

tions when there were three. Their bid was still the lowest but it was not fair to the other bidders. New bids ought to have been called for.

Noble Baldwin had not made a thorough study of this report, he had not had time. It would take a great deal of time, and probably other members had not studied it either. Without looking over the bids he differed entirely from Noble Muller, as to the cost of steel piping. He had had a good deal of experience with it and considered the steel piping much more desirable, and that is the opinion of mechanics generally. That is the reason why W. G. Irwin's bid for steel piping was accepted. It was a sufficient reason. As to the Custom House the bids were asked for on drawings furnished by the Government. He had been told that the bidders had been told that they might also make drawings of their own. (Noble Macfarlane—No sir.) As to the fire lot I understand there is a legal explanation. The appropriation was \$2,000. The committee complain that \$5,047 was spent. This excess, as I understand it, was spent in a former period except as to the \$647 which the Ministry ask for. If this is a correct explanation it puts an entirely different light on the transaction.

Noble Macfarlane said that all the transactions took place during the last period. Noble Muller said it was in September, 1888.

Noble Baldwin said he could find no expenditure in the Finance Minister's report for the Alien lot.

Noble Macfarlane explained that this was an exchange and not an out and purchase.

Noble Baldwin said he understood that the work at Kakaako was in moving twenty buildings, whereas the Finance Committee speak of a tender for only nine. He was sorry that the statement of the Minister of the Interior was not here but he had wished to examine the books of the Interior Department and the Minister of the Interior had refused to allow him to do so, but had said that he would speak to the Finance Committee. Mr. Thurston desisted immediately and had not been notified that he could be permitted to see them. There seem to have been a misunderstanding in regard to the matter. He would move that the consideration be deferred until next Monday as the Minister of the Interior was preparing a report. The Finance Committee have stated that they wished the fullest investigation. Let them prove it by supporting this motion.

Rep. Nawahi protested against the hon. member speaking any longer. He would favor discussion in Committee of the Whole.

Noble Macfarlane said he hoped the member for Hilo would withdraw his objection.

Noble Baldwin would vote to consider next Monday in Committee of the Whole.

Noble Macfarlane beginning to speak. Rep. Brown rose to a point of order. The member had spoken twice.

Rep. Kapahaele reminded the President that others wished to speak besides those who had been wasting the time of the House. It was useless to say that was an important report. Everyone knew that already. We ought to take up the topics in one by one. But to talk generally all over the subject is useless. I shall never get anywhere that way. I therefore move it be discussed in Committee of the Whole each part by itself.

The House went into Committee of the Whole. Noble Marsden in the chair.

Noble Macfarlane said he wished to correct a statement of Noble Baldwin's. It had come to the knowledge of the Finance Committee that the late Minister was inspecting the books of the Interior Department with reference to the late resolution, and it was suggested that under the resolution he had no right to do so. The Minister of the Interior explained that to Mr. Thurston and said he would confer with the committee. That was done and the committee had no objection, but wished a member of the Finance Committee to be present. Mr. Thurston never came back to inquire of the Minister what was decided, but went off yachting.

The House proceeded to consider each title of the report by itself.

Rep. Nawahi moved the sections referring to the Judiciary Department be adopted. Carried.

Next was the part referring to the Foreign Office. It was adopted.

Next came the part referring to the Interior Department.

Rep. Brown said he had come to the conclusion that the Finance report was nothing but a criticism on the methods of work in the different departments, especially in the Interior Department. As to the fire lot, the Minister of the Interior had the right to effect exchanges of Government property whenever the public interest required it. The House had passed \$50,000 for erection of a Central Fire Station on the lot obtained by the late Minister, and that is an endorsement of his conduct in this regard. So that transaction is perfectly straight upon its face and the report of the Minister of the Interior bears this out. The Finance Committee have misunderstood the matter. Now in regard to the Road Boards, a great deal has been said, that the pay rolls are insufficient, etc., etc. No one is at fault except the Road Boards themselves. He cannot be in every district at once. I do not see why the sins of the Board should be laid on his shoulders when the very object of the law was to take the matter out of his hands and give it to the districts. Something has been said about the appropriation for a Court House. I know about the one at Koolauloa. There was money left in that case for the furniture, and it was paid for out of the same appropriation. In Kohala and Kona it took the whole appropriation to put up the building, because members who brought the items in had not estimated for furniture and it had to be got out of another appropriation. A great deal has been said about the errors of judgment of the Superintendent of Public Works. Very well, errors of judgment may have been made, but I think the Finance Committee have gone beyond the scope of their duties to drag up every little thing, and have shown feeling—I may say spite—against the late Minister. As to the agreement with Wilder Steamship Co., Irwin & Co., Castle & Cooke, etc., with regard to the Volcano road, I really think the Minister of the Interior did do something which the law did not allow him to do. Under this agreement he spent \$15,000 more than the appropriation, and although this agreement did not pledge the Government's credit, it was an undertaking to pledge it, and he

was not authorized to do so by any law. As to the Road Boards, I am of opinion that they are a good thing, and if their work on other islands has been as good as on this, the country has received a great and lasting benefit from them. The Finance Committee make strictures on certain stamp transactions. There I think they are too severe. The sale was merely of spoiled and worthless stamps, which were cancelled before sale. It was better that the Government should realize something on them than nothing at all. Mr. President, if I were as satisfied with regard to all the items as I am in regard to the \$15,000 for the Volcano road, I might vote for the adoption of this report, but as it is, I cannot.

Noble Widemann only wished to refer to the Fire Department transaction. The last Appropriation Bill appropriated \$2,000. The Minister spent \$2,047. Where did the \$47 come from? Did the late Minister pledge the credit of the Government for those \$47? If he did then the decision of Judge Dole in the Bowler case binds him, and he has done what he admits himself he ought not to have done. As to the land exchange, I admit its technical legality, but it is shady—shadier than I should wish to commit.

Noble McCarthy read Rule 32 defining the duties of the Finance Committee. He claimed that the committee had done their strict duty, according to that rule, and it specially required inquiring into the working of the several departments. The member from the First District has referred to the stamp transaction—saying the stamps were moth eaten, etc. But one bargain was for \$2,000 worth of brand new stamps to be sent out here and cancelled. Those stamps were not moth eaten. One day we went to the Post Office and counted the cash. It was alright. Then the committee balanced the cash of the Postal Bureau. While one member of the committee called off the cash, suddenly \$965 was added to the gold. We were dumfounded. No explanation was made until the Postmaster called us upstairs and told us that there had been this shortage one day when the head clerk was very busy and unwell. He thought he must have paid the amount, entering it in the depositor's pass book and the wind have blown the check off his file; 3,000 pass books were called in, but the error was not found. Then an expert was paid \$70 to examine the books, but they were found alright. We claimed that this \$70 ought not to have been paid by the Government. It appeared to the committee that there was an attempt to conceal facts from the committee. The Postmaster was angry because we had not given him any notice.

Noble J. M. Horner did not wish the committee to think he had any spite against them. They were intelligent men, and so were the late Ministers. They had made mistakes and so has the committee. This market transaction, from a business point of view was alright. The Minister was simply killing two birds with one stone. The auditor would not audit the bill because the appropriation for dredging was exhausted. He would have allowed it to be charged to the market if it had been dug out of Punchbowl Hill. So as to the Punchbowl Hill. There is nothing censurable in that at all. The hon. Noble (Macfarlane) would never have made the remarks he has, if he were a practical road maker. There is a great deal said about these vouchers of the Road Boards. The speaker went on to explain the difficulty of obtaining pay vouchers from gangs of Chinamen, who were changed every day. Doubtless the late Ministers had erred as the Finance Committee most certainly had. Which of us here had not. Some charity ought to be exercised, and we ought not to condemn a man as a rascal merely because he happens to differ from us.

Noble Muller said as to the abuse of power by the Road Boards, a great deal might have been said by the committee which was not, for the report would have been too long. What they objected to was the committee paying sometimes a dollar, sometimes 90 c. per day.

Noble J. M. Horner said the value of labor was different. Some men they paid more than others. Chinamen were paid the rate current on the plantations.

Noble Widemann—There was a very odd thing about the Market House; tenders were called for, and a great many bids came in from Honolulu and abroad. The bid of one firm was not according to the specifications, but it was accepted. I am charitable in general, I think, but I have no charity for absolute mismanagement of public affairs.

The committee rose and reported, asking leave to sit again Tuesday, and the House adjourned at 3:45 p. m.

Seventy-ninth Day.

TUESDAY, Sept. 16.

House met at 10 a. m. Prayer by Chaplain. Minutes read and approved. Rep. Kahookano, for the Judiciary Committee, reported on two petitions regarding pay of police, recommending they be laid on the table, their objects having already been accomplished; as to sundry other petitions recommending they be laid on the table.

The report was adopted. Minister Spencer stated that His Majesty had signed the Oahu Railroad Bill. The House proceeded to the Order of the Day, consideration of the Finance Report in Committee of the Whole.

Noble Macfarlane asked whether it was true that the Minister of the Interior had refused to allow Mr. Thurston access to the books of the Interior Department, Mr. Thurston having made that statement in print. Minister Spencer said it was not true. He had not refused. After sitting down the Minister rose again and said that a member of the Finance Committee told him that Mr. Thurston was, contrary to a resolution of the House, examining the books and records of the Interior Office. He told Mr. Thurston that he could not do so, and Mr. Thurston said he could not reply to the committee unless he had access to the records. This was at 4 o'clock, when business was over, and he asked Mr. Thurston to return next morning, and in the meantime he would see the members of the Finance Committee. Mr. Thurston did not come back but he (the Minister) saw members of the committee, who were willing to give Mr. Thurston every facility, only asking that one of the committee should be present with him.

Noble Macfarlane beginning to speak, was interrupted by Rep. Nawahi, who thought the House should consider each item separately.

Noble Macfarlane said he was perfectly willing, if that wish expedite matters. He did not wish the discussion rushed through.

Noble Burchardt wished to answer a

statement made by Mr. Thurston this morning in the Advertiser.

Rep. Nawahi protested. Noble Burchardt said the committee ought to have an opportunity to reply to the statements of Mr. Thurston. If not the matter might as well be voted on once.

Rep. Nawahi still protested. The communication in the Advertiser was not before the House.

The Chairman ruled that the communication was not before the House.

Noble Burchardt moved consideration of Mr. Thurston's communication.

Noble Walbridge thought that the House ought only to consider a manuscript communication, and not an alleged newspaper article.

Noble Widemann thought there was nothing in the Advertiser written by that man Thurston that was worth considering, as he admitted that he had spent \$85 without authority of law, and him thunder in the Advertiser. Those who can't see, you will never teach to see.

Noble Macfarlane said Mr. Thurston had petitioned this House for an opportunity to report to the House. If he had had any sense of propriety he would not have written in the paper, but would have come before the Committee, as he claimed he wished to. It was only of a piece with everything the man did. The statements in Mr. Thurston's reply were absolutely untrue.

Noble Burchardt withdrew his motion. Noble J. M. Horner said he would renew the motion, as the committee had been scared out of it.

Noble Widemann said Noble Horner was one of the worst men who would not let them have the communication before the House, let them have it, for God's sake.

Noble Phillips thought this very unusual. This letter was addressed to the editor of the Advertiser, not to the House. Why should the House consider it.

Noble Baldwin regretted that the statement had not been made to the House. With that view he had favored a week's delay so that it might be presented to the House. As it was, it was hardly proper to consider it.

Noble Walker said the committee had no authority to act on a matter of this kind, and it would be entirely out of order to take it into consideration.

Noble J. M. Horner said he had only made the motion because Mr. Burchardt had seemed to lack a little backbone (laughter). Noble Burchardt said he had given reasons for withdrawing the motion. It would come better from Mr. Thurston's friends.

Noble Widemann—Squirring and squirming and squirming, we don't know what we want. We would like to defend this great man of ours—but we don't dare to. This man has written bosh and stuff to strew sand in the eyes of the fools. He can't take me in. His letter has not a word of a letter to stand on before this House. I move the Finance Committee's report be adopted.

Noble Baldwin thought this a very strange motion. It conflicted directly with the course of the House in considering each part of the report by itself.

Rep. Kapahaele moved to adopt that portion of the report referring to the Finance Department.

Rep. Brown asked if the committee had received any communication explaining a retainer paid to Mr. Hatch. It was to test a point of law which had never been raised. If the committee had taken the trouble to make any inquiries they never would have made the strictures they have.

Noble Macfarlane read the letter dated Sept. 8, which there had been no opportunity to read. He would state that the committee came across this item of \$50, and it struck them it was an improper charge, any letter from Mr. C. B. Wilson (probably dictated by Mr. Thurston) to the contrary notwithstanding. It is too well known that Fire Department elections are conducted in the interest of the personal candidates, and the candidates should have borne all the expenses. Any idea of testing a point of law was nothing but an after thought. The engineer, Mr. C. B. Wilson, was a favorite of the late Minister, and was allowed perquisites which were not legal.

Rep. Nawahi said the Attorney-General ought to have appeared for Norton if he was only a nominal defendant. Outside counsel should not have been employed. Nothing was said in the report of the Finance Department to the Minister about the matter.

Rep. Lucas said this idea of settling a point of law was entirely out of the question. I was a party to the affair. Norton ought to have paid his own fee. It would never have been paid if Mr. Thurston had not been Minister of the Interior. He had no more right to pay than I have to go and take \$50 out of the Interior Department. As to Mr. Townsend that is all right. He has been paid extra for night and other work which he was not bound to do.

Rep. Brown said the representative from the 4th ward and the Finance Committee have shown a lamentable ignorance of the law, or they would not have made the report they have. Section 5 gives the head of the department leave to make disbursements out of the appropriation with the consent of the Minister of the Interior. Rep. Lucas does not agree with the committee in regard to Geo. Townsend. He believes, then, the committee were wrong. The communication is not from Mr. Wilson personally, but from him as head of the Fire Department. It is a communication from the Fire Department to the committee. The Fire Department is not, as has been stated, a bureau of the Interior Department. It is controlled by its own by-laws, and is under its own control. The Minister of the Interior has only a supervision. The committee charge the Fire Department by inference with making a false statement in order to support the payment of a paltry \$50. What evidence have the Finance Committee for their statement that it was an afterthought, and that it was trumped up afterwards? I say this conduct alone of the committee bears up the charge I made yesterday that the report bears on its face the impression of a deliberate recommendation that the committee recommend this portion of the report to be laid on the table.

Rep. Lucas said it might be the expenditure of \$50 made regularly, with the consent of the Minister of the Interior, but that didn't make it right. Might not make right. Who paid Mr. Thomas' expenses? Not the Government.

Noble McCarthy agreed with what the report said as to this retainer. He had been a member of the department for six years. If Government funds were to be used to keep officers in power, they would use them forever. I am opposed to the use of government money. The committee may be wrong, but I do not

think so. This would establish a very bad precedent.

Rep. Brown said the suit brought by Thomas was the suit of a defeated candidate trying to make out that the Fire Department had no right to pass finally on its own elections. The Fire Department in order to defend its own power and privileges had to defend that suit, and the court decided in its favor.

Noble McCarthy—The Board of Representatives of the department had nothing whatever to do with the expenditure of any moneys. Now it is claimed that the chief of the department wrote this letter by the authority of the Board.

Rep. Kapahaele moved this part of the report be adopted. The committee make no recommendation. The question is whether we have this transaction repeated or not.

Noble Kanehale thought the report ought not to be adopted because it was spent in having a point of law settled by the Supreme Court. Adopting the report is saying that you don't wish to have points settled in that way.

Noble Widemann said if this was a department matter why did not the Attorney-General defend the case?

Noble Cornwell said if the House did not make more progress the country members would have to take their Christmas in Honolulu. The member from Honolulu says the committee have shown spite. Probably they have. But what good does it do to say so. The Ministers are out and that ends it. I move we take a recess. Lost.

The motion to adopt the entire report of the Finance Committee was carried. The committee rose and recommended the adoption of the report.

Rep. Brown moved the report be laid on the table.

Rep. Lucas moved to adopt the report. Noble Widemann admired the brass of some people.

The motion to lay on the table was lost.

The report of the committee was adopted.

Rep. Nawahi moved to reconsider. Rep. Kapahaele wished the eyes and noses called so that it might be known who favored fair play and free discussion and who don't.

Noble Cornwell changed his vote. He meant to vote, no.

The motion to reconsider was lost the vote being as follows:

Ayes—Minister Spencer; Nobles Kanehale, J. M. Horner, Marsden, Baldwin, J. M. Horner, Walbridge, Anderson, von Tempky, G. N. Wilcox, Kanoa, and Iseberg; Reps. Brown, A. Horner, Waipulani, Apiki, Paeahoe, Halstead, Rice and A. S. Wilcox—20.

Noes—Minister Brown; Nobles Widemann, Berger, Macfarlane, Muller, Pua, McCarthy, Phillips, Crabbe, Hind, Burchardt and Cornwell; Reps. Cummings, Lucas, R. W. Wilcox, Bush, Kaui, Nawahi, Baker, Kahookano, White, Kanealii and Knudsen—23.

The House took a recess at 12:10.

Afternoon Session.

The House reassembled at 1:50. Second reading of Bill No. 110, concerning wholesale licenses. The bill was read by title and referred to the Committee on Commerce.

Second reading of Bill No. 112, relating to spirituous liquors. The bill was read by title.

Noble McCarthy moved reference to the Liquor Committee.

Noble Muller moved it be indefinitely postponed.

Rep. Kahookano favored reference to a committee and Noble Muller withdrew his motion.

Second reading of Bill No. 118, an Act to provide for taking the census. The bill was read by title.

Noble Phillips moved reference to a special committee.

Rep. Waipulani moved reference to the Education Committee.

Noble Phillips withdrew his motion and the bill was referred to the Education Committee.

Second reading of Bill No. 57, amending the liquor law.

The report of the Liquor Committee on the bill was read recommending the passage.

Rep. Brown moved the bill be indefinitely postponed. He saw no use in altering the law. The bill would shut saloons on holidays and shorten the evening hours. There was no harm in a man's getting a glass of beer after coming out of an evening entertainment. The saloons could be shut on holidays as it was by the Marshal if he deemed it necessary. The new section proposed was pretty rough. It would make a man liable in exemplary damages, if he gave anyone a glass of beer which happened to start him off on a drunk.

Rep. Kahookano moved the bill be considered section by section.

Rep. Rice hoped the bill would be considered section by section as a matter of courtesy.

The bill was indefinitely postponed, 13 to 12.

Noble Muller moved to reconsider. Lost.

Second reading of Bill No. 78, concerning auction licenses.

The committee report on the bill was read recommending that the bill with some changes pass.

Rep. Brown moved the clause exempting country auctioneers from giving bonds be stricken out. The committee did not think it wise to free him from bonds. He might embezzle, and then the party has a remedy against his bondsmen.

Noble Widemann seconded the motion and moved an additional amendment requiring payment to the Government of half of 1 per cent on each sale.

Rep. Kahookano said \$25 was too large a fee. In some districts sales were very rare and an auctioneer seldom realized as much as \$25. He moved it be \$15 fee.

Noble Widemann had no objection to a reduction of the fee but thought half of 1 per cent on sales should be charged as commission. Sometimes the business was very profitable. He spoke from experience having taken out an auction license on Kauai forty years ago.

The amendments of Noble Widemann and Rep. Kahookano passed. The amended section passed.

The bill then passed. Second reading of Bill 145, changing the name "Insane Asylum" to "Hawaiian Hospital".

thought. It is a mere fancy. If the House spent its time in passing bills like this, people would think the House ought to go there.

The bill was indefinitely postponed.

Second reading of Bill regulating the police. The bill was read by title and referred to the Police Committee.

The Constitutional Convention Bill was passed over, awaiting the report of the committee.

Second reading of the bill declaring konohiki fisheries free.

The majority and minority committee reports were read, recommending respectively the rejection and the passage of the bill.

Rep. Rickard opposed the bill because it would involve a larger expenditure than the country could afford. He moved adoption of the majority report.

The first section was read.

Noble Widemann asked whether Crown Lands are subject to this bill or not. Rep. Bush said no. This section is unnecessary, for Government fisheries are free anyway.

Rep. Brown moved section 1 be indefinitely postponed; since all Government fisheries were already free, and since, unless the konohiki actually set apart each year a certain fish for himself, he had no right to it, and as a matter of fact he knew of no konohiki who did that. The speaker went on to show that the present law did not work any great hardship. If the House went on to pay the konohiki owners the value of their rights, it would take \$2,000,000, if not more.

Noble Widemann said nine-tenths of what the member from Honolulu had stated was true, if not all. He had stated it fairly and well. Personally he was not a great fish-eater, and sympathized with the introducer of the bill in his objects. But he underestimated the value of these fishing rights. The price we would have to give would be ten times the value of the property acquired by the people. The konohiki fishing right of the land of Waianea plantation alone was worth, on a fair valuation, \$50,000.

Rep. Bush stated that he had promised his constituents before the election to bring in this bill. Holders of konohiki fisheries had no right to lease their right to other parties. He merely had a right to fish sufficient for his own use, and nothing more. That was the way it was under the old feudal system. The leasing of these rights, which had become a custom, was an abuse. Noble Widemann was right, but hardly he worth a thousand dollars, especially as he did not eat much fish.

Noble Widemann said the konohiki had no right to sell, and neither had the common people. But the common people have the right to sell all they want, and so have the konohiki, and so they did in feudal times. If this law were practicable, he should vote for it, but it is not.

Rep. Bush said that in old feudal times there was no bartering.

Rep. Nawahi said the question was a vexed one, disturbing bigger nations than ours. He moved it be referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Rep. Kanehale wished to speak two minutes, more or less. He was tired out listening to the discussion over this bill. It was not practicable. The time to break a twig is when it is young and tender. When this bill has been to another committee it will be tough and knotty. Now is the time to break it. We all think as much of our constituents as the member from Koolapoko, but he asks something which cannot be carried out. The law gives nearly all the fish to the people now.

The eyes and noses were called on the motion to indefinitely postpone the section.

Noble J. M. Horner did not know enough about it to vote intelligently, and would ask to be excused.

Noble Marsden asked to be excused. Noble Widemann said he would have voted to send to committee, but the majority was so large it was useless.

The section was indefinitely postponed by the following vote:

Ayes—Ministers Cummings, G. Brown Peterson; Nobles Berger, Macfarlane, McCarthy, Phillips, Crabbe, Kanehale, Hind, Burchardt, Baldwin, W. Y. Horner, Cornwell, Anderson, von Tempky, G. N. Wilcox, Kanoa, Iseberg; Reps. C. Brown, Rosa, Kaui, A. Horner, Rickard, Kahookano, Waipulani, Apiki, Kanealii, Halstead, Knudsen, Rice, A. S. Wilcox—32.

Noes—Nobles Muller, Pua; Reps. R. W. Wilcox, Bush, Nawahi, Baker, White—7.

The House adjourned at 4:30 p. m.

Eightieth Day.

WEDNESDAY, Sept. 17.

House met at 10 a. m. Prayer by Chaplain. Minutes of preceding day read and approved.

Noble Burchardt introduced a resolution calling for a further appropriation of \$5,000 for the expenses of the Legislature. Adopted. The resolution was read a second time.

Minister Brown moved it be engrossed, to be read a third time Thursday. Carried.

Rep. Waipulani read by title an Act to amend section 15, chapter 86, of an act approved September 1888, entitled an "Act to compile and amend the election law of the Kingdom." The bill was read a second time by title, and referred to a select committee for bills on this subject.

Rep. Rickard said he had thought of bringing in a minority report, but after investigation he joins with the majority in their report.

Rep. White said he was a member of the same committee, and intended to bring in a minority report.

Rep. Nawahi moved to reconsider the resolution just ordered to be engrossed. It was not in proper form, and should have an enacting clause. It should be a joint resolution.

Rep. Brown said there was no such thing as a joint resolution, as the nobles and representatives sat together. It ought to be in the shape of a bill.

Rep. Kanehale said it ought to be in the shape of a bill. An ordinary resolution was out of order.

Rep. Kapahaele moved the resolution be referred to a select committee.

Noble Marsden moved the resolution be referred to the committee on accounts. Carried.

referred to the Committee on Public Lands with instructions to print.

The House proceeded to the Order of the Day, consideration of the Appropriation Bill in committee of the whole. Rep. Kapahaele in the chair.

Item for the Volcano Road. Noble J. M. Horner moved it pass as recommended by the committee. The committee report was read.

Rep. R. W. Wilcox wanted to know what good the road was going to do. It would cost more than \$100,000, and would be chiefly for the convenience of travellers. It would be better for the House to consider the item of \$13,000 separately from the other.

Rep. Rickard for one believed that a great deal of money had been spent on the Volcano Road injudiciously. If the road had not been begun, it would have been better to leave it as it was. The work had not been well done, but had cost more than it ought to have. Now that the road had been begun, however, it was for the interest of the country to finish it. He was told that lands which were almost worthless had increased in value ten times since the road was built. The country had more to gain in this way than from increased tourist travel, though that too should be considered. The speaker went on to show that the forests on each side should be preserved. Otherwise it would have been better to leave the road as it was before. It would be anything but an improvement if this beautiful shade was destroyed. He would favor \$55,000, as in the bill, including, of course, the \$13,000 already expended, but first he would favor reference to a special committee to confer with the land owners with a view to securing the preservation of the forest.

Rep. Kanehale agreed with the hon. member from Hamakua, but he favored appropriating the amount borrowed separately. The Cabinet might not have had the right to borrow that money, but it ought to be paid nevertheless. He did not favor finishing the road this session, but let \$55,000 simply be appropriated, the balance to be used on the road after the money borrowed has been paid. The ministry had no right to borrow the money, but the people who lent it did so in good faith desiring to assist the Government.

Noble Macfarlane said so far as the report of the select committee goes they were a little out in their estimates as to the cost of completion. The last estimates of the Superintendent of Public Works show that \$88,000 will be needed. It will be to the public advantage to complete the road. It was never expected that the road would cost so much. Mr. Lee did not intend building the road on the extravagant scale which has been adopted. It would have been built very much as his own Volcano Road has been. The present minister informs me that the rest of the road will be more economically built. I think the road should be completed as fast as possible. As long as it is not finished it does not attain the end desired. I am not in favor of any postponement. So far as the borrowing of this money was concerned, I think the money was advanced with the feeling that it would have been a mistake to let the road lie idle. As to the policy of funding the money, I am willing to be guided by the opinion of the members. They advanced it in good faith, but they took their chances, knowing that the Minister had no right to borrow it. With regard to the protection of forests, if it is true that the forests are being destroyed, the great object of this road will be lost. The picturesqueness of the route is its great advantage. The great superiority of the Hilo route is in this particular, and if it is true that the forest is being destroyed, the matter ought by all means to be referred to a special committee. I do not think too severe strictures have been made by the Finance Committee on this road considering the fact that it was not expected to cost more than \$30,000. If this road is so fine, why is it that people are nearly drowned on it. Several have been. Mr. Vogel got into fourteen feet of water, and had to swim for his life.

Rep. Brown said the committee in recommending about \$50,000 for the completion of the road base their calculations on the cost of the road