

WAIKIKI RECLAMATION FURTHER DELAYED.

Governor Pinkham's Waikiki reclamation scheme, put before the legislature in a strong, straightforward message yesterday, proves so large in conception and so intricate in accomplishment that there is no hope for an early beginning of the actual field work.

The governor proposes a territorial commission "including the superintendent of public works, city engineer, land commissioner, territorial treasurer, attorney-general, a suitable representative of the beach owners and a representative of the landowners to be selected by themselves." This commission, under his proposal, is "to make the necessary surveys, plans and estimates, also to secure, to the extent possible, the necessary agreement with the landowners. Said commission should be instructed to prepare and present a detailed report and comprehensive scheme to the tenth legislature, session of 1919."

Certainly landowners should find no fault with such a plan, and they are lucky that public authority does not outright condemn the land for drainage canals and roads, on account of the necessity for reclaiming this low-lying and periodically flooded area.

The salient point in the governor's plan is that a commission is to make a two-year investigation of Waikiki reclamation, which adds materially to the 12 or 15 years this reclamation scheme has been agitated.

At the very best, there will be two years more of Waikiki duck ponds.

The situation as now developed is the strongest possible argument for the emergency appropriation to divert the waters of the dirty stream flowing over the beach at the Outrigger Club, and to divert into temporary but adequate channels the flood waters which inundate this vast district and seep through into the residence section below Kalakaua avenue.

The emergency project before the house finance committee was materially changed from the original proposal. It was first planned to divert the Apua-kehan stream waters into the Makee Island channel, bringing them out at Kapiolani Park. This has been entirely given up now and Engineer Harvey, employed at the expense of public-spirited citizens, has worked out a plan for a temporary channel that will carry off the flood waters below Fort De Russy. The new project will not interfere with the larger scheme favored by the governor, and the obvious fact that at least two years will elapse before even a report is presented on the general Waikiki reclamation plan makes it imperative that this legislature pass an appropriation for the stream diversion and handling of flood waters.