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THE CONTRACT LABOR LAWS

House Refuses to Extend Them to Hawaii Now.

Shipping Law Bill Passes by Good Majority—Disposition to Let Labor Law Stand for a While.

Washington, January 23.—Twice today was the bill which extends to the Hawaiian islands the contract labor laws of the United States knocked out in the House. The first call was when the bill was called up on an attempt of Chairman Gardner of the Committee on Labor to get unanimous consent for its consideration.

Knox of Massachusetts chairman of the Committee on Territories, objected on the ground that this legislation was covered in the bill for the general government of the islands. Despite the arguments of the Western members of the House, that it was needed at this time to keep out hordes of Japanese who are being rushed into the islands, Knox would not allow the bill to come up.

The friends of the plan to have it pushed through tried again, when the bill extending the navigation laws was put on passage. The contract labor law was added as an amendment, but as it was not in any way germane to the bill the objection of Knox, who had been out of the chamber and returned only in time to hear the reading of the amendment, again knocked it off.

There was some fight upon the navigation law, but it was passed. It was stated by Chairman Payne of the Committee on Merchant Marine that there had been many vessels bought and placed under the Hawaiian flag since the time when the resolution was passed providing for the annexation of islands. More than a dozen ships had been purchased, and of this number it seemed not more than three were purchased in good faith for trade. Despite the fight, which was in no sense one for the interests of the islanders, the bill was passed.

This puts a hard fight in the hands of Metzson and others who have come on from San Francisco for the purpose of having all vessels which have been given the Hawaiian flag up to January 1st this year made for American register. It is not thought the Senate will allow such a plan to become a law. Evidence which has been collected here shows there are now under the flag of the recent island Government at least 151 ships which were purchased some of them since August 12th and all since July 7th. Under the bill none of these will be allowed American register, and they will have to return to the flag they had before the last change.

Another attempt will be made to bring up the contract labor law. The Senate committee which has it before it will consider it soon. Chairman Fairbanks is not yet convinced that there is any reason for legislation, and the California Senators are at work with him. Recent publications in the "Chronicle" tell of the landing of many Japanese in Honolulu, and these fact have all been sent to Fairbanks.

The decision of the Hawaiian Supreme Court which prevents the landing of Chinese, who left the islands before annexation has aroused the Chinese Minister here and he will lay the matter before the State Department at once. He holds that residents of Hawaii, though Chinese, who left when the islands had separate sovereignty and who are now debarred from reentry should have redress, and will fight for it.

DETAILS OF DISCUSSION

Washington, Jan. 23.—This was District of Columbia day in the House, and the major portion of the day was devoted to local legislation. The only action of public importance was the passage of the bill to extend the navigation laws of the United States to the Hawaiian islands. One of the provisions of the bill grants American register to all vessels flying the Hawaiian flag owned by Hawaiian citizens July 7, 1898.

Nineteen local bills were passed. The floor was then yielded and Payne, chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, called up the

bill to extend the commerce, navigation and merchant seamen laws over the Hawaiian Islands.

Hopkins (R.) of Illinois, who questioned Payne regarding the limits of the measure, was asked whether the act of annexation did not extend the laws of the United States over the Hawaiian Islands. He replied that the Supreme court held that it did not. He wanted to know in turn of Payne how far the bill went. The latter replied that it related simply to the navigation laws. It extended the laws of July 7, 1898. It was necessary to pass this bill, as the act of annexation provided distinctly that the laws of the United States should not by virtue of it extend over the islands.

Payne agreed to an amendment limiting the operation of the registry section of the bill to those who owned vessels registered temporarily or permanently under the Hawaiian flag on July 7, 1898.

The House divided on the passage of the bill—ayes 65, noes 45. Underwood made the point of no quorum and a call of the House followed. The bill was passed—93 to 78.

At 4:40 p. m. the House adjourned.

California Fruits.

D. G. Camarinos received on the steamer Australia a big invoice of Apples, Grapes, Figs, Lemons, Nuts, Pure Olive Oil, Dry Fruit, etc., etc.

In the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, Hawaiian Islands.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

In the Matter of the Bankruptcy of S. Decker, of Honolulu, a Bankrupt:

Creditors of the said Bankrupt are hereby notified to come in and prove their claims before the Clerk of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, at Honolulu, on Friday, the 3rd day of February, 1899, between the hours of ten in the forenoon and noon of the said day, and elect an Assignee, or Assignees, of the said Bankrupt's Estate.

By the Court:
J. A. THOMPSON,
Clerk of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit.

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The undersigned hereby notify those that may wish to secure office room near the City Front and shipping center of the port, that it intends to erect a new two story building on the old site of Queen st., and that the whole of second floor will be arranged in offices en suite or single, to suit intending tenants. The proximity of this site to the mercantile and shipping center of this port, makes it a most convenient location.

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Honolulu, January 13th, 1899,
1117-4W

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JAMES J. BYRNE,
Mgr and Att'y in Fact for P. J. Voeller.
Honolulu, January 10, 1899. 1114-1M

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