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No. 1

BILKINS IN HAWAII

**The Major Says the Islands
Are Worth the Price
Paid.**

HONOLULA THE CAPITAL CITY

**A Leper Camp as a Living Tomb—
The Islands Are a Valuable Grab
—The Sugar Crop is a Very Im-
portant Industry—Other Products
—Language Rather Mixed—Cur-
ious Fish—Our Great Naval and
Commercial in the Pacific.**

Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands,
January 1, 1910.

Owin' to the Christmas holidays an' the long jump necessary to reach these islands, I failed to reach you in time for your first issue in January. To make matters worse, I hev bin quite unwell for a few days, but am now feelin' better.

The Hawaiian islands number eight. Not to speak of several small patches in the neighborhood that air hardly worth counting. Hawaii, the largest in the bunch, has an area of 4,200 miles and a population of about 50,000. Hilo, the second town in size, is located on this island and has a population of about 3,000. Honolulu, the Capital city, is situated on the island of Oahu, which has a population of about 60,000. The city of Honolulu has about 40,000 people.

These islands air so far from the mainland or any country and from any other islands that they appear to be a mere speck upon the vast ocean. Yet they hev great mountains upon them, one being 14,000 feet high. Most of these mountains are, or hev bin volcanos. A mountain called the "Punch Bowl," and located in the suburis or Honolulu, wuz once an active volcano, but hit iz not active now. Worse still, a leper colony iz located on one of the islands an'awl persons who become afflicted air carried there to find a livin' tomb az long as they last, which iz not for long.

The Hawaiian islands were discovered by Capt. Cook in 1778. The natives did not wear much in the way of clothing in those days. But they were not savages, neither cannibals. They were orderly and seemed to welcome the presence of the Americans and Europeans who visited them. American influence soon became dominant in the islands and we finally became owners of them, they being especially valuable to our country owing to their location midway between our own Japan, China and other eastern countries. Now that we own the

Philippines the Hawaiian islands are even more important. The islands' air represented in the Lower House or Congress in recent years. He who wuz known in the islands as Prince Cupid. But in Washington he is just a plain, hard working Congressman, such as North Carolina and other States send there, or at any rate, she thinks they air that sort of thing.

The sugar crop is by far the most important product of the islands. But rice is raised, awso coffee, bananas, pineapples and coconuts. The landowners on the islands do no work much. The heavy work is done by Japanese, Chinese and Koreans in late years. A large number of Portuguese people hev located on the islands an' hev proven very satisfactory as farmers.

Honolulu has several good hotels and an' good food is plentiful here. The population of the islands is so thoroughly mixed, practically all countries being represented with actual residents, that all foods are known and in use, and with a good mixture of Japanese and Chinese residents, they is no scarcity of good cooking. Something one cannot say in favor of some countries.

The language in use on the islands is very much like the native Hawaiian language, but the natives have learned the meaning of one word, "aloha," which stands for "welcome" in English.

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The fish found in the water near the islands air a curiosity to visitors. They have all the colors of the rainbow, and some of them air strange-shaped, hardly lookin' like fish.

There iz one railroad on the islands. Hit iz seventy miles in length. Hit passes near Pearl Harbor, which iz the place the United States Government iz preparin' fer a great naval an' commercial base. The island has a direct line between the Islands.

air on a direct line between
mus of Panama and the Orient
countries and that makes hit
portant that our government be
the lookout for the future. Trout
may never come from this quar
but hit iz well ter be prepared.

Durin' the administration of President Harrison he sent a message to Congress in which he advised that steps be taken to annex the Hawaiian Islands. A bill was introduced to that effect, but failed to pass.

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