

## J. ASHMAN BEAVEN "Father of Honolulu Stadium"

**I**N 1910 a former newspaperman and world traveller came to Hawaii and liked it. He was ready to settle down to life after 40. Since then, J. Ashman Beaven has crowded enough activity into 34 years to do most men a lifetime.

"Bev" liked sports. He virtually made it his life work. He was captivated by the charm of the Islands and the prospect offered for a full career in sports and promotion of athletic events. He became an official of the Outrigger Canoe Club in 1912, and also assisted the AAU with its swimming program at a time when Hawaii was the aquatic center of the world. He was, in time, actively connected with the CYO, being particularly active in helping put over its amateur boxing program. And—there was baseball.

### Stadium Completed 1927

Before long "Bev" had leased the old Moiliili park and was promoting baseball, football, and other activities there. During these years, he dreamed of a stadium suitable for holding greater crowds than had yet been gathered at sports events in Honolulu. He launched a project to build the Honolulu Stadium in January, 1926, and fourteen acres

at the present Stadium site were obtained. With the notable assistance and backing of Mr. A. L. Castle, the project was completed in May, 1927, and has been consistently enlarged and improved in the intervening years.

### Founder of Hawaii League

Although J. Ashman Beaven lent his promotional and organizational genius to every sport, he was especially interested in baseball. Generally recognized as founder of the present Hawaii League, he is also recognized for inaugurating the Territorial baseball series in 1921, and for organizing the Wanderers Baseball team.

One of his fondest memories is his founding of the "Knot-hole Club," an organization for youngsters admitted free to baseball games at the Stadium. The Honolulu League this year revived the club and has named it after its founder.

Today approaching his 75th birthday, J. Ashman Beaven is no longer active in sports promotion, but his interest in baseball and other athletics is still his greatest pastime. His "every Sunday afternoon at the ball game" is a standby slogan with the men who know him out at the Stadium he built.