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Frank Carpenter writes from Hawaii that Honolulu is "no place for a poor man." We have observed that Scranton, Pa., isn't much of a place for any.

Calling Japan's Bluff.

The publication of Secretary Sherman's recent reply to the note of the Japanese minister protesting against the Hawaiian annexation treaty enables us to admire the quiet manner with which the McKinley administration is pursuing its policy with reference to the mid-Pacific. The instrument presented by Mr. Sherman, although brief, has a rank smacking of ability about it that puts it in striking contrast with most state papers.

The protest of Japan rested on three propositions: First, that the maintenance of the status quo of Hawaii is essential to the good understanding of the Powers which have interests in the Pacific. Second, that the annexation of Hawaii would tend to endanger certain rights of Japanese subjects in Hawaii under the treaties, constitution and laws of that country. And third, that such annexation would be inconsistent with the postponement by Hawaii of the settlement of claims and privileges already existing in favor of Japan under treaty stipulations.

Secretary Sherman considers the second and third of these propositions first, showing by numerous citations from authoritative writers on American and Japanese law that the obligations of treaties, even when some of their stipulations are in terms perpetual, expire in case either of the contracting parties loses its existence as an independent state, after exploding on that score the theories between Hawaii and Japan would fall at the moment of Hawaii's incorporation into the United States, and at that same moment the terms of the present treaties between the United States and Japan would extend over the territory thus incorporated, thereby affording ample protection to Japanese rights and interests in the Hawaiian area.

As to the first point, "that the maintenance of the status quo of Hawaii is essential to the good understanding of the powers which have interests in the Pacific," it is sufficient, in Secretary Sherman's judgment, to remind that, as a fact, through three-quarters of a century, in which the constitution and government of Hawaii and the commerce of the islands with the world have undergone notable changes, the one essential feature of the paramount influence of the United States upon the fortunes of the islands, and that the union of that island territory to the United States, often foreshadowed and at times taking tangible shape, has been recognized as a necessary contingency, drawing nearer year by year with the passage of events. He also directs Japan's attention to the fact that four years ago, when a similar project of annexation followed the Hawaiian revolution, the necessity for maintaining the status quo was not even suggested by any power having interests in the Pacific, and he adds, very impressively:

> The government cannot be expected to proclaim as a fact that any such question has since arisen. It does not intend nor admit that the independent union of Hawaii in the United States, by which the commercial interests and essential assistance of some twenty states have their security and protection, can injure any legitimate interest of other powers in the Pacific. It will lend itself to no such construction, and will resist all such construction, if put upon its action in the premises.

It is often true of a diplomatic communication as of a woman's letter that the gist of it is in the last paragraph. The present instance always can be relied on, for after commending the "candor and friendly spirit" of Japan's note, Secretary Sherman concludes with a pleasant value which contains the substance of his purpose: "So far as you take occasion to deny what you aptly call 'the unfavorable conclusion or report' that Japan has designs against the integrity or sovereignty of Hawaii, I am glad to assure you that such concern is entirely unnecessary. Intervention by government has not doubted, and cannot for an instant doubt, the amicality and friendliness of Japan in all that concerns her relations to the United States and to the Hawaiian islands. After this it is safe to assume that Japan will be good.

The natives of India prefer to smelling instead of bathe. They are evidently the Populists of the Orient.

Elkin to the Rescue.

State Chairman Elkin has issued a statement concerning the work of the recent legislature, and especially with reference to the virtual collapse of the reform programme. Of the five bills introduced to redeem the platform pledges the two which passed—the mile tax bill and the non-interference bill—passed, he contends, substantially in the form in which they were indorsed by the state convention and state committee, and were not made worthless, as claimed.

"The other two bills," he continues, "met stiff opposition. I wanted them passed and Senator Quay wanted them passed. I did everything in my power to get them through, making a personal canvass of almost the entire Republican membership. We did get the non-interference bill through on second reading, with amendments. These amendments were made to meet objections and in the hope of passing the bill, but finally the house refused to concur in the conference committee report. The civil service bill met stronger opposition yet. The order of President Cleveland, extending the operation of the national law, created a very strong public sentiment against civil service reform. Members continually met my opponents by presenting the orders from their constituents protesting against the bill. It was amended and amended again in the effort to secure the necessary support to pass it. Senator Quay asked me to use every effort in its behalf, and I did so, being personally as one to have the platform redeemed, as you know."

Proceeding to a consideration of the Republican's merits as a whole, the state chairman affirms: "The last Legislature, contrary to public expectation, has not been a bad one. Its record is good. It has been noticeably free from bad legislation, and has set a serious job against its critics. On the other hand, it has passed many special bills for local benefit and has been exceedingly alert to the requests of labor for its benefit. It passed the bill prohibiting the discharge of employes because they were members of labor organizations, a bill that has many previous sessions withstood pressure. It passed the prison labor bill. It passed the bill for a more equable distribution of school funds, but defeated the bill for all the people outside the large cities. It passed the bill taxing alien owners of coal lands, and the bill passed by the session was the bill of Senator of Westmoreland in that direction. It passed a law for the purpose, it was said, of preventing the importation of foreign paupers, but it was so drawn that it was almost a dead letter. It passed the bill for the relief of the Pennsylvania Railroad company, which was a bill for the benefit of a corporation, but it was strongly demanded by the people of the state. It passed the bill for the relief of the Philadelphia firemen, which was a bill for the benefit of a class