

# Uncle Sam Has Done Good Work in Hawaii



HAWAIIAN SCHOOL GIRLS

(Copyright, 1912, by Frank G. Carpenter.)

**WASHINGTON, D. C.**—What has Uncle Sam done for Hawaii? It is the oldest of our colonial possessions. We annexed it in 1898 and it has been a part of us for the last fourteen years. It was rich when we got it; it is richer today. It did a big business then; it does a bigger one now. Its foreign commerce is almost \$30,000,000 per annum, and it has more than doubled since we made this a territory. Hawaii now buys more than \$7,000,000 worth of goods every twelve months, and 90 per cent of this we supply. The business is all done in American bottoms, and the customs receipts, which go to the federal treasury, have already amounted to about \$15,000,000. In addition to this is a large sum from internal revenue taxes, so that the islands not only support themselves and pay all their expenses, but they annually turn a large sum back into Uncle Sam's coffers. This, I should say, is good business.

### More Schools and Colleges.

The Hawaiian islands have grown in intelligence since we took hold of them. Then 37 per cent of the natives could read and write. Now all can do so. They were a civilized country, inhabited by a civilized people. At the time of annexation they had a common school system like that of New England, and there were 12,000 children in the schools. There are now 35,000, and a compulsory law has been enacted raising the school age from 15 to 17 years. I know of no land where the school age is so high. Moreover, the schools are quite as good as our own, and they include in their teaching manual and industrial training.

Within the last few years the government has established a college of agriculture, and also experiment stations devoted to the crops which grow on the islands. The government has a bureau of forestry, and it has set aside three forest reserves. It has an energetic department for health, and one island has been set aside as a home for the lepers. Others of the archipelago have been reserved to keep alive the wonderful bird life of the middle Pacific, and the island of Hawaii, the largest of all, is soon to be the site of a National park which will include the greatest volcano known to man. A bill to this effect is now before congress, and the governor of the islands has advised that the reservation be made.

### A National Park of Volcanoes.

Before I go further I want to tell you about this volcano park. We have the greatest geysers of the world on our public reservation, and it is constantly active. We shall have the greatest volcano and the greatest active crater in this part of Hawaii. The whole archipelago is made up of volcanoes. It has altogether forty volcanic peaks and volcanic ash and lava about everywhere. The very soil is decomposed lava, and this in places is twenty feet deep, making the islands among the richest on earth.

The island of Hawaii, the largest of the group where congress is asked to create this park, consists mainly of the gentle slopes of five volcanic mountains, and it has among them the Mauna Loa, which is by far the largest volcano of the world. There is a crater at its top which is almost as high as Pike's Peak, and another on one side, the famous Kilauea, which is constantly active and has a great lake of fire in its center. It is planned to make one reservation right at the top of Mauna Loa and another reservation down the sides of the mountains to include Kilauea. Kilauea is only 4,000 feet above the sea, and it is situated on a belt road around the island, and can be reached by automobiles.

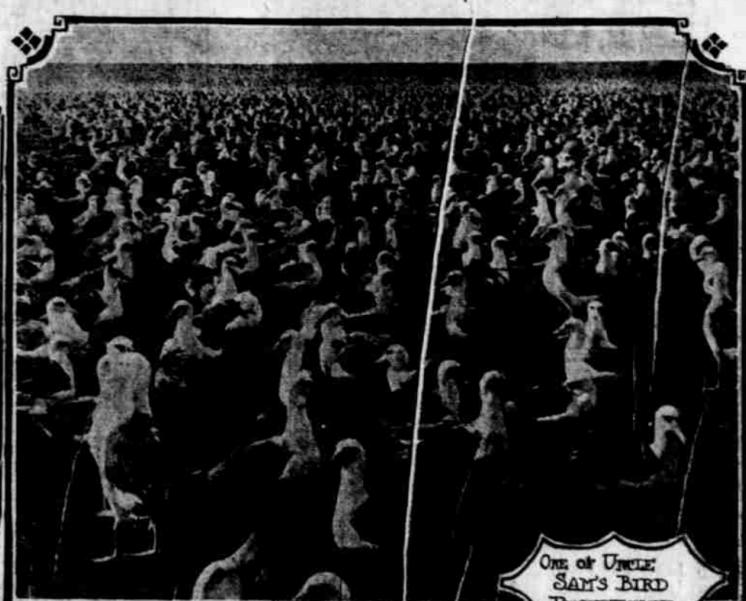
### A Lake of Fire and Brimstone.

Think of going by automobile right down to the shores of a lake of fire and brimstone! That is what we have in Kilauea, and all around in the country about are picturesque craters, tanks of sulphur and lava trees, tree ferns and forests of many varieties. The government will establish a volcano and earthquake observatory there, and it will preserve natural features from vandals and business intrusion.

The crater of Kilauea is eight miles in circumference, and the pit of blazing fire is 2,000 feet in diameter and it is perhaps 1,000 feet below the mouth of the crater. It is usually safe, but it has had some mighty eruptions, when stones, and volcanic ashes have been spread over the country for miles around. In recent times the lava is supposed to have gone out under the earth to the sea, the floor of the crater rising and sinking with its discharge.

The crater in the other reservation on the top of Mauna Loa, measures about nine and one-half miles in circumference. It is a pit crater, with walls almost vertical and about 200 feet deep. When the mountain goes into eruption it spouts forth columns of flames and clouds of vapor and the lava runs in streams down the mountain. The last great eruption was in 1867, and was attended by an earthquake. The one in 1868 raised huge sea waves forty feet high, which broke on the shores and destroyed many villages.

Uncle Sam's bird reservation, which I



ONE OF UNCLE SAM'S BIRD RESERVATIONS



UNCLE SAM WILL SPEND \$10,000,000 IN IMPROVING PEARL HARBOR

been set aside by the government and placed under the biological survey of the Department of Agriculture, is another natural wonder. It is a great ocean park covering hundreds of miles, in which are many small islands, rocks and reefs, they belong to the Hawaiian group, but they stretch far off to the westward in the direction of Japan.

These islands have no human life upon them, but they contain a population of sea birds which in variety and extent is unequalled in any other part of the earth. There are tens of millions of birds which make their homes on these lonely lands. They come there to breed, and at times the islands are covered with nests. The ground is one mass of eggs, and in the past these have been gathered in wheelbarrows and carts and carried away by the boat load.

The birds feed on the fish which swarm about the islands and upon other kinds of sea life which live on the reefs and along the shores. There are many plants, and just now the reservation is suffering from an invasion of rats, which feed on the plants and which, if not dealt with, may destroy the bird life. Moreover, the Japanese have been raiding the islands in order to kill the albatrosses. The group should be watched by our revenue cutters and the reservation should have permanent officials there to care for it.

### Preparing for Panama.

Uncle Sam is doing much to prepare the islands for the increased traffic which will come with the Panama canal. The ports have been cleaned and the chief harbors have all modern facilities for the handling of freight. A very important work is that which is going on at Pearl harbor.

The general board of the army and navy has declared that this place should be made a naval base, and plans have been prepared which will involve the spending of \$10,000,000 in improving it. There are to be also forts and fortifications which are to cost \$4,000,000 more, and altogether we shall erect a little Gibraltar away out there in the middle of the Pacific. The islands have already been made a separate military district, and a general officer has been assigned to the troops stationed there. We are putting in a huge dry dock at Pearl harbor, and connected with it will be repair shops for our gunboats and other vessels of war.

The opening of the canal will greatly increase the importance of these islands as the metropolitan of the middle Pacific. They lie, you know, at the crossway of the main traveled routes of that ocean. They are 2,100 miles from San Francisco and about 1,300 miles from the east coast of Asia. They are 4,700 miles from the western end of the Panama canal, 3,800 miles from New Zealand, 1,600 miles from Japan and about 2,600 from Seattle or Vancouver. They are the halfway house to almost anywhere in the Pacific, and their future trade will be enormous.

### Better Shipping Facilities.

As it is the transportation facilities have increased since we took possession. There are now sixteen steamers which go regularly from island to island, and they carry several hundred thousands tons of freight every year. There is a big traffic between the United States, Australia and Mexico and there are many vessels which call at Hawaii on their way to and from Japan and China. This is so of our transports en route to the Philippines and also of the Canadian vessels bound for New Zealand and the Fiji.

The American-Hawaiian Steamship

company has now a freight line from Honolulu to New York. This is by the way of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec in southern Mexico, the freight being carried across that isthmus by railroad. The company has some steamers of 12,000 tons each, and it is now carrying 300,000 tons of freight each year.

There are 10,000 and 12,000 ton vessels which ply regularly between San Francisco and Honolulu, and some of the biggest of the Pacific, the Pacific Mail Steamship company and the Toyo Kisen Kaisha stop at Honolulu on their way to and from Japan. There are also a number of sailing vessels which go from Hawaii down around South America and thence to New York and Europe, and there are many tramp steamers which call at the islands.

### Health and the Lepers.

The government has done much to improve the health of the islands. They now have a bureau of health, which spent last year more than \$12,000, and there is a sanitary commission which will reorganize Honolulu as to its sewerage and drainage. There are district physicians, who make house-to-house inspection to keep track of the sick. During the past year they have made 5,000 visits and filled 10,000 prescriptions. They received 4,000 calls and examined 15,000 school children.

### On Molokai.

In addition to the leper colony on the island of Molokai the government has now a receiving hospital for lepers at Honolulu, and on the island itself it is adopting a new policy as to the treatment of lepers. In the past it has been customary to regard them as outcasts. They are now considered as patients and treated like other human beings. There are 60 lepers in the hospital, of whom five-sixths are Hawaiians and the most of the remainder are Portuguese and Chinese.

### On Molokai.

The leper settlement is on a tongue of land comprising several square miles on the island of Molokai. The lepers have a colony of their own and this is a complete community of itself. It is much like the leper colony of the Philippines islands, in that it has its own magistrate and police and its social and business life. It has churches, debating clubs, baseball grounds and a race track. There are two bands and a moving picture theater.

In the colony are four large institutional homes. One is for male, another for females, a third for hopeless cases and a fourth is a nursery for the children. There are also about 30 other buildings, consisting of machine shops, storerooms and detached cottages, occupied by lepers. Among the schools of Honolulu are some for non-leperous children whose parents are lepers.

### Sugar and Labor.

Some of the big questions of the future in the Hawaiian islands have to do with the labor question. This is based on the sugar plantations, which are enormously rich, but which require cheap labor to handle them. There are few spots upon the earth that produce sugar like the lowlands and valleys of this Sandwich group. The area is not large, but the crop last year amounted to more than

1,000,000 pounds, or enough to give every man woman and child in the United States a pound of sugar a month all the year through.

The sugar plantations of Hawaii all belong to rich corporations and trusts. There are altogether sixty-five companies, most of them chartered under the laws of California. The stock is held by 7,000 persons, some of whom live on the islands, some in the United States and not a few in England and Germany. The corporations have an aggregate capital of \$200,000,000 and they produce about \$40,000,000 worth of sugar a year. Some of the plantations have declared dividends as high as 1 per cent a month, while others have gone into bankruptcy.

### Abolition in Hawaii.

It is this labor demand that has brought the Asiatic to Hawaii. The invasion began before we took possession of the islands and at first it was composed largely of Chinese. Since then the Chinese have been kept out by our exclusion law, but the Japanese have taken their place, and we have now something like 20,000 of them here. We have perhaps 20,000 Chinese, 1,000 or 5,000 Koreans and some Filipinos.

As to the Japanese, there are three times as many of them as of the native Hawaiians, and altogether they form from one-third to one-half of the whole population. So far these orientals have been doing very little voting, but their children will vote as they grow up, and the question is what effect it will have as to the control of the government. As it is now, the ruling class is the Hawaiian or a mixture of that and the American. Twenty out of twenty-eight of the representatives belong to that race, and they also form the majority of the senate. The Hawaiians cast something like 20,000 votes at the last election, whereas the American, British and German element cast only a little over 5,000. The Portuguese cast 2,000 votes, the Chinese 670 and the Japanese fifty-three.

### Government Lands in Hawaii.

The Hawaiian islands, as every one knows, are now a territory of the United States. They have a governor and a secretary appointed by the president, and these are aided by a territorial legislature, consisting of a senate and house elected by the people. The legislature sits sixty days only, and the last one passed 110 bills.

### Government Lands in Hawaii.

The Hawaiian islands have not proved an El Dorado to pioneers from the United States, as many expected. The truth is that they had already been developed to American brains and American enterprise. Those came in with the missionaries, and they have been so used that the best lands have been taken and the best places filled.

### Government Lands in Hawaii.

The government acquired about 1,500,000 acres of public lands by the transfer, but a great part of that was made up of canyons, ravines and lava-cold mountains. The Hawaiian had about one-third of the whole, but the greater part of that third was no earthly good. It had about 2,000 acres of good sugar land, but much was leased to the sugar plantations and was therefore not to be disposed of until those leases ended. A number of homesteads were granted, but as a general thing these were small, and those who got them have not made any

great profit to speak of. Today Uncle Sam still offers homesteads, but the tracts are small and they are given at prices a little less than their cash value. One thousand lots were taken in 1910, but since then other drawings have been advertised and comparatively few have been taken.

The officials say that there are possibilities in the islands in the raising of coffee, rice and bananas, and there is no doubt that money may be made in the pineapple industry, which is rapidly growing. The exports for the last year were something like 600,000 cases, and they will be 800,000 in 1912. Among other industries which bid fair to pay well are tobacco and cotton, but the main profits will always come from the sugar, and this, as I have said, is in the hands of the rich.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

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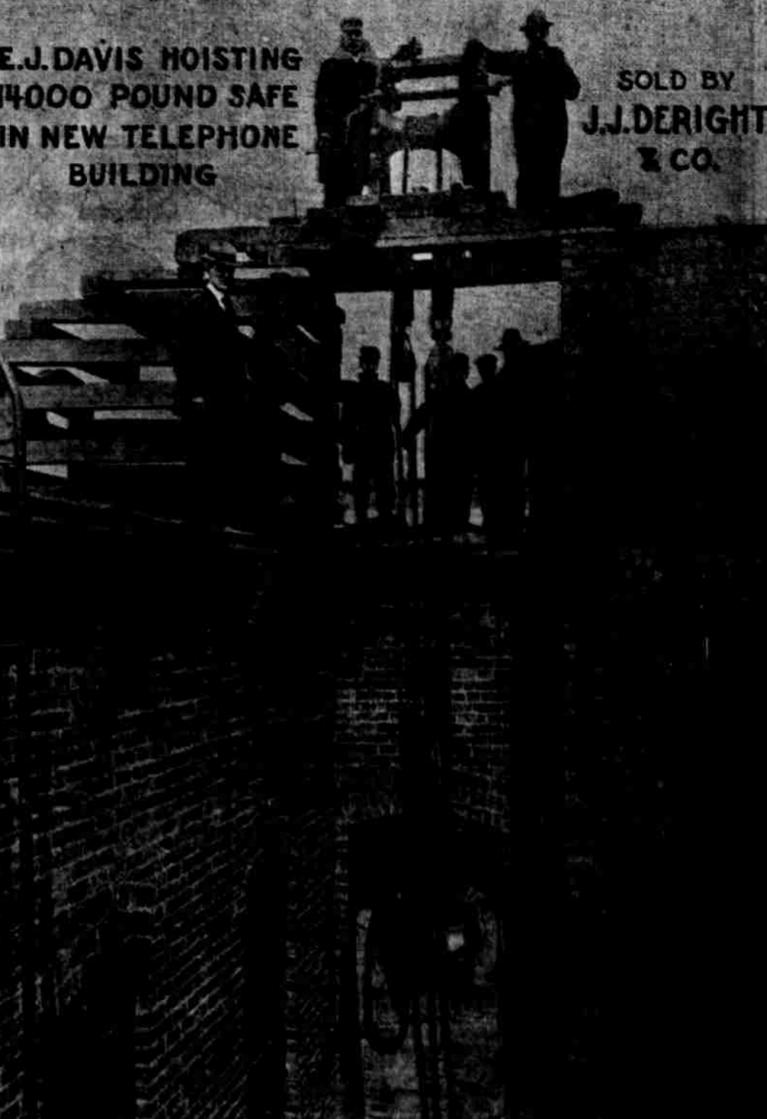
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