

# "Pop" Ford's Reminiscences

By **ALEXANDER HUME FORD**

(Note: This is one of a series of articles by Mr. Ford, founder and for many years director of the Pan-Pacific Union, founder of the Outrigger club, and of other organizations.)

## XVIII—EGGS A LA FORD

Back in 1899 I used to pay in Vladivostok, Siberia, \$1 apiece for fresh eggs and one cent apiece for guaranteed century old eggs that the Chinese had kept in mud balls for generation after generation.

I preferred the fresh eggs and then had an expense account that permitted me to indulge in that. That was in 1899, when I stopped for a day in Honolulu and got my first whiff of the duck ponds at Waikiki, across the way from the now Outrigger club grounds.

In those days the Chinese paid \$50 an acre rent

for these swamplands and raised two crops of rice annually besides raising millions of small fish for the myriads of ducks to feed on, and every few yards they built a long ramp of earth on which they grew bananas, a lucrative crop, and here under the banana trees the ducks would lay their eggs and fertilize the roots of the banana trees.

But oh! The stench that was wafted far out to sea and made life at Waikiki most unhappy to the home owner for miles around. These duck eggs were to be had for the taking, if you could dodge the Chinese watchmen who sat day and night with muskets loaded with birdshot across their knees.

In China once I found eggs selling at about a cent a dozen and bought up by the million by American speculators who built immense refrigeration plants and kept these eggs in cold storage until they could ship them by the ton to America to be turned into egg powder and sold to the bakers throughout the land until at last, both the Chinese and American governments stopped the game.

China because her food supply was being depleted, the United States because her farmers could not compete with the Chinese product.



Mr. Ford