

HENRY STEAD'S LAST ARTICLE

MEN OF MARK: ALEXANDER HUME FORD of HONOLULU

(From the Mid-Pacific Magazine.)

Some men are gifted with an energy so tremendous that they are able to achieve marvelous results in short time; to do the apparently impossible; to step in where others fear to tread. Such men are as a rule not honored by their own generation, nor do they secure recognition in their own day. Their methods are necessarily spectacular, crude often, and they are regarded as more or less mad in many cases. My father was a man of this type. He bubbled over with immense energy, and it drove him through life at a pace others found it impossible to maintain. "You will never be a leader," said Mr., now Lord, Morley, to him after he had worked for some time as that statesman's assistant editor of the Pall Mall Gazette, "because you are around the corner before the crowd gets into the street!" Yet it is these men of energy who get things done, who bring about reforms, overthrow abuses. But it is only some time after they have done these things that people begin to realize their personal greatness, give credit where this is due.

Alexander Hume Ford is a man after my father's own heart. He is always out doing things. He may tilt at windmills occasionally, but only when these happen to be in the way. He has great ideals, and he runs ever after them, counting not the cost, caring not at all what happens those who get in the path. In Honolulu he is known as "the human dynamo," and for many years he was regarded more with tolerant affection by the leaders of that city than with proper appreciation for what he was doing. "Another of Ford's fads," they would say when he came out with some new

scheme. But now they have learned that "Ford's fads" are of the greatest importance, and realize that the strenuous work he has done for the past few years is likely to bear splendid fruit—may yet avert that cataclysm everyone is fearing will soon fall on the Pacific.

Many years ago, in 1907, when Mr. Ford first went to Honolulu, he took with him a great idea, and he has consistently worked on it ever since. This idea first of all found expression in the Hands-Around-the-Pacific Club, and later in the Pan-Pacific Union. Why, said Mr. Ford, should the nations of the Pacific not get together and be friends, instead of each sulking in its tent preparing for trouble? The first thing essential in the establishment of friendship is knowledge of each other, and this, Mr. Ford, by means of conferences, and visits, and articles, has endeavored to establish. He is located at Honolulu, because the place happens to be the centre of the Pacific, a cross-roads station, almost equidistant from all the Pacific nations. Mr. Ford was able to persuade the leading men of Honolulu that the Pan-Pacific Union was the right thing, and that it would achieve results. At any rate, he has secured their wholehearted support. When money is wanted for propaganda work, or for financing conferences, he asks for it—and gets it. Not in small quantities, but in large. Possibly the fact that he never asks, or expects, anything for his own labor, but gives that as his contribution to the great idea may have something to do with this.

In 1908 Mr. Ford began the systematic organization of the Pan-Pacific Union by making a trip to New Zealand and
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