

JACK LONDON'S CHECKS RETURNED

HILO MERCHANTS GET A SHOCK IN MAILS FROM THE COAST—
AUTHOR PAID HIS BILLS WITH CHECKS ON AN OAKLAND
BANK IN WHICH HE HAD NOT FUNDS SUFFICIENT TO MEET
THEM.

The Kinau this morning brought news from Hilo that Jack London's checks given to Hilo merchants in payment of bills, were being returned from his Oakland bank, endorsed "not sufficient funds." The receipt of the checks was quite a shock to the Hilo men. London is now far away and off the ordinary line of travel, and he may not be heard from for a long time. It is generally supposed that he passed the bad checks by mistake in his calculations, but that theory doesn't supply the Hilo men with the missing coin.

London left Hilo for the Marquesas and may be there by this time, if he used his auxiliary engine.

The Tribune says: "Considerable interest was aroused in Hilo yesterday by the knowledge which was pretty generally distributed, that a number of checks given by Jack London of the Snark, had come back to town dishonored and with notice of protests by a Berkeley notary. The checks were all drawn on an Oakland, Cal., bank. It is indicative of the confidence of London's friends in Hilo to note that those who cashed the checks, or took them for services or for goods, express the utmost confidence in him and believe that the trouble has arisen through some mistake

by which funds he expected for different of his literary efforts by some oversight, have not been placed to his credit. Meanwhile the Snark is presumably heading for the South with all sail set and the gasoline engine chugging away merrily."

The Herald of the 19th has the following: "Yesterday's mail from the Coast, received by the Claudine, brought to several business men in Hilo news that checks paid them by Jack London, before he left here, were returned by the Central Bank of Oakland on which they had been drawn, marked "Not Sufficient Funds." Checks that had been issued earlier by Mr. London during his stay here, have been paid and there is a disposition to believe that the trouble arises through lax business methods on the part of the author and globe trotter, as he is known to have drawn checks without filling in the stubs and it is supposed that amounts due him may not have been placed to his credit as promptly as he expected.

"In one case a check was paid for some handsome koa furniture, but the furniture was not shipped pending returns from the check. As there are no returns there will be no furniture in the London household. There has not yet been time to hear from the latest checks that he issued.

WHY JACK LONDON'S CHECK CAME BACK

The following is a copy of a letter received in Hilo explaining why one of Jack London's checks was not honored at the Oakland bank on which it was drawn:

Wake-Robin Lodge,
Glen Ellen, Oct. 22, 1907.

Mr. A. James, Hilo, Hawaii.

Dear Sir: I am informed by the Central Bank, Oakland, California, that when you handed in a hundred dollars check given you by Mr. Jack London, there were no funds to make good the check. This was so, but it came through no fault of Mr. London. I, acting as his attorney in fact, had transferred a large sum of his money from the Central Bank to my bank (The National Bank of the Pacific, San Francisco) for greater convenience to me in paying bills. I notified Mr. London of the transfer, sending my letter to Papeete according to his direction, but as you may be aware, the break in his engines deferred his going to Tahiti, and no such word had reached him from me ere he left Hilo. The consequence was he overdraw his account with the Oakland Bank who have done what they could to make good the mistake since communicating with me on the 16th inst. I trust the blunder has caused you no serious annoyance, and that long ere this comes to hand, you will have been informed by your banker that Mr. London's credit is good in California as it is elsewhere.

Yours very truly,
NINETTA EAMES,
for Jack London.

NB. Ninetta «Netta» Wiley Eames was the aunt of Charmian Kittredge London, Jack London's second wife.

left: Hawaiian Star, Honolulu H.I., November 2, 1907

right: The Pacific Commercial Advertiser, Honolulu H.I., November 11, 1907

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