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The Hawaiian Islands in 1900
(Continued from Seventh Page.)

10,000-ton steamers under construction to add to the line already plying between Seattle and Japan and China, and the Northern Pacific expects to add large ships to those now sailing in connection with it from Tacoma to the Orient. Claus Spreckels is building three new 6,000-ton boats for his line to Australia, and the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy is said to have a trans-pacific line in contemplation.

The increase in the freight is so great that it is believed that all of these ships will have plenty to do. I was told at Port-

for residences and \$4 for business houses, and every subscriber in the city has his own wire. The electric light company is doing well, and so is nearly every institution of a similar nature. The people are, however, to a certain extent a close corporation. They believe in taking care of their friends and the outsider has hardly a fair chance. There are many trade restrictions, especially on commercial travelers, who have to pay \$500 for the privilege of selling goods or taking orders on this island and \$255 for the right to do the same on each of the larger islands of the group. Every man who sells anything in Honolulu has to pay a yearly sum ranging from \$51 to some thousands of dollars, according to the character of the business and the amount done, to the city, so that no one can



MAIN STREET IN HONOLULU.

land the other day that there were flour mills there which were running day and night to supply the Chinese demand for American flour. On board the China there is the representative of one of the largest milling machine companies of the United States. He is on his way to Shanghai to put up there a modern 300-barrel flour mill, which will cost more than \$100,000. The mill is being erected for a Chinese company, and it will probably grind American wheat, though the Chinese say they can get wheat in China.

America in the Mid-Pacific.

The increased trade of the Pacific is in evidence here in Honolulu. I have never been in a town of this size which showed so many signs of prosperity. It is a town of rich men and no beggars. The streets are full of business, and the stores are as fine as those of a city of four times its size in the United States. Everything has an American air. The names over the chief stores are more American than those of our American cities, where there are so many German and Jewish names, and the faces you see on the streets are chiefly of the American type. I refer, of course, to the whites, and not to the large Asiatic and native element.

Honolulu, in fact, is so rich and so lively that it makes me think of a cross between a new rich mining camp and a wealthy seaside resort.

I had a good chance to see something of the crowd while I waited at the postoffice for the mail to be distributed. The islands have, you know, their only communication with the outside world by steamer, and the China had brought in the latest intelligence. There were a great number of men at the postoffice, making up as cosmopolitan a crowd as you can find anywhere. There were whites of every nation of Europe, mahogany browns from the islands, sallow-faced Portuguese and yellows of all shades from China and Japan. Among the whites the Americans predominated, although all the whites were apparently of the better classes and well off. Good-looking men they were, and nearly all young. Many wore Panama hats and suits of white duck. Many were without vests, their pantaloons upheld by wide silk sashes or gorgeous belts, and not a few wore Indian silk pugaries or sashes about their hats. The language used in most cases was English, although the signs over the postoffice windows were in five languages—Hawaiian, Chinese, Japanese, Portuguese and English.

I find that every store has employees who speak all of these languages, although the chief business of the larger stores is done in English. The goods are largely American, and the show windows of the bigger establishments are as tastily dressed as those of the United States. Everything that you can buy in any town of 100,000 people in the United States is sold here. There are large bicycle stores, book stores, clothing stores and groceries. There are electrical establishments, gun stores and all sorts of banks, investment companies and safe depositories. There is a stock exchange, which has memberships costing \$5,000 apiece, and there the bulls and bears meet daily and speculate in sugar and other stocks. Of late sugar has been going up, and a large number of men have made money in stock speculation.

There are four savings banks in the islands, and the postoffice has a savings bank connected with it which has done a great deal of good. It will, I suppose, be discontinued as soon as the new government is supplied by congress.

The Honolulu Telephone company is said to be making money. It charges \$3 a month

start into any kind of business without some cash at the beginning.

As to all such matters, however, and also as to the resources and condition of the islands, I will write fully when I visit them on my way back from Australia.

At present the great question with the people of the Hawaiian islands is what the United States is going to give them in the way of a government. They don't want to be under any colonial bureau, but think they should at once be admitted as one of the territories of the union and should be given territorial officers. I have met during my stay in Honolulu the chief officials of the present regime and have somewhat looked into their government establishments. They already have a far better organization than most of our territories, and it would, I think, be an outrage to put them under any other form of government than that awarded to the best American citizens under similar conditions. They are not to be classed for a moment with such people as those of Porto Rico and the Philippines. They have a high grade of civilization, and in intelligence, wealth and good order will rank with the people of any part of the United States.

A Chat with President Dole.

Among the other officials whom I have met was President Dole, the head of the Hawaiian republic. My interview with him took place in his office in the palace, a great two-story building, which now belongs to Uncle Sam. It is surrounded by a ten-acre park filled with many varieties of palms and other tropical trees, and altogether is finer perhaps than any state house west of the Mississippi river. Just opposite it, in another large park, are the government buildings, which also come to Uncle Sam, and which are likewise a magnificent possession.

Said President Dole, in response to my question as to the effect the annexation of the islands had had upon business and property values:

"The islands are in a good financial condition. Business of all kinds is better than it has ever been. Our imports are increasing and there has been a rise in the values of real estate and sugar stocks. Property in Honolulu has gone up, and many new buildings are being constructed. You must remember, however, that this is not a new country. It has had its established institutions for many years. We are, in fact, older than any part of the United States west of the Rocky mountains, and for the last fifty years and more our resources have been steadily developing. The business of the country has already been worked up by the local firms, and there is not the chance for a boom such as you would expect in one of the newly opened up territories of the west."

"Have you had much increase in your population since the annexation act passed?"

"Yes, some, but not a great deal," was the reply. "You see, it is only a few months since our annexation was consummated. We are still unsettled as to just what our government is to be, although we hope it will be as a new territory of the United States. When all is settled, I look for a considerable immigration, though not of the character which usually rushes into a new country."

"Will the Hawaiian Islands ever become a state in the sisterhood of the United States, Mr. President?" I asked.

"I hope so," replied President Dole. "But I do not think that time will come for many years yet."

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