RECENT HAWAIIAN LEGISLATION IN HOUSES OF CONGRESS

The following from the Congressional Record gives the consecutive story of the more recent legislation in regard to Hawaii in the Senate and House:

HAWAIIAN POSTAL SAVINGS BANK.

In the Senate, May 14.—Mr. Daniel. I am instructed by the Committee on Foreign Relations, to whom was referred the bill (S. 4630) to amend and reenact an act entitled "An act to provide a government for the Territory of Hawaii," approved April 30, 1900, to report it without amendment and to submit a report thereon. I ask for the present consideration of the bill. It is recommended by the Secretary of the Treasury.

The President pro tempore. The bill will be read in full to the Senate.

The secretary read the bill, as follows:

"Be it enacted, etc., That sections 102 and 103 of the act entitled 'An act to provide a government for the Territory of Hawaii,' approved April 30, 1900, be amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 102. That the laws of Hawaii relating to the establishment and conduct of any postal savings bank or institution are hereby abolished. And the Secretary of the Treasury, in the execution of the agreement of the United States as expressed in an act entitled 'Joint resolution to provide for annexing the Hawaiian Islands to the United States, approved July 7, 1898, shall pay the amounts on deposit in the Hawaiian Postal Savings Bank to the persons entitled thereto, according to their respective rights, and he shall make all needful orders, rules, and regulations for paying such persons and for notifying such persons to present their demands for payment. So much money as is necessary to pay said demands is hereby appropriated out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to be available on and after the 1st day of July, 1900, when such payments shall begin, and none of said demands shall bear interest after said date, and no deposit shall be made in said bank after said date. Said demands of such persons shall be certified to by the chief executive of Hawaii as being genuine and due to the persons presenting the same, and his certificate shall be sealed with the official seal of the Territory and countersigned by its secretary, and when the same are paid in the manner respecting payment from the Treasury no further liabilities shall exist in respect of the same against the Governments of the United States or Hawaii.

POSTAL SAVINGS BANK.

"Sec. 103. All money on deposit in the Hawaiian Postal Savings Bank shall, on the 1st day of July, 1900, be turned over by the Government of Hawaii to the Treasurer of the United States; and the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized to assume charge of all the assets of said bank and to convert the same into money, in such manner and in such time as may, in his judgment, best subserve the public interests, and by such agents as he may appoint. Such agents shall give good and sufficient bond to the United States for the faithful performance of their duties, in such form and in such penalty as the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe. The moneys so turned over to the Treasurer of the United States, and those collected from the assets of said bank, shall be deposited in the Treasury of the United States to the credit of the Treasurer of the United States.

"And it is further provided, That the Secretary of the Treasury, in the execution of the agreement of the United States expressed in a 'Joint resolution to provide for annexing the Hawaiian Islands to the United States,' approved July 7, 1898, at the earliest practicable period shall pay of the public debt of the Republic of Hawaii, lawfully existing at the date of the passage of said joint resolution, an amount not exceeding in all $1,000,000, including the sum required to pay the depositors in the Hawaiian Postal Savings Bank, as provided in the act entitled 'An act to provide a government for the Territory of Hawaii,' approved April 30, 1900, as above amended; and so much money as shall be necessary to pay the same is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury of the United States not otherwise appropriated.

DEBATE ON SUBJECT.

"There is also hereby appropriated in like manner such amount as may be necessary to pay any accruing interest on said public debt for which the United States may be liable under joint resolution of Congress, approved July 7, 1898, entitled 'Joint resolution to provide for annexing the Hawaiian Islands to the United States;' and in addition thereto an amount not exceeding $20,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to pay the expenses of executing this resolution."

The President pro tempore. Is there objection to the present consideration of the bill?

Mr. Hale. I am afraid that bill will give rise to controversy and debate. If the Senator will withdraw it if it will give rise to debate, I shall not object to its consideration.

Mr. Daniel. I can state the gist of the bill.

Mr. Hale. I do not want the Senator to do that. If the Senator does that, it will certainly give rise to controversy; but if the bill can be passed without any debate, I am willing that it shall be done, but not otherwise.

Mr. Spooner. What committee does the bill come from?

THE HAWAIIAN DEBT.

Mr. Daniel. The bill has been carefully gone over by the Committee on Foreign Relations, and I have been instructed to report it. It is recommended by the Secretary of the Treasury. It is simply for the immediate execution of our assumption of the Hawaiian debt to the extent of $4,000,000, and it provides that the Secretary of the Treasury shall take charge at once of the Postal Savings Bank in Hawaii, reduce the assets into possession, and turn the proceeds over to the Treasury of the United States. It makes the necessary appropriation to enable him to assume the debt, all of which except about some five hundred and odd thousand dollars is now redeemable. On June 15 the time when Hawaii was to pay interest on the debt expires; and if we want to prevent an accumulation of interest, we ought to assume the debt and make provision for the payment of it beforehand.

Mr. Cockrell. Do we continue the Postal Savings Bank there?

Mr. Daniel. The bill provides for winding up immediately the whole matter. Indeed, it was provided in the act for the government of Hawaii—that is, that it should cease as an active institution, but the winding up was postponed until 1901. The bill provides for doing it immediately. The additional charge in the bill, I should state, is to the extent of $20,000, which is necessary to give the proper agencies to the Secretary of the Treasury to execute the act and leave the business all right in every particular.

Mr. Hale. I do not object if the bill does not give rise to any debate. If it does I must object.

Mr. Teller. The bill has been read, but it has been utterly impossible in this part of the Chamber to know what the bill contains.

Mr. Hale. Mr. President, I will object for the present.

The President pro tempore. Objection is made, and the bill will go to the Calendar.

Mr. Teller. The first information those in this part of the Chamber could get in regard to the bill was the statement made by the Senator from Virginia.

CIVIL OFFICES IN HAWAII, ETC.

In the Senate, May 1.—Mr. Ross. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senate bill 2000 be taken up for the occasion of some remarks.

The President pro tempore. The Chair lays the bill before the Senate.

The Secretary. A bill (S. 2000) regulating appointment to and removals from all offices in outlying dependencies of the United States.

Amendment of the Committee to Examine the Several Branches of the Civil Service. Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

"That all appointments to civil offices made by the President or any head of a department in Alaska, Hawaii, or any place brought within the jurisdiction of the United States by the recent treaty with Spain, shall be made irrespective of the political opinions of the persons appointed, and, so far as consistent with the proper performance of the duties of the office, in such a manner as to represent the entire country. In case of removal from any such office, whenever practicable, charges shall be made in writing and a copy thereof furnished to the accused, who shall be afforded reasonable opportunity to make answer thereto; and the President or head of a department making the appointment may, wherever the public interest shall seem to require it, suspend the official pending hearing or investigation of such charges."

Mr. Ross. Mr. President, during the closing years of the century this nation has taken on new relations and entered upon the discharge of new duties. For the first time in her existence she has entered upon the difficult undertaking of governing dependencies, located quite remotely, having fixed customs and laws—the growth of centuries—the fundamental principles underlying which are the opposite of those which have ruled her existence.

THEY ARE DEPENDENCIES.

I speak of them as dependencies because that word most clearly expresses their relation to this nation. "Territory" is a more general term and applies more strictly to the nation's ownership of the soil than to its relation to the inhabitants of the country. "Colony" less correctly expresses their true relation. Most of them are quite thickly populated and are not expected to become colonies nor to furnish a place for the overflow of our surplus population. All are, and for years will be, dependent, in a great measure, upon this nation for protection against foreign nations, for laws and their due administration. They may properly be denominated "dependencies."

Whether this new work shall redound to the nation's glory or shame depends largely upon the spirit and manner in which it is entered upon and conducted. It is a trite and true saying, "Well begun is half done." Well may Congress and the nation enter cautiously, conservatively, and thoughtfully upon the discharge of these new and important duties, in which the welfare of nearly or quite 100,000,000 people is more or less directly involved. The measure before the Senate, if enacted into law and obeyed in spirit, in my judgment will be most helpful in the proper discharge of these important and difficult duties. Its details will be considered later.

NO PROMISE OF STATEHOOD.

The present Congress will doubtless provide for permanent governments in Alaska, in Hawaii, in Porto Rico, and for less permanent governments in the Philippine Islands and in Cuba. None of these by the act of cession or annexation have the promise of eventually being given statehood. Whether any of them ever will be admitted as States is a question not ripe now for determination, nor even for consideration.

The conditions to be met and provided for in the several dependencies differ widely among themselves, and from any hitherto encountered by this nation. All the Territories hithertofore dealt with had, in advance, the promise, in due time, to be determined by Congress, of being admitted into the Union as States. All were contiguous or nearly contiguous to some of the States, and their inhabitants largely came from the surplus population of the United States.

In Hawaii the conditions are very different and much diversified. The natives, partially educated and civilized, the Portuguese, Japanese, Chinese, and peon laborers have each their national and other peculiarities, but are dominated by a comparatively small number of descendants from devoted American missionaries and by speculators of more recent arrival. They are a mixed population, in all stages of civilization and advancement, existing under established laws and institutions, coming from royalty down to their present status. Upon these has been ingrafted by Congress, little knowing what the existing laws are, the provisions of the civil government or Territorial act. The industrial conditions are also somewhat anomalous. The government of these islands presents no easy problem if they are to be successfully molded under and made subject to the fundamental principles of this Government.

CONDITIONS DIFFERENT.

The conditions in Porto Rico and the Philippine Islands are greatly unlike those which exist in Alaska or Hawaii. Each have existing customs and laws of similar origin and kind. But the inhabitants and industrial and other conditions to which the laws are to be applied, are dissimilar and peculiar and very different from those prevailing in Alaska and Hawaii. Porto Rico is generally under cultivation and well peopled. Its people are mostly of mixed origin; Indian, negro, and Spanish blood prevails in various degrees of intermixture. These constitute four fifths or more of the population and are mostly laborers dependent upon their daily earnings for a living. They possess limited education and have little, if any, experience in governmental affairs. The other fifth are mostly merchants, planters, and professional men, better educated and possessing more wealth. There are few schools and very limited internal improvements. It will be no easy task to ingraft the recent civil government act upon the existing laws and customs, and much more difficult to train the inhabitants into suitable ways of legislation, of living, and of thinking.

FISHERIES OF HAWAII.

In the Senate, May 16.—The President pro tempore laid before the Senate a communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting a letter from the United States Commissioner of Fish and Fisheries, submitting an estimate of appropriation, $6,500, for the investigation of fisheries of Hawaii, etc.; which, with the accompanying papers, was referred to the Committee on Appropriations, and ordered to be printed.

TEAMSHIPS IN COASTING TRADE.

Mr. Nelson. I ask unanimous consent for the present consideration of the bill (S. 4615) to facilitate the entry of steamships engaged in the coasting trade between Porto Rico and the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate, as in Committee of the Whole, proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. Nelson. I offer an amendment to the bill, to insert in line 8, after the name "Porto Rico," the words "and the Territory of Hawaii."

The President pro tempore. The amendment will be stated.

The Secretary. It is proposed to amend, in line 6, after the name "Porto Rico," by inserting "and the Territory of Hawaii," so as to make the bill read:

"Be it enacted, etc., That the provisions of the act of June 5, 1894, entitled "An act to facilitate the entry of steamships," are hereby extended to steamships engaged in trading between ports of Porto Rico and the Territory of Hawaii and those of the United States.

The amendment was agreed to.

The bill was reported to the Senate as amended, and the amendment was concurred in.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, read the third time, and passed.

The title was amended so as to read "A bill to facilitate the entry of steamships engaged in the coasting trade between Porto Rico, the Territory of Hawaii, and the United States."

In the House, May 17th.—By Mr. Foss: A bill (H. R. 10669) to provide for the acquirement by the United States of lands and rights therein, necessary to the establishment of a naval station in Pearl Harbor, Island of Oahu, Hawaii, and for the dredging of approaches to said harbor—to the Committee on Naval Affairs.

IMPORTATION OF JAPANESE LABORERS.

In the Senate, May 18.—The President pro tempore laid before the Senate a communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, in response to a resolution of the 16th instant, a report from the Commissioner General of Immigration relative to the importation of Japanese laborers under contract in violation of the contract labor laws; which, with the accompanying papers, was referred to the Committee on Immigration, and ordered to be printed.

MAUSOLEUM OF HAWAIIAN KINGS.

In the House, May 22.—Mr. Knox. I desire to call up Senate joint resolution No. 76, and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.

The Speaker. The gentleman from Massachusetts asks unanimous consent for the present consideration of a joint resolution of the Senate, which the clerk will now report.

The joint resolution was read, as follows:

"Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following described lands lying and being situate in the city of Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands, heretofore used as a mausoleum for the royal family of Hawaii, to wit: The mausoleum premises, beginning at the north corner of said lot; on the southeast side of Nuuanu street, the same being the west corner of L. C. A. 682, to M. Kekuanaoa, as shown on government survey's registered map No. 838, and running by true bearings: South 40 degrees 20 minutes east, 296 feet along L. C. A. 682, to Kekuanaoa; south 25 degrees 28 minutes west 258 feet, to stone wall; north 34 degrees 22 minutes west 72.9 feet, along L. C. A. 10,-995, ap. 2, to Piikoi; north 57 degrees 15 minutes west 166 feet along L. C. A. 10,-995, ap. 2, to Piipoi; north 62 degrees 10 minutes west 266.5 feet along L. C. A. 10,-995, ap. 2, to Piikoi, and L. C. A. 755, to J. Robinson; north 36 degrees 40 minutes east 267 feet along Nuuanu street to initial point; area, 119,610 square feet, be withdrawn from sale, lease, or other disposition under the public land laws of the United States.

The Speaker. Is there objection?

Mr. Underwood. Reserving the right to object, I should like to inquire if this resolution has been referred to the proper committee of the House?

Mr. Knox. This is a Senate resolution. It was referred to the Committee on Territories of the House, considered by that committee, and favorably reported. I would like to say to the gentleman from Alabama, so that the House may understands to the United States. It is proper that their burial place should be preserved.

Mr. Underwood. Has the resolution a unanimous report from the Committee on Territories of the House?

Mr. Knox. It has a unanimous report from the committee.

Mr. Underwood. What disposition will be made of this property after it is withdrawn?

Mr. Knox. It is a royal cemetery and it is to remain forever as it is now.

Mr. Lacey. I would like to ask the gentleman a question. I did not catch the full reading, but I understood the resolution simply to withdraw this land from the operation of the land laws of the United States.

Mr. Knox. From the public domain of the United States.

Mr. Lacey. But the difficulty about that is this: The land laws of the United States have not been extended to Hawaii and it may be disposed of under the land laws of Hawaii. Ought not the resolution to be amended so that the land will not be disposed of either under the land laws of Hawaii or of the United States?

LAND CAN'T BE SOLD.

Mr. Knox. It is perfectly guarded under the Hawaiian law, and it was to prevent any question that might arise under the public land laws of the United States, or any claim that it might be disposed of under them.

Mr. Lacey. There is no possible way of disposing of it under the land laws of the United States. If that is all, it is not needed, but if we attempt to prevent its disposition at all it seems to me that the resolution ought to be amended so as to include the land laws of Hawaii as well.

Mr. Knox. The general public land laws of Hawaii are continued in force, except as Congress otherwise directs. We have provided that no lease of lands or disposition of the public lands of Hawaii shall take place unless authorized by act of Congress. It presupposes the power of Congress to lease for a term of years or to otherwise dispose of lands in Hawaii. It is to make sure. While it is safeguarded under the land laws of Hawaii, we want to make it sure under the public land laws of the United States, that there shall be no disposal of the mausoleum of the royal family of Hawaii.

Mr. Lacey. What land laws of the United States have we passed that would affect this?

Mr. Knox. The land law that we created by the bill we passed, that created the power of Congress to regulate, to lease, and dispose of lands in Hawaii. It is to guard against that that this bill provides.

Mr. Lacey. The land laws of the United States have not been extended to Hawaii.

Mr. Knox. I know that. They have been extended only to the extent of the former bill passed.

Mr. McRae. I would like to ask the gentleman from Massachusetts a question. This land, as I understand, is to be preserved for cemetery purposes. I would ask the gentleman if the bill dedicates the land to that purpose, and if not, why it should not?

Mr. Knox. There has been a law in Hawaii dedicating about 119,610 square feet, which from time immemorial has been used as a mausoleum or burial place for the members of the royal family of Hawaii.

MAUSOLEUM PLOT.

Mr. McRae. I understand that feature of it. Does this resolution dedicate it for that purpose?

Mr. Knox. It is now dedicated for that purpose. This bill provides that this plot shall be withdrawn from sale, lease, or any other disposition under the land laws of the United States. It is to preserve it as it is, and to keep it as dedicated.

Mr. McRae. That withdraws it from sale, which is right. Should it not go further, and dedicate the land for that purpose?

Mr. Knox. By the former bill we preserve all the land laws of Hawaii that are not in contravention of our own laws, and this plot is already dedicated under the laws of Hawaii to this use.

Mr. McRae. I am afraid that you do not dedicate it.

Mr. Knox. It is already dedicated under the Hawaiian laws.

Mr. Wheeler of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I hope there will be no further objection to this bill on this side of the Chamber; for I am persuaded that a few kings, dead or living, are only necessary to complete the policy of the present Administration, and I trust the bill will be passed.

Mr. Hitt. That was very severe.

Mr. Wheeler of Kentucky. Yes.

The Speaker. Is there objection to the consideration of the bill? (After a pause.) The chair hears none.

The joint resolution was ordered to a third reading, and it was accordingly read the third time, and passed.

On motion of Mr. Knox, a motion to reconsider the vote by which the joint resolution was passed was laid on the table.

FINAL ADJOURNMENT.

"Resolved, by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives be authorized to close the present session by adjourning their respective Houses on Wednesday, the 6th day of June, at 2 o'clock p. m."

Mr. Payne. I do not understand the 2 o'clock p. m.

A message from the House of Representatives, by Mr. W. J. Browning, its chief clerk, announced that the House had passed the bill (S. 4560) to provide for officers in the customs district of Hawaii.

CUSTOMS OFFICERS FOR HAWAII.

In the Senate, May 23.—The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following concurrent resolution of the House of Representatives; which was referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

In the House, May 23.—Mr. Payne. Mr. Speaker, I present a report from the Committee on Ways and Means.

The Speaker. The gentleman from New York calls up a privileged bill, which the clerk will report.

The bill (S. 4560) to provide for officers in the customs district of Hawaii was read, as follows:

"Be it enacted, etc., That there shall be in the customs district of Hawaii one collector, who shall reside at Honolulu, and who shall receive a salary of $4,000 per annum, and such deputy collectors and other customs officers as the Secretary of the Treasury shall deem necessary."

Mr. Payne. Mr. Speaker, I want to say that a bill like this passed the last House unanimously, and this bill is unanimously reported by the Committee on Ways and Means. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered in the House as in Committee of the Whole.

The Speaker. The gentleman from New York asks unanimous consent that this bill be considered in the House as in Committee of the Whole. Is there objection?

Mr. McRae. With the opportunity to move an amendment to limit the number.

Mr. McRae. With an opportunity to move an amendment to limit the number of officers.

Mr. Payne. Why, if the gentleman desires to offer an amendment, I will yield to him for that purpose.

The Speaker. Is there objection with that understanding?

There was no objection.

BILL GOES INTO EFFECT.

Mr. Payne. Mr. Speaker, this bill has been read. It simply provides for a collector of customs at Honolulu, at a salary of $4,000 a year. While the bill that passed the House regulated the matter of customs duties for the Hawaiian Islands and created customs districts, it did not provide for any collector of customs at Honolulu. That was an omission. I want to say that in the last Congress a bill was introduced in the House providing for the collection of customs in the Hawaiian Islands, providing collection districts, and also providing for this very officer, a collector of customs at Honolulu, at a salary of $4,000. It was the unanimous voice of the committee at that time, and of the House, as well, but the bill was not acted upon by the Senate. I understand at the Treasury Department that they are anxious that this legislation be had now, because they want to send officials there to provide for the collection of the customs, to reach there by the 15th of June. If I mistake not, the Hawaiian bill goes into operation on the 1st of July.

Mr. Knox. Forty-five days from the date of its passage.

Mr. Payne. It will be necessary for the officials to reach there by the 15th of June, in order to get the machinery in order to collect the customs.

Mr. Knox. It goes into effect earlier than the gentleman stated.

Mr. Ridgely. Will the gentleman allow me to ask him a question?

Mr. Payne. Certainly.

PAYNE FAVORED UNITED STATES DUTIES.

Mr. Ridgely. Is it proposed to put a tax upon commerce between the Hawaiian Islands and the United States, the same as we imposed a short time ago in the case of Porto Rico?

Mr. Payne. Not by this bill. I will say, however, that the House and Senate did impose in the Hawaiian bill a tax upon articles coming from the Hawaiian Islands, which articles were imported into the Hawaiian Islands from foreign countries prior to the passage of the bill. While the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. Ridgely) may regard this as a violation of the Constitution, yet both sides of the House fractured the Constitution with respect to the Hawaiian bill, if that is a fracture of it.

Mr. Ridgely. Can the gentleman inform us as to whether his committee would favor a tax upon the commerce between this country and the Hawaiian Islands?

Mr. Payne. I can not speak for the committee. So far as I am concerned I am in favor of the provision that was put in the Hawaiian bill, to put the full tariff duties of the United States upon all articles the products of foreign countries which were imported into Hawaii previous to the passage of the bill and afterwards imported into the United States.

Mr. Ridgely. How about goods that are produced there and goods that are produced here being exchanged?

Mr. Payne. Oh, sufficient to say that I voted for the Hawaiian bill, which does not impose a duty upon those articles, the Hawaiian people not having had any hurricane or any other destructive calamity, and having sufficient resources within themselves to provide for the government of the islands otherwise than by imposing duties upon articles of traffic between this country and the Hawaiian Islands. There is no necessity for it, and of course I did not suggest any, but I voted for the bill which provides for duties upon the articles which I have stated.

Mr. McRae. Mr. Speaker—

The Speaker. The question is—

Mr. Payne. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Arkansas desires to make a statement.

Mr. McRae. I hope the gentleman will modify the bill and limit the number of officers to be employed. I do not think that he should give to an executive officer the right to appoint as many as he may deem necessary, without any maximum limitation.

Mr. Payne. I think that is the provision of the general law.

Mr. McRae. I think not.

Mr. Payne. It is the same provision that was in the bill two years ago.

BILL WAS WRONG.

Mr. McRae. Then the bill was wrong two years ago. There ought not to be any law allowing to an executive department the right to fix the number of officers without some limit. I do not know in this case how many they ought to have; but the department ought to have some idea of the number of people that will be necessary to perform the work, and the committee should have obtained such information and made a limit.

Mr. Hopkins. Does not the gentleman think his own statement refutes his position?

Mr. McRae. It does; but if I had charge of the bill, I would know more about it than it appears is known by the gentleman in charge of it.

Mr. Hopkins. You say you do not know the number required. Now, do you not believe that the Secretary of the Treasury is better capable of determining that than a member of the House?

Mr. McRae. He ought to be able to tell the committee what the public service requires.

Mr. Hopkins. It might require five men at one time and ten men at another. It all depends upon the amount of commerce.

Mr. Payne. I want to say to the gentleman from Arkansas that it is within the discretion of the Secretary of the Treasury as to how many officials he shall employ in the various subports of the United States where there are subports of entry. I know it is so in my district, and, under one Administration there were more officials than under another, without any change of law, and it was found to be lawful in each case. It depends entirely upon the Administration, and it is a matter that you can not fix a hard and fast rule about, especially in regard to this country, as we have to go there and see and find out what is necessary.

Mr. McRae. Does the gentleman mean to tell me that at all the ports of the United States the Secretary of the Treasury has power to employ, without limit, such officials as he may see fit?

Mr. Payne. Well, I did not say quite that much. A part of the ports of the United States he has the power to appoint deputies and inspectors, and without limit, so far as practical observations have been concerned. In some ports in my own district, subports, the Secretary of the Treasury would sometimes allow more than another.

NUMBER OF EMPLOYES.

Mr. McRae. I do not want any statute passed that has not the number fixed. Of course I am not familiar with the requirements of this case, but I would not give this unlimited power to an executive officer in any permanent statute like this. We should not at this time, when Congress is just about to adjourn, a resolution having already been passed to adjourn, in a Presidential year, give an executive department the right to fix the number of officers. The temptation is too great. I think it is without precedent, so far as I know, and unless the gentleman will suggest some number, I will move to insert "not exceeding five in number."

Mr. Payne. Mr. Speaker, I will simply say this, before moving the previous question on the amendment and the bill, that it is impossible to fix the number in a matter of this kind; otherwise I will have no objection. We do not know how many men are needed. This bill was carefully considered two years ago by the Committee on Ways and Means of the House and adopted. A similar provision was adopted in the Senate on the Porto Rican bill, if my recollection is right, when it came from the Senate. Therefore I move the previous question on the bill and amendment.

The Speaker. The gentleman from Arkansas offers the amendment which the clerk will read.

The clerk read as follows:

"Insert after the word 'collectors,' in line 6, the words 'not exceeding five in number.'"

Mr. Payne. The gentleman does not mean that.

AMENDMENT TO NUMBER.

Mr. McRae. I have not a copy of the bill, and have not been able to get one, so as to see the proper place to insert the amendment. I want to limit the officers not named.

The clerk read as follows:

"So that it will read, 'and such deputy collectors, not exceeding five in number.'"

The Speaker. Upon the bill and amendment the gentleman from New York asks the previous question.

Mr. Williams of Mississippi. Before that question is put, Mr. Speaker, of course the House wants to understand the amendment. The gentleman from Arkansas has not a copy of the bill. As it is, with his amendment, it reads "deputy collectors not to exceed five in number and such other customs officers as the Secretary of the Treasury deems necessary."

Mr. McRae. It is to come in after the indefinite number of officers. If you will give me a copy of the bill, I will show where I want it to go in; and if it reads as the gentleman from Mississippi suggests, it is not where it should come in.

The Speaker. The Chair has no power in a matter of that kind.

Mr. Williams of Mississippi. I ask that the gentleman be permitted to insert the amendment at the proper place. It was done by the clerk in mistake.

Mr. McRae. It should come in after the last word.

The Speaker. Let the clerk report it to the House, so that it will be understood.

The clerk read as follows:

"After the word 'necessary' insert at the end of the bill 'not exceeding five in number;' so that it will read, 'and such deputies and other customs officers as the Secretary of the Treasury shall deem necessary, not exceeding five in number.'"

AMENDMENT REJECTED.

The Speaker. The question is on ordering the previous question.

Mr. Payne. I withdraw that for the moment. I do not see how that amendment can be put in there without destroying the bill. To insert the words 'not exceeding five in number' will apply to collector, clerks, and everything else.

Mr. McRae. I did not intend it to do that.

Mr. Payne. To put this on the bill destroys the service down there. I now demand the previous question.

Mr. McRae. Then let me modify the amendment. I do not want any misunderstanding about it. I will ask that it be inserted after the word 'officer,' but I really believes that it makes no difference whether there or at the end.

Mr. Williams of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker—

The Speaker. This is all out of order.

Mr. Payne. I demand the previous question.

Mr. Williams of Mississippi. May I ask the gentleman to withdraw the call for the previous question?

The previous question was ordered.

The Speaker. The question now is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. McRae).

The question was taken; and on a division (demanded by Mr. McRae) there were—ayes 55, noes 87.

So the amendment was rejected.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time; and being read the third time, it was passed.

On motion of Mr. Payne, a motion to reconsider the last vote was laid on the table.

PROGRESS OF THE BEET SUGAR INDUSTRY.

The Speaker also laid before the House the following message of the President of the United States; which was read, ordered to be printed, and referred to the Committee on Printing:

"To the Senate and House of Representatives: I transmit herewith, for the information of Congress, a communication from the Secretary of Agriculture forwarding a report on the progress of the beet sugar industry in the United States during the year 1899. It embraces the observations made by a special agent on the various phases of the beet sugar industry of the Hawaiian Islands; also the results of analyses of sugar beets received by the Department of Agriculture from the different States and Territories, together with much other information relating to the sugar industry.

"Your attention is invited to the recommendation of the Secretary of Agriculture that 20,000 copies of the report be printed for the use of the Department, in addition to such number as may be desired for the use of the Senate and House of Representatives.

"WILLIAM McKINLEY.

"Executive Mansion, May 22, 1900."

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