The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Secretary will read the amendment of the committee.

The SECRETARY. In section 81, on page 38, line 18, after the word "office," strike out the words "during good behavior" and insert: "for a term of nine years.

Mr. PLATT of Connecticut. I wish to amend this section 81.

On the first line of the section, line 23, on page 35, I move to strike out, "governor" and insert, "President," and to strike out "of the Territory of Hawaii," in lines 38 and 24; to insert a semicolon after "circuit courts," in line 35, and after "courts" to insert: "and the governor shall appoint, to hold office during the pleasure of the appointing officer, the judges of the Territory of Hawaii, appoint;" in line 11, on page 38, after the word, "may," to insert: "by and with the advice and consent of the Senate of the Territory of Hawaii.

Now, I propose to strike out, in line 10, including the proposed amendment, the following:

That it is the opinion of the justices of the supreme court, who shall hold office during good behavior for a term of nine years, and the judges of the circuit courts, whose terms of office shall be six years.

That will leave the section so that the President shall nominate and, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate of the Territory of Hawaii, the Chief Justice and justices of the supreme court, the judges and members of the circuit courts, and the governor of the Territory, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint the officers mentioned in the section; and then all the officers to hold office for four years, or until the Senate may have determined to the contrary.

Mr. President, I do not think that this is the way it ought to be done, but it does seem to me that one of the most important things that we have to do in this bill, from the universal practice which Congress has adopted with regard to the appointment of Territorial officers, is that this bill pass and to pass as speedily as it can. I want to give the people of the Territory of Hawaii the right to participate in the privileges which we have given them to any Territory that has been incorporated or created by Congress. But, Mr. President, I see no reason for giving to the Territory and its governor the extraordinary powers which are conferred upon him in this bill. I know that this Territory is peculiar.

But, Mr. President, I think that we have there a very great advantage, and a great advantage to the Territory, and that the Constitution will not be changed by the inhabitants of the Territory.

Of course I cannot give the exact figures of the different races and nationalities in the Territory, but, as I remember, all the white people there are less than 2,600, except Portuguese.

Mr. PLATT. There are more than that.

Mr. CULLOM. Mr. PLATT of Connecticut. However that may be, the white population, exclusive of the Portuguese, is very small compared with the rest of the population of the islands; and whether the British and Germans are going to become American citizens, we do not know. The probability is that they will not. So that what may be done by a government of the population which we may think it advisable to constitute the governing population, consisting of some 4,900.

I do not complain of the bill, Mr. President, in that it proposes, and deliberately proposes, to put the government of the Territory of Hawaii, practically into the hands of those 4,000 people. I know that the Section from South Carolina [Mr. TILLMAN] will ask me how it is that I reconcile the fact that I am in favor of a property qualification there which shall put the government of the islands into the hands of those 4,000 people, but I do not think that question arises here.

The question about the rights of the blacks to vote is not a new question. We are not determining now whether, if it were a new question, we should extend suffrage to the black population of this country. We did do that; and the difference which exists now between Senators from different sections of the country, is determined only whether the right to have been done shall be carried out. We are not considering the question as to what we should do if it were a new question. So I say that I will not complain of this bill because it proposes in its provisions to continue the government of those islands practically in the hands of these 4,000 people.

But, Mr. President, I wish to say that Americans who regard the United States as that class of Americans who regard the United States as a government under the King, to be sure. They have been the class which reformed the island from savagery and barbarism, and made them what they are—Americanized the islands and set up American institutions there, and, at last, an American Government appointed there; and it seems absurd to contradict to some extent the principles upon which our free Government is established here, I do not complain of the bill on that account.

There is the provision which requires that, in order to vote for senators, shall have a property qualification of a thousand dollars, I believe, or $600 income. I may not get the figures exactly right.

Mr. CULLOM. That is right.

Mr. PLATT of Connecticut. The purpose of it is to perpetuate that government in the hands of the American citizenship of the islands. While, as I say, it seems a little at variance with what we have herefore done, I do not complain of the bill on that account.

Mr. TILLMAN. Will the Senator allow me?

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CLAY in the chair). Does the Senator from Connecticut yield?

Mr. PLATT of Connecticut. If Mr. Lincoln does not object, I will not object to say.

Mr. TILLMAN. I would just remark right there that the Senator possibly misunderstood my position. I do not object to having the government of the Hawaiian Islands remain in the possession of the white people there, because I believe it is a necessary. I am not certain whether it is true that it is a necessity to good government, just as I believe that white supremacy in South Carolina is necessary for good government in that State. If the white people of South Carolina have been compelled to do things in the maintenance of that which the Senator from Connecticut has done in the past, and which is done it, we shall object to, I simply want to reconcile the two positions—his past position and his present position. If he has arrived at that point where he is willing to concede that the disfranchisement of the ignorant blacks was a blunder and a crime, and that the Southern white population is the only body of American constitutions which have had to adopt, then we are not apart at all, but agree as to the future policy which must obtain not only in South Carolina, but also in the United States.

Mr. PLATT of Connecticut. Mr. President, I do not think that I should be diverted from what I have been saying about Hawaii to go into the necessity of the necessity of the necessity of conferring suffrage upon the black people of the South at the time it was done.

Mr. TILLMAN. I am not discussing that, and I am not asking the Senator to discuss it. Mr. President, I am simply trying to have him reconcile his present attitude with the past attitude, or to show now that he has a very great change and has got right.

Mr. PLATT of Connecticut. I do not need to do either, Mr. President.

Mr. TILLMAN. I think the Senator does.

Mr. PLATT of Connecticut. It seemed to be, and I believe it was, a necessity at the time that we should enfranchise the black population and give them an opportunity to vote. Having done that, having conferred the right of suffrage upon them, we insist that it should not be taken away.

Now we come back to the question of Hawaii.

Mr. TILLMAN. But, Mr. President, the Senator will permit me. Does the object to the franchise being taken away from the blacks under constitutional methods?

Mr. PLATT of Connecticut. I am afraid you propose to take it away by unconstitutional methods.

Mr. TILLMAN. Do not the white people of the South have the right to govern their affairs and maintain their civilization that you insist the white population in Hawaii shall have?

Mr. PLATT of Connecticut. I insist that the white people of the South shall have the right to govern their affairs and maintain their civilization that you insist the white population in Hawaii shall have.

Mr. TILLMAN of South Carolina. Mr. President, I am ready to meet you here or anywhere else on the question as to whether we give the whites here the same rights you are giving to the white people in Hawaii.

Mr. PLATT of Connecticut. We are dealing with a new question; we are dealing with the question in the new possessions which we have acquired outside of what has hitherto been our boundaries, in the island of Hawaii; and as to what we have in the past, or what we have acquired, we provide for those possessions. It is a new departure in our history. We all know that the decision of that question requires the closest and most careful thought and examination.

Mr. TILLMAN. Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator from Connecticut yield to the Senator from South Carolina?

Mr. PLATT of Connecticut. Yes.

Mr. TILLMAN. I hope the Senator from Connecticut will not confuse the Hawaiian question with the Philippine question, because they are entirely different. The Hawaiian people were