

He Pioneered Promotion Of Hawaii

By **JARED G. SMITH**

Alexander Hume Ford, dead at 77 and forgotten by the present generation, did more than any other one man to acquaint the whole wide world with the importance of Hawaii in the Pacific theater. Under his dynamic leadership Honolulu became the meeting place of Congresses organized to foster friendship and good will among all races of mankind whose shores are washed by the common sea—Pan-Pacific art, education, medicine, science, sport, commerce, religion.

Foreign governments appropriated funds—individuals contributed—and in the thirty years in which Ford was the prime mover in Pan-Pacific affairs never a dollar of the millions stuck to his fingers or went into his pockets. Food, clothing and lodging were of no importance. He lived, poorly, on what he could earn as a correspondent and writer.

The Outrigger Club, his initial creation, remains his monument. The Pan-Pacific Institute, supported by the Y.M.C.A., was his also. Character-forming among young people was his hobby. In raising funds Ford never asked for contributions. Selecting backers among the public-spirited and wealthy he would say, "We need so much to put this across. I have put you down for \$1,000, \$5,000 or some other sum." His backers paid. The Pan-Pacific Congress was held. Ford started immediately, getting ready for the next one.

Ford was the livest' live wire of all the Pacific Commonwealth—the tragedy of it being that age sapped his mentality during these latter years. For what he did in promoting good sportsmanship and clean living among the boys of the 1900s and 1910s who are men today; and the very real foundations which he helped to lay on which to build international understanding and friendship among Pacific nations, Alexander Hume Ford has been ill rewarded.