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HAWAII UP TO DATE.

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 HAVE spent some time at the Hawaiian legation this week gathering practical up-to-date information as to the islands which it is now proposed to annex to the United States. If the annexation treaty is confirmed in the Senate, a large emigration to Hawaii will immediately follow, and thousands of Americans will want to know just what this new territory is and what possible chances there are for them to make money out of it. This is what I have tried to ascertain. Minister Hatch and Mr. Thurston have put all their resources at my disposal. They have answered my questions and have introduced me to sugar planters and others who have just come from Honolulu, and from whom I have the best of news information. I have also had access to the large collection of new photographs just received by the Hawaiian minister, some of which I will show you as I write.

These photographs show how fast the islands have been modernized. There are dozens of residences in Honolulu which have cost \$25,000 and upward. The city has magnificent stone buildings, churches which would be a credit to Washington and a Masonic Temple which would compare favorably with any Masonic building in the United States. The city contains about 30,000 people, and in proportion to its size it is one of the rich cities of the world. All of the houses have large yards and gardens about them, and many of them are shaded by palm trees. Honolulu lies right under the mountains on the edge of the sea. It is only six miles from the government house to the summit of the mountains at the back of the town. These mountains are 3,000 feet high, and are covered with woods to their tops. The government building, if annexation comes, will belong to the United States. It is a magnificent structure and was formerly the palace of the king. There are numerous telegraph wires in Honolulu. The town has more telephones in proportion to its size than any other city of the world. Every house has a telephone, and there are telephonic connections to almost every settlement on the Islands of Oahu, Kauai and Hawaii. On the Island of

Maui the telephone is being put up and in a short time every one of the larger islands will have its telephonic connections.

There is no place in the world where public schools are so carefully managed as in the Sandwich Islands. Those of Honolulu have magnificent buildings. The high school is held in a palace which was built for the Princess Ruth, the sister of the last king of the Kamehameha line. She gave it to her daughter, Mrs. Bishop, who left it to her husband, Charles R. Bishop. Charles R. Bishop is the vice-president of the Bank of California at San Francisco, and he is, I am told, its largest stockholder. He sold the building a short time ago to the government for \$30,000, and it is now used for a high school. The building is surrounded by five acres of beautiful gardens, and it is in the very heart of the city. The government has established free schools all over the islands. Every neighborhood which has forty children has a school house and a teacher, and there is no place in the United States where the boys put in so many school days in the year. School is held for nine months, and the hours are from 9 to 2. School attendance is compulsory, and the law in this respect is enforced everywhere. In each school district there are one or two school policemen, who come into the school house every morning and poll the school. If a boy or girl is absent a record is made of it, and if no good excuse is given the next day the policeman calls upon the scholar's family. If the offense is repeated the heads of the family are called before the police court and fined \$10. Such boys as play truant a certain number of times are taken from the schools and put in the government reform schools, where they are taught during the remainder of their minority. These laws extend to all classes of the people. The children of the Japanese and Chinese are compelled to go to school, as are also those of the Portuguese. The result is that all of the children of the Hawaiian Islands over a certain age can read and write, and the grade of education is a very high one. The majority of teachers are Americans, who receive all the way from \$400 to \$2,400 a year as salaries. The school furniture comes from the United States, as do also the doors and windows and other lumber of which the school houses are built. The lime for the houses is imported from California.

Honolulu has a public library containing 15,000 volumes. Its Y. M. C. A. has a splendid gymnasium and reading room, and there are free public libraries in several other towns on the islands.

Honolulu has several large hotels. The biggest one charges \$3 a day. Some of the others charge \$2. The expense

of living is dearer than in the United States. It costs, I am told, fully fifty per cent more to keep house in the Sandwich Islands than it does in Washington. You have Japanese and Chinese for servants, but you cannot get along without a number of them. Everything you eat, with the exception of vegetables and meat, is imported, and almost everything you wear comes from the United States. At the legation today I got the Honolulu prices of the more common articles. Hams cost from 16 to 30 cents a pound; bacon, from 16 to 20 cents, and cheese, from 20 to 35 cents a pound. Flour costs \$2.50 a hundred weight, and eggs from 25 to 50 cents a dozen. On the other hand, fresh meat is quite cheap. You can get good porterhouse steak for from 6 to 15 cents a pound, corn beef will cost you 7 cents a pound, potatoes 2 cents a pound, and ice about 1 cent a pound. You can hire a cook for from \$3 to \$6 a week, and a nurse will cost you from \$8 to \$12 a month. The steamship rates in going to the island are not high. The round trip costs \$125, and you have several good lines by which to make the trip. The Oceanic Line sails twice a month from San Francisco. The Pacific Mail and the O. and O. Steamships stop there on their way to Japan, and there is a Canadian line which will take you from Victoria to Honolulu once a month.

The eight largest of the Sandwich Islands, which form the best part of the country, are less in size than Massachusetts. They have a population of about 90,000, of which over 75,000 are either wholly or partly natives, or Chinese or Japanese. All of these work more or less, and hence the islands are no place for poor men, common laborers or clerks. There are more bookkeepers and copyists in Honolulu today than can find employment. The Chinese, of whom there are 15,000, and Japanese, 24,000, have not only ruined the white labor market, but they have to a large extent swallowed up the small businesses. The natives, 35,000, also compete in the labor market. As common workmen Chinese and Japanese get from \$12.50 to \$15 a month and board themselves. The Portuguese and Hawaiians receive as high as \$18 for the same work. White teamsters get about \$30 a month and board. Book-keepers on the plantations receive from \$100 to \$175 a month, and overseers about the same. Almost all the mechanical trades are supplied by the Chinese and Japanese. The Japanese do a great deal of carpenter work, receiving therefor from \$2.50 to \$5 a day. There are Japanese shoemakers and tailors, and there are Chinese plumbers and carpenters. In the retail stores the Chinese and Japanese compete together for the business, and I