GOVERNMENT FOR THE TERRITORY OF HAWAII.

On motion of Mr. KNOX, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, and resumed consideration of the bill (S. 222) to provide a government in the Territory of Hawaii, with Mr. MOODY in the chair.

Mr. MCALEER. I yield thirty minutes to the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. McDOWELL].

Mr. McDOWELL. Mr. Chairman, two years ago, when the proposition of annexing the Hawaiian Islands to the United States was before Congress, I was opposed to annexation for what, in my judgment, seemed very good reasons.

First, annexation was desired by a very small proportion of the inhabitants of these islands, and these few desired it for selfish and mercenary purposes. It was the "Dole oligarchy" or "family compact" that had usurped all power to itself and now desired to be perpetuated in power under the protection of the United States.

Second, I believed, as I now believe, that by making these islands a part of the United States we bring the cheap Asiatic laborer into direct competition with the American laborer. To bring under our own flag 40,000 Japanese contract laborers and 25,000 Chinese contract laborers means to limit to a considerable extent the opportunities of our own American laborers.

Later developments and conditions confirm very strongly my first views on this subject.

But annexation is an accomplished fact, and we are now confronted with the problem to provide a good Territorial form of government for the islands. I am gratified to say that it seemed to be the unanimous idea of the Committee on Territories, of which committee I have the honor to be a member, to give the Hawaiian Islands a government similar to that given to other acquired Territories of the United States. To my knowledge no member of the committee even suggested any discrimination in the commercial intercourse between the United States and the islands, or "taxation without representation." However, it has been intimated that some imperialistic amendments may be proposed to the bill while it is under consideration in the House.

BAD FEATURES OF THE BILL REPORTED BY THE COMMISSION.

The annexation resolution was approved July 7, 1898. As provided by the joint resolution annexing the islands, the President appointed five commissioners to recommend to Congress such legislation concerning the Hawaiian Islands as they might deem necessary and proper. The Hawaiian commission consisted of Senators JOHN T. MORGAN and SHELBY M. CULLOM and Representatives ROBERT R. HITT, of the United States, and Sanford B. Dole and W. F. Frear, the two latter being residents of the Hawaiian Islands. The commissioners met at Honolulu August 18, 1898, and at the beginning of the last session of the Fifty-fifth Congress the President of the United States transmitted their report to Congress.

Among things recommended in this report was "...a bill to provide a government for the Territory of Hawaii." A reading of the bill recommended by the commission would lead any patriotic American to declare that it was not the product of the brain of any American statesman or legislator. My first impression was that the Hawaiian members of the commission had hypnotized our own distinguished members of the commission. The more I studied the bill the more confirmed was my conclusion in the matter. I had heard that the members of the "Dole family compact" were skilled in the arts of diplomacy and strategy; that they easily controlled, for their own selfish purposes, the kindly, friendly, liberal, affectionate, and confiding native Hawaiians. Yet I had confidence that our own able members of the Hawaiian commission would be able to withstand their wiles and cunning.