

## ASSISTED IMMIGRANTS.

### *Recent Decision Held Not to Apply to Hawaii.*

Honolulu, March 8.—The Territorial Board of Immigration has cabled to Commissioner Sargent asking if the Spanish immigrants now bound for Hawaii on the steamer Heliopolis will be excepted from Attorney General Bonaparte's ruling against state aided immigration.

Washington, March 8.—It was authoritatively stated to-day that the recent opinion of the Attorney General, in which he held that it is unlawful under the recently enacted immigration law for a state to pay the passage of intending immigrants or to assist immigration except by advertisement, will not apply to Hawaii. In that country the decision has already caused considerable agitation, as under the auspices of the Territorial Immigration Society immigrants are being brought to the islands from Europe and the Azores to take the place of Japanese laborers on the sugar plantations. This has been sanctioned by the United States government, and a shipload of immigrants recently brought from the Azores Islands have proved satisfactory.

A conference was held to-day at the Department of Commerce and Labor on the opinion recently submitted to the President by Attorney General Bonaparte on the South Carolina immigration case. It appears clear, in the view of officials of the Department of Commerce and Labor, that the Attorney General's opinion sustains the opinion of the department that the immigrants landed at Charleston, S. C., last November are legally in this country. It is not so clear, however, that under the law other immigrants, whose passage to this country is paid by either states or individuals acting for states, may be landed in America before July 1 next, when the provision of the new immigration law goes into effect.

Those who participated in the conference to-day were Secretary Straus, Solicitor Earle, Mr. Parker and Mr. Larned, of the Department of Commerce and Labor, and Assistant Attorney General Cooley, of the Department of Justice. It was not until to-day that the full text of Attorney General Bonaparte's opinion was available. The Department of Commerce and Labor desires to obtain a definite interpretation of the law, because several Southern states have delegated to agents the work of securing immigrants who will locate within their borders. It appears problematic whether under the present law the states have the right to induce immigration, except by advertising. It is certain that after July 1 next they will not have the right, but among the lawyers who have examined Attorney General Bonaparte's opinion there is a division of opinion as to whether immigrants can be brought to this country now by the assistance of states.