

KAIMUKI FAVORS COAST ARTILLERY

Members of Improvement Club
Are Enthusiastic For Militia
Companies In District

Army Officer Tells Citizens Their
Section Would Feel Enemy's
Attack First

MAY 19 1916

The Kaimuki improvement Club is for defense first last and all the time, as the vote at last night's meeting proved. It voted approval of a plan for two full coast artillery companies. The members listened to a talk by Capt. Frederick Phisterer, Coast Artillery, who urged the formation of two companies of militia Coast Artillery, along the lines of that already organized by Lieut. G. K. Larrison.

Little debate was necessary after Captain Phisterer finished, so clearly had he presented his arguments for the need of a civilian reserve, capable of handling the great guns of the forts, in case of need. It was pointed out that there are six hundred qualified voters in the district and that it should not be difficult to raise the required 200 men for the personnel of the proposed companies.

Kaimuki Would Suffer First

It is Kaimuki that would suffer most if an enemy should attack the south coast of Oahu, declared Captain Phisterer. He told his hearers that a fleet attacking the south coast of the island naturally would select that district as a target, and that the guns at Fort Ruger would be forced to clear away most of the houses and homes in the slopes of the hills to give a clean sweep to the American cannon and to destroy any ranging marks for the foes.

Two Points of Attack

There are two points of attack which would be selected by a hostile fleet, said the Coast Artillery officer. One of them, and the first to be selected, would be the Waialae district, beyond Diamond Head. The other would be the north side of the Island. A reserve of Coast Artillery militiamen, able to handle the big guns would, he asserted, be able to keep any fleet from effecting a landing on the south coast. He explained this statement by pointing out the great need for a relieving force, to take the place of the regulars when they should have become exhausted by the continued strain of a prolonged conflict with a fleet that lay off the island and kept pounding away at the forts, preventing the men on post from resting for a single instant. He asserted that the officers in command at Fort Ruger could make use of every one of the five or six hundred voters in Kaimuki, and urged that there be no delay in forming two full Coast Artillery companies.

First Company Mustered In

The first militia Coast Artillery company has already been organized and held its first drill at the national guard armory last night. As soon as its men learn the rudiments of the close order infantry drill, the basis of all military instruction, the men will be put to work studying the details of the big guns at Fort de Russy. Then the drills will be held in the afternoon, between six and seven o'clock, save when night practise is called or searchlight practise is ordered. The men last night showed enthusiasm and aptitude for their work.