen. Parker was potent, he said, but Paul Neumann was even more influential. Neumann had, he recounted, been the queen's attorney general, and what he said would have weight. 'Paul Neumann,' he said 'can handle the queen, and you can handle Paul Neumann. Now,' he continued, 'you go and see Neumann and get him to persuade the queen to abdicate the throne entirely. Then that will settle it and we will have annexation at once and there will be no fight over it.'

"Stevens added that he had done all he could for a year for annexation, and that now he wanted me to help him. I refused to do this, and that evening I called on Commissioner Blount and told him what Stevens had said. Blount at once forwarded these facts to Washington—he must have done it—and the result was that off went Stevens' head.

"This statement of Stevens, and other things which I learned, showed that there was a conspiracy on the part of the minister and a few men to annex the islands. I learned that at the inception of

the positive move to overthrow the queen that Lotin A. Thurston, now Hawaiian minister to Washington, went on Sunday morning at between 5 and 6 o'clock to J. F. Colburn, the minister of finance, and told him that now was the time to act. He said: 'Let's see Peterson (ex-attorney general.) You needn't fear. Stevens will have the marines of the Boston here Monday and we will be certain of success.'

"Thurston, Colburn and Peterson, with William H. Cornwall, minister of finance, confessed and Thurston repeated his words. That was treason. What else can you make out of it? And if the Boston marines had not gone ashore there would have been no revolution.

"As it was the queen said it was no use fighting the United States. It was robbery and I don't think the United States can afford to steal. They have been saying here that there were 7000 members of the Annexation club. I said to President Dole in view of this: 'As there are but 11,000 voters in Hawaii why not submit the matter of what kind of a government there should be to the voter?' He replied: 'We would be beaten,' and I said: 'Yes, you would; you would be beaten so bad that you would not know what was the matter with you.'

"Now I assert, on what should be the best of authority, that of the 7000 annexation members claimed they have got only about 150. That is all, and of these 20 per cent are Portuguese who cannot read or write and who made their marks for their names, and the majority of the remainder are boys and tourists. Tilden, who organized the club, told me so, and he ought to know."

Then Mr. Spreckles told how it was that the public had got the impression for a time that he was in favor of the proposed annexation. He said that when Mr. Thurston, Mr. Carter and others first arrived here as commissioners to Washington Thurston sent him a message at 7 o'clock in the evening asking when he could see him. An hour was named, and at that time Thurston said that under the new constitution the queen was to have had the appointment of the supreme court judge, of one-half the nobles; would confiscate all the property of the white people and would deprive them of their vote, so that they would have no say in the government. The natives would control everything.

"I said," continued Mr. Spreckles, "that if that was the case it was right to form the provisional government. Then the commissioners and those interested in Hawaii met in parlor A of the Palace Hotel, and it was the sentiment that they were not for annexation unless some provision was made for imported labor, something we must have in Hawaii.

"Well, the developments afterward proved that Thurston's statements were untrue, and when he and the other commissioners went to Washington they did not carry out their intentions in regard to labor. They let everything go, in the interest of annexation.

"Now, the Hawaiian Islands, if annexed, would have been nothing but a cow pasture. They would be no benefit to the United States. We can

let the islands have their own government, and prosper, and we can control them. As for this story that England is just waiting, that is all nonsense. England is not interfering. Then they circulated the same story about Japan. Japan does not want them either. I am an American citizen, and I cannot see what good it would be for the United States to annex the islands, nor what good it would be for Hawaii.

"I will put the United States in a way to hold and still rule the islands without annexing them. The Kanakas are the best people on this earth. Let them put Liliuokalani back on the throne and have a minister resident for the United States. It won't cost the United States anything, and it will still rule the islands."

After Mr. Spreckles had gone aboard the Australia at Honolulu to leave for California C. E. Creighton, son of the late Robert Creighton of this city, came aboard and presented him with a handsome gold mounted coccoawood cane. It was beautifully inscribed with "Ave, Claus, exmorturi salutamus, and on it appeared many names, including those of the late Queen Liliuokalani and Minister Blount. The entire list was as follows: Liliuokalani, R.; J. Blount, C. Spreckles, S. Parker, W. Ashford, C. W. Ashford, J. Cummins, J. E. Bush, A. P. Peterson, C. E. Creighton, A. Ross, D. Foote, C. B. Wilson, J. W. Robertson, C. O. Berger, J. Bowler, E. B. Thomas, C. C. Kenyon, E. Norris, W. H. Rickard, J. Campbell, J. F. Colburn, W. H. Cornwall.

"When we who remain are killed," said Mr. Creighton, "I hope you will return and visit our graves. From your fellow-citizens," continued the speaker, "doomed also to die at the hands of the murderous society of the Annexation club." Then he added: "Threatened men live long; leben sie hundert jahre und niemal sterben."

This brought out a strange story. Mr. Spreckles was asked if it was really true that all the persons named, including himself, were really threatened with death while he was there.

"Yes, it is true," he said. "They said at the Annexation club that we ought to be killed. They met there, and they each had the man they intended to kill. That was five or six weeks ago.

"But they had another murderous plan on hand," said Mr. Spreckles, "and that was to deport, if not murder, the queen. The latter was their real object. It was while Minister Blount was away, and they chose that time as propitious. Mr. Blount had gone to Maui. They had arranged to go and capture the queen, and in the melee that they expected would occur they intended to kill her, and thus claim it was done while attempting to suppress a revolution.

However, one of about fourteen conspirators whipped his wife, and she, being highly indignant at it, and knowing the murderous conspiracy, told it to another woman, and it was repeated to another till eventually one came to the queen and told her. Sam Parker at once came to me and told me of it, and said they would do it over his dead body. He felt sure he would be killed. We counseled the