

LABORERS LEAVE CANNERS IN LURCH

Hawaiians and Filipinos Land in San Francisco Ignor- ing Agreement.

PACKERS LOSE \$40,000

Crowd of Nondescripts Refuse to Go to Alaska on Steamer Star of Italy and Action Puts Con- tractors in "Hole."

SAN FRANCISCO, April 18.—(Special).—It is unlikely that the steamer Senator of the Pacific Coast Steamship Company's fleet will engage in any further attempts to bring Hawaiian and Filipino laborers here from Honolulu for transshipment to Alaska for work in the Alaska Packers' Association canneries.

Under charter to the Alaska Packers' Association, the Senator sailed from this port for Honolulu, March 28, last, equipped to carry 1000 laborers here. She returned last Sunday with 145. They left the steamer this afternoon, after refusing to take passage on the Star of Italy for Bristol Bay.

Hawaiians Leave Filipinos.

Today the Hawaiians have separated from the Filipinos and are enjoying their shore leave. Representatives of the nondescript crowd are negotiating with labor contractors and may yet sign for the cannery work at satisfactory terms for the season. The Hawaiians declare they objected to two terms in the contract. One was that they should work under Chinese bosses, and the other that no specific number of hours for a day's labor was mentioned in the contract. The Senator was today given up by the chartering company and turned over to its owners. She will go to the dry docks for a thorough overhauling before the Nome season in June.

This second failure to enlist men from the Hawaiian Islands to work in the Alaskan salmon canneries for the season just beginning has cost the Alaska Packers' Association \$40,000, although local agents of the company say they know nothing of the chartering of the Senator to bring laborers from Honolulu. The first fiasco was the jumping of their contracts by 275 Filipinos, Porto Ricans and Hawaiians, recruited at Honolulu by agents of the Alaska Packers' Association, when they arrived here on the steamer Korea. The Alaska Packers' Association determined this year to change its system of hiring laborers.

Mistakes Are Made.

In former years its employees have been recruited almost entirely from the Chinese. The supply has been diminishing. It was necessary to get new blood into the ranks, hence the idea of immigration from Hawaii. But the Hawaiian planters have been having troubles of their own about labor. Hence a rub that was principally responsible for the failure of the scheme. The packers made another mistake. They persisted in the same wage scale used by the Chinese contractors and the same appropriation for supplies. The Hawaiians heard of the rice and chopstick fare and "sea lawyers," woke them up to the wage injustice.

Chu Chu & Co., Chinese contractors, were commissioned to supply a part of 5000 laborers needed in the canneries. To the men brought on the Senator no contract was offered. The agreement was merely verbal. The Chinese contractors would not come to the terms demanded by the men and preferred rather to let them go.

Coercion Seems Apparent.

A local newspaper commenting on the situation editorially says: "The Filipinos demonstrated their unreliability by refusing to carry out contracts to which they had agreed, after having cost their employers the expense of bringing them to this port and there seem to have been attempts at coercion bordering on the unlawful. The net result is the deposit in this port of more Asiatic laborers of proved unreliability. Incidentally the apparent increasing cost of