

# KAHANAMOKU ILL LEFT PENNILESS

Duke Tells How Owen Merrick  
Abandoned Him Stranded in  
City of Washington

## BUSTED AGAIN IN FRISCO

Berndt Advances Passage and  
Promotion Committee Takes  
Up Berndt's Note

Sick, penniless and miserable, Duke Kahanamoku was abandoned by his manager, Owen Merrick, and left in Washington to any fate that might befall.

Taking pity on the big Hawaiian swimmer, several newly made friends clubbed together and raised sufficient to pay Duke's hotel bill and his railroad fare as far as San Francisco, where Emil Berndt of Honolulu found him destitute, ill with influenza and very homesick. This, in substance, is the information contained in the minutes of a meeting of the Hawaii Promotion Committee reaching Hilo in Sunday's mail and which, for some reason, have not heretofore been made public.

When Hawaii sent her Olympian idol forth last spring to swim in the name of the Red Cross and for the greater glory of Hawaii nei, there were those who expressed misgivings at trusting the world's champion to the mercies of Merrick as business manager.

When news reached Honolulu that certain irregularities had occurred in the finances of the expedition and charges were brought by the A. A. U. citing misappropriation of funds, everyone experienced an uncomfortable feeling that things were not as they should be.

After threats to disbar the swimmers from membership in the association some sort of restitution was made and the matter hushed up.

Now comes Duke before the Promotion Committee of Honolulu at a meeting held in the Chamber of Commerce rooms, with the story of his plikia while touring the States.

### Berndt Advanced \$160

Duke can swim faster than he can talk and oftener. He spared the committee details regarding the tour in general. His chief object and most pressing need was to get from under a note for \$160 which he was compelled to sign for funds with which to return to the islands.

Emil Berndt, chairman of the Promotion Committee, was present at the meeting and told the story of finding Duke in San Francisco, ill and penniless. Duke told him that Merrick had left him sick and wholly without funds in Washington, and that two or three friends there had clubbed together and paid his hotel bill and railroad fare to San Francisco. Since arriving in San Francisco he has been sick and without a cent. He had sent several telegrams to Owen Merrick and also to Angus Ely at Washington and received no reply.

J. S. McCandless was in San Francisco at the time and offered to subscribe toward sending Duke to Honolulu, but Mr. Berndt thought it a matter for the Promotion Committee to take up, and therefore declined McCandless' offer. He forthwith advanced Duke \$160, taking the swimmer's personal note and asked that the committee reimburse him.

### Ford Objects to Repayment

At this juncture Alexander Hume Ford interposed an objection, claiming that if this amount should be paid, all the men who had signed notes making the tour of the swimmers possible, should be reimbursed by the committee.

G. S. McKenzie thereupon stated that he had signed one of the notes referred to and did not desire reimbursement—that Mr. Ford's reference was irrelevant, and he was strongly in favor of the refund of the amount paid by Mr. Berndt for Duke's expenses from San Francisco.

It was then moved by J. D. McInerney and seconded by Arthur Wall that the amount in question be refunded to Mr. Berndt and that the note signed by Duke Kahanamoku be cancelled and returned to him. The committee so voted.