Mr. Castle. Sam Parker was not there at that meeting?

Mr. Smith. No; Sam Parker, the minister of foreign affairs, was not at the attorney-general’s then at that time. Mr. Colburn, in an excited manner, told about an interview at the palace with the Queen after the prorogation, in which she had produced the proposed new constitution and demanded that the ministers sign it with herself, and that he as minister of the interior should sign it, I do not recollect definitely which, and narrated how he and Mr. Peterson and Mr. Cornwell had escaped from the palace. Mr. Thurston spoke very emphatically, although calmly, advising that by no means should they sign the constitution or consent to her proposition.

Mr. Cooper. Was there not something said about their resigning at that time?

Mr. Smith. There was, both on that occasion and at Mr. Hartwell’s office at 11 o’clock. We advised Mr. Colburn that the ministers should not resign, and that if they resigned it would give the Queen an opportunity to appoint new ministers who would accede to her wishes, and the complications would be greater than they otherwise would be. While we were in the attorney-general’s office, John Richardson, in the uniform of an officer of the Queen’s staff, came with a message from the palace requesting the three ministers to go over there. At that time the whole of the Queen’s guard was drawn up in front of the palace on King street side under arms. On the Waikiki side of the main entrance to the palace, and on the Ewa side of that entrance, was a large crowd of natives—two or three hundred, probably.

Mr. Castle. Half as many more on the Makai side?

Mr. Smith. Yes. The band was at the palace and there appeared to be a large number of people in attendance around the palace, all the officials and attendants that were generally about the sovereign on an occasion of prorogation. We were also informed that the chief justice was at the palace at the request of the Queen waiting to administer the oath to her upon her signing the new constitution.

Mr. Castle. Is that the way that was?

Mr. Smith. He was there all the afternoon.

Mr. Castle. He was there for that purpose?

Mr. Smith. He was there for that purpose.

Mr. Castle. And he knew there was to be a new constitution?

Mr. Smith. I was informed that he knew there was to be a new constitution, and on that account he remained there.

Mr. Castle. To administer the oath.

Mr. Smith. That was what she wanted him for.

Mr. Cooper. Bickerton was also there?

Mr. Smith. Bickerton was there. When Maj. Richardson came with the message for the ministers to go over, some one or more of them asked us who were present what they should do. We told them not to go, Mr. Thurston explaining to them that so long as they, the three of them, were there, they constituted a majority of the Government, and that it might become important for them to act in regard to public affairs. Colburn expressed his unwillingness to go, stating that he feared what the excited mob might do. He felt that their lives were in danger if they went back to the palace again. It was then decided by them to send back a message by Richardson to Samuel Parker, minister of foreign affairs, to come over to the attorney-general’s office from the palace, and shortly he did come, and the whole situation was again discussed. Mr. Parker urged that the other ministers return to the palace with him. It was deemed inadvisable for them to do so, but