

THE INDEPENDENT

EVERY AFTERNOON

(Except Sunday)

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V. J. TESTA, Proprietor and Publisher.

EDMUND NORRIE, Editor.
W. HORACE WRIGHT, Assistant Editor.

Reading to Honolulu.

MONDAY, DEC. 31, 1900.

AT THE GRAVE OF A CENTURY.

When the note of dirge which Professor Berger's hand will play tonight just before midnight dies out, then the Nineteenth Century has been relegated to its grave, and the people all over the Christian world turn hastily away and swell the noise from steam whistles, sirens, bands, and anything which can make noise in crying jubilantly: *Le roi est mort, vive le Roi!*

How will the nineteenth century be classed three hundred years hence? We who have seen a good slice of it claim of course that it was the greatest century in the annals of history, but whether we honestly mean it is another thing. We have seen too much of the past century, and we have all found fault because everything didn't go the way we wanted it, and for that reason we are unfit to make comparisons with other centuries or to judge of the events which contributed to give a distinct character to centenarians we bury to-night. Familiarity breeds contempt, and we have been too familiar with the world of the past hundred years.

But how will the text book in the schools three hundred years hence read when the nineteenth century is described? It may say something like this: "The nineteenth century began when the world was in a great turmoil owing to the French warrior, Napoleon. The literature of the century and the newspapers, which are of a very ancient pattern, claim at all times that the century is the most refined, the most perfect that possibly can be imagined. In fact the writers of the day virtually claim that perfection has been reached in the year 1900 and that moment a retrograde movement will begin. It should be remembered that it is difficult to understand the language used during that century. Books are mostly written in something called dialect but the words used cannot be found in the dictionaries of that period. Conversation was conducted in something called "slang," which seems to have puzzled even some of the most learned professors of the century. Bull fighting was strictly prohibited as a sign of the high civilization and lofty sentiments of the people. The bulls had to be protected and it was considered cruelty to have them killed except in a butcher shop. Instead of that pastime which was so much in vogue in the 18th century a game called football was made the rage. Here only men were killed, or maimed, but that didn't interfere with the lofty sentiments of the 19th century people who to us naturally appear as conceited, ignorant generations. War, a barbarian manner in which difficulties between nations were settled, was condemned by all writers of the day but the newspapers which are "yellow," probably owing to age would in one article condemn war in general and in another article in the same issue roast the respective governments who "took water," "got cold feet," "climbed a tree," rather than go to war and uphold the honor of the nation. The best philologists of to-

day have been unable to fathom the meaning of the above phrase, but it is evident that there is something bad.

Not a decade during the century has passed except war and carnage raged in some part of the world and it is somewhat perplexing to understand certain documents recently found in the Hague relating to a peace conference which it seems was held in that city in the very end of the century. All powers were represented, and swore eternal peace, and then they went home and a few weeks after wars were raging in South Africa, in Cuba in the Philippines and in China.

It is very puzzling to the student of history to realize the true character of the 19th century. Whether mankind became better during the century cannot be learned! Things morally must have been pretty bad, because there was evidently always need for something to be done to suppress vice. The something evidently didn't materialize. The 21st century is of course far superior to all of those before us. We stand in a pinnacle of civilization and it is safe to say that we are nearing absolute perfection and that the future must mean that the world must now necessarily go down hill. The idea of the nineteenth century considering itself perfection is an amusing illustration of the short sightedness of semi-civilized people.

We add to the above that it has been the invariable habit of the dying and in coming centuries to add to history facts of importance to the world. War and potents of war have generally changed the geographical conditions of the world powers. The indications are that the Armageddon is approaching which will lead to the Biblical Millennium.

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

The fire department has had a long rest, but now we can look out for the proverbial three fires. The department is in fine trim and ready for any emergency.

In spite of the noise made by the Bow Wongs in their attacks on the Chinese consul it seems that the official has the support of the large majority of the people whose interests he is here to look after, a task he performs in an admirable manner. The Bow Wongs, like a certain political local clique, will of course claim that their morality represents the intelligence of the Chinese colony and that consequently the consul ought to listen to them and not to the majority. The consul evidently doesn't take any stock in rule by family compacts and goes fearlessly ahead backed by the bai majority which of course really has no right to exist—according to Bow Wongs.

The question is frequently asked lately whether it is possible to get a municipal charter next year. As we understand it the legislature has nothing to do with the framing of the charter. The legislature can pass an act providing for a municipality stating what officers shall serve in the city government and we presume prescribe the time at which the law shall go into effect. The next step is for somebody—the legislature perhaps or the governor—to appoint a committee to frame a charter which then shall be submitted to the voters of the municipality and if adopted by the majority referred to the legislature for approval. If we are correct in the premises we feel confident that all these steps cannot be taken during the 90 days the legislature will be in session. The municipal act can possibly be passed in a short time, but it will take time to have a charter framed to have the machinery for an election put in shape and then finally have the charter, if voted for, referred to the legislature for approval. But matters will be greatly facilitated of course if when the leg-

islature meets the two charter committees now at work have something ready on which the regular committee can build a charter at a minimum of time. We feel sure that the majority of the voters want a municipal government without delay, and it is well worth the while for the majority to study the process through which such a government can be obtained without a delay of two years.

Chinese Consul Honored.

Residents and travellers on Bereania and King streets were surprised yesterday morning by seeing what looked like a general exodus of Chinese wending their way towards Waikiki. There were back after back filled with gaily bedecked Chinese ladies and children, there were men on bicycles, in trams and on foot and all were on their way to the Imperial consulate where a committee representing the Chinese colony in Honolulu presented Consul Yang Wei Ping with several costly gifts as a token of their appreciation of his excellent work during the disastrous fire a year ago. Appropriate addresses were made and light refreshments were served to the large crowd present. Over 1000 people at least were gathered in the grounds of the Consulate.

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A Big Funeral.

The body of Kawaiaha Church was filed yesterday afternoon by a large throng of representative haoles and Hawaiians who wished to show the last respect to the late David Lima Naone. Rev. H. H. Parker officiated and was assisted by Rev. W. D. Westervelt. Eulogies were also offered to the memory of the deceased by Rev. Mr. Ezera, Rev. Mr. Timoteo and Mr. Henry Waterhouse. After the service the coffin was carried to the hearse by the following pall bearers: Edward Lilikalani, Geo. B. Castle, J. L. Kaulukou, Joseph A. M. Kalia, W. H. Kailima, C. B. Dwight and J. Kanaha. The interment took place in the Kawaiaha cemetery and the government band was stationed in an adjoining lot to that where the remains of Naone were laid to rest. A firing squad from the first regiment N. G. H. under command of Sergeant Lehman fired three volleys over the grave after the services were closed. The officers of the regiment were represented by Captain Klemme and Lieutenant Smythe.

The deceased was a painter by trade and an active politician and as such he will be remembered as being the speaker of the House of Representatives during the first Legislature under the Republic. He leaves a widow but no children.

A Big Blaze.

The Fire Department was called out at 2 o'clock this morning in response to an alarm sent in from Palama. The engines were quickly on the spot and the men found that four Chinese stores opposite the Kalbi pumping plants were being devoured by the flames. The fire had the upper hand and the fire men were obliged to confine their efforts to saving buildings in the vicinity. The fire started in the store of Chong Wing Gong, probably by the overturning of an opium lamp.

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NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that the Pearl City Cemetery is now open for interments. A special funeral train leaves the railroad station at 2:15 p. m., daily, remaining at the cemetery until after all interments.

The rates for transportation are one dollar for the corpse, and fifty cents for the round trip for mourners.

Plots are now on sale at the office of the company, ranging in price from \$10 up, according to location and size. No other charges of any nature.

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BY AUTHORITY.

WATER NOTICE.

In accordance with Section 1 of Chapter XXVI of the laws of 1886:

All persons holding water privileges or those paying water rates are hereby notified that the water rates for the term ending June 30, 1901, will be due and payable at the office of the Honolulu Water Works on the 1st day of January, 1901.

All such rates remaining unpaid for 15 days after they are due will be subject to an additional ten percent.

All privileges upon which rates remain unpaid February 15 (30 days after becoming delinquent), are liable to suspension without further notice.

Rates are payable at the office of the Water Works in the basement of Capitol building.

ANDREW BROWN,
Supt. Honolulu Water Works.
Honolulu, Dec. 20, 1900. 80-10t

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