

A NEW ASSET

The Hilo Yacht Club is to be host to a large part of Hilo at the housewarming which is to open the new home of the club on Saturday night next. On the outside, the occasion looks much like a good time and not much else. But unless experience elsewhere with similar institutions is inapplicable to Hilo, the occasion will really mark the advent of a new and valuable asset.

To those of us who know them both, the comparison to come to mind immediately is the Oahu Country Club, to the major portion of the advantages of which, the Hilo Yacht Club adds most of those to be had at the Honolulu Outrigger Club.

In their early years, the history of both these institutions was quite similar, and was not at all like what the history of the local club promises to be for some little time. The founders of both endured several years of discouragement during which period the membership was always less than it should have been to support the club properly, and for a time in both cases it looked as if those who had conceived the clubs were visionary rather than broad visioned. In spite of croakers, and against severe odds, however, both clubs won through, and today there are no two elements in the social life of Honolulu, whether from the point of view of resident or visitor, more important or popular than are the country club, and the Outrigger.

Promoters of the new home of the Yacht Club have already had a rather severe forecast of the same difficulties. From the beginning there have not been lacking detractors who thought the scheme as outlined to be on too large a scale. To these were added the small but potent handful who habitually discourage anything new; as well as that proportion of the membership which, although thoroughly in favor of the move, felt personally unable to keep up with the dues which membership in the club now requires.

The Country and Outrigger Clubs of Honolulu have proved among the most potent of all the factors in that city for attracting the tourist, encouraging him to linger, and frequently in persuading him to become a permanent resident. In addition to all this both have filled positions in the resident social life of the city which have come to be taken so much as a matter of course, that it is doubtful whether they will ever be fully appreciated until by some unforeseen and unfortunate accident, the clubs shall cease to exist. Yet even taken together, the two Oahuan clubs offer few features not to be found at the Yacht Club, and to balance those lacking, the Yacht Club has others fully as attractive.

The two important things for which the country club are noted are the fine view and the fine golf. The latter the Yacht Club cannot offer, and the former is somewhat different. But though different, the view across the crescent of Hilo bay, and cane-fields to the summit of Mauna Kea is fully the equal of that either to the Pali, or over Honolulu harbor. In place of golf the Yacht Club will ultimately offer tennis. With a refreshing swim to top off a snappy set, we predict that this sport will become fully as popular as golf is in Honolulu.

The Outrigger club offers surfing. This is a rare sport, and one which the local club cannot hope to give. Counterbalancing this to no small extent however, in the purity, depth, and smoothness of water, the Yacht Club offers incomparably finer swimming than any to be had at Waikiki.

In making for itself its new home, the Yacht Club has done two big things. It has given Hilo a remarkably attractive setting for social functions, as well as providing a pleasant place to congregate informally; and if (as no doubt will be the case), it will be reasonably generous with guestcards, it has taken the first step toward providing for the tourist who desires to linger, something to do in Hilo. Either alone is enough to justify the directors in what they have done. Taken together, they make the club's position unimpeachable. May the club prosper.