

HANDBOOK ON ANNEXATION

Lorin A. Thurston Issues a Document Giving Arguments and Answering Objections.

USEFUL IN COMMERCE AND WAR

Inhabitants Industrious and Without Poorhouses or Tramps—No Danger to the Sugar Industry of the United States.

Lorin A. Thurston, ex-Minister from Hawaii, has issued a "Handbook on the Annexation of Hawaii" of 88 pages in pamphlet form.

The handbook consists of a statement of the reasons in favor of annexation, a brief description of Hawaii, its people, Government, laws, commerce, finances, educational system, and resources; an enumeration of twenty objections that have been made to annexation, and a reply to each; a digest of the opinions of American Presidents, Secretaries of State, Ministers, and military and naval officers, and of acts of Congress and of Hawaii concerning American control or annexation of Hawaii; copies of the messages and reports accompanying the annexation treaties of 1893 and 1897, and copies of the three treaties of annexation of Hawaii negotiated in 1854, 1893, and 1897; of the reciprocity treaty of 1875, and of the "Pearl Harbor treaty" of 1857.

There are also four maps showing (1) The area in the Pacific within which Hawaii is the only supply station; (2) The same area transposed to the Atlantic side; (3) A detail map showing the relative position of Hawaii to, and the distance from, the principal naval stations and ports.

A summary of the reasons advanced for and against annexation are as follows:

American Policy Toward Hawaii.

The reasons are that:

Hawaiian Christianization, civilization, commerce, education, and development are the direct product of American effort.

Hawaii is, in every element and quality which enters into the composition of a modern civilized community, a child of America.

Hawaii is the one "American Colony" beyond the borders of the Union.

Honolulu is the one foreign port in the world where the Stars and Stripes float over more ships than all the other flags combined.

Out of all this has grown a sentimental feeling toward Hawaii which does not measure its regard in dollars, combined with a recognition of the strategic value of Hawaii, and the determination that it should not pass under the control of any other foreign people, resulting in a settled policy of exclusion of other powers and ultimate annexation.

The first reason in favor of annexation is that it will prevent the establishment of an alien, and possibly hostile, stronghold in a position commanding the Pacific coast.

The second reason is that the conditions are such that the United States must act now to preserve the results of its past policy and to prevent the dominancy in Hawaii of a foreign people.

The third reason is that it will increase many fold and secure to the United States the commerce of the islands.

The fourth reason is that it will greatly increase and secure to the United States the shipping business of the islands.

The fifth reason is that it will remove Hawaii from international politics and tend to promote peace in the Pacific by eliminating an otherwise certain source of international friction.

Twenty Objections Answered.

Twenty objections to annexation and replies thereto are included in the pamphlet. The first objection is that it is unconstitutional, because the General Government is limited in its powers to those expressly conferred upon it by the Constitution, and that the Constitution does not specifically grant power to annex territory, and that therefore the power does not exist. Eleven instances are cited wherein the Executive has negotiated annexation treaties, and four decisions of the Supreme Court supporting the constitutionality of annexation are cited.

The second objection—that it is unconstitutional because Hawaii is not contiguous to the United States—is answered as follows: "The Supreme Court holds that the power to acquire territory is an incident of National sovereignty; that the United States has the right to acquire territory because it is a Nation."

The third objection—that its inhabitants are not homogeneous with the people of the United States—is dismissed as follows:

"There is no principle, direct or implied, in the Constitution of the United States which makes the title of the United States to the territories enumerated, depend upon the quality of the people living therein at the date of annexation."

The People of Hawaii.

The fourth objection, whether the annexation of a non-homogeneous people is constitutional or not, the population of Hawaii is unfit for incorporation into and will be dangerous to the American political system, is thus dealt with:

"The people of Hawaii, as a whole, are industrious, annually exporting more per capita than any other nation. There are no poorhouses, paupers, beggars, or tramps in Hawaii. The native Hawaiians are a conservative, peaceful, and generous people. The majority of the present House of Representatives, the first under the republic, including the Speaker, consists of pure-blood native Hawaiians. The two races freely intermarry, resulting in a present population of 7,000 of mixed blood. Seven thousand of the so-called 15,000 Portuguese of Hawaii are Hawaiian born. All of these have been educated in the public schools and speak English. The criminal statistics show a smaller percentage of offenses committed by Portuguese than by any other nationality. The remaining inhabitants, after the Japanese and Chinese, are 7,000 Americans, English, and Germans; strong, virile men, who have controlled the Government and acquired the ownership of more than three-fourths of the property."

The sixth objection, that Hawaii is an outlying territory, and in time of war it will be a source of weakness to the United States, is dismissed by saying that Gens. Schofield and Alexander, Admirals Porter, Walker, and Belknap, and Capt. Mahan declare that Hawaii would be a source of strength to the United States in case of war.

The seventh objection, that it will necessitate heavy expenditures and a navy in order to protect Hawaii in time of war, is answered: "Annexation does not necessitate fortification, but if ever fortification is required, title will be an essential. Title can be obtained now. What the future may bring forth no one can tell."

Monroe Doctrine Considered.

The ninth objection, that it is contrary to the Monroe doctrine to acquire territory beyond the boundaries of the American continent, is answered: "The Monroe doctrine is a limitation on European powers, excluding them from participation in the affairs of the American continent and its outlying islands, but it places no limitation on the United States. Instead of Hawaii lying outside of the Monroe doctrine, there is no territory to which it more directly applies, and in no other case has there been such continued insistence on the part of American statesmen on the application of the doctrine as in the case of Hawaii."

To the tenth objection, that a large portion of Hawaiian voters have been disfranchised; no vote has been taken in Hawaii upon the question of annexation, and it is un-American to annex a territory without a popular vote of its inhabitants, the reply is that no Hawaiian voters have been disfranchised, and that it is not un-American to annex territory without a vote of the inhabitants.

Hawaiian Sugar Competition.

The twelfth objection, that it will be injurious to the beet sugar industry, as Hawaiian sugar will compete with beet sugar raised in the United States, is replied to by the statement:

"The only way in which Hawaiian sugar can injure beet sugar is by supplanting it, or by cutting the price so as to lower the price of beet sugar to its producers. Hawaii can never produce enough to supplant beet sugar. If the Hawaiian crop were cut off entirely or doubled, it would not raise or lower the price of sugar in the United States. Under annexation, the Asiatic supply of labor will be cut off, and this slight advantage to Hawaii will be eliminated."

The Debt of Hawaii.

The sixteenth objection, that under the

proposed treaty of annexation the United States assumes the Hawaiian public debt without receiving in return the means or property with which to pay it, is answered:

"The present net debt of the Republic of Hawaii is approximately \$3,900,000, and its salable property, exclusive of the public streets and roads, upon which not less than a million dollars have been expended, amounts to \$7,933,000, leaving a clear net profit to the United States in property acquired of approximately \$4,000,000; all of the property owned by Hawaii being transferred by the annexation treaty to the United States. This does not include the revenues from customs, Post Office, &c., which largely exceed current expenses."

The eighteenth objection, that the monarchy was overthrown through the agency of American troops, is dismissed, as follows:

"This accusation is ancient history. If it were true, which is not admitted, it would have no more effect to-day upon the status of the Hawaiian Republic than does the fact that French troops assisted Washington to overthrow the British monarchy in America have any effect upon the present status of the American Republic."

"The day has gone by," the argument concludes, "when the United States can ignore its international privileges and obligations. Whether it will or no, the logic of events is forcing the American people to take their place as one of the great 'international nations,' and incidentally thereto, to adopt such means as are necessary to sustain the position."