Mr. FINLEY. Mr. Chairman, during the past one hundred and twenty-four years the United States has many times extended its boundaries or expanded its territory. First, the Louisiana purchase, in 1803, out of which has been carved the States of Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, a part of Minnesota, a part of Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, a part of Wyoming, Idaho Territory, and Oklahoma; and, together with Arizona and New Mexico, will at some time be admitted as States; next, the Florida purchase from Spain, by treaty, in 1819, first organized as a Territory, and then admitted as a State in 1845; and, by the same treaty a large scope of territory, out of which has been carved the States of Idaho, and Washington; and third, the annexation of Texas by act of Congress in 1845, followed soon after by other acquisitions from Mexico, under treaty, out of which has been carved the States of California, Colorado in part, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming in part, and the Territories of Arizona and New Mexico.

All of these acquisitions were adjoining the territory of the United States, and were secured from a standpoint of national necessity, or in order that we might be rid of dangerous or troublesome neighbors, living in close proximity to us.

France, when in possession of the Louisiana Territory, including the western bank of the river, had control of the mouth of the river, and this was a serious annoyance to American citizens inhabiting the part of the United States on the east side of the Mississippi, and drained by it. This being before the days of railroads, the Mississippi River was the great commercial highway for all the people living within this boundary.

The mouth of the river being in possession of the French, and our right of exit and entrance being secured only by treaty, which could be annulled by France at any time, it was a matter of extreme national necessity that the Louisiana Territory should be secured in order that the citizens of the United States living in the eastern part of the valley of the Mississippi might have an unrestricted outlet for their commerce, a dangerous neighbor removed, and our western border secured—a direct application, so to speak, annulated years afterwards, in what is called afterwards, in what is called later, as the Monroe doctrine, that America should not be considered a field for exploitation and colonization purposes by the powers of Europe.

In the case of Florida, held as it was by impotent and bigoted Spain, its proximity to the southern part of the United States rendered it a fertile field for breeding troubles to our Government.

In the case of the annexation of Texas it was a matter of contract between two intelligent and sovereign nations, advantageous to both.

In the case of the other territory secured from Mexico by treaty, it was but the result of a theory long held by many of our wise and sagacious statesmen that, by the laws of nature and geographically speaking, the entire area from the Atlantic on the east to the Pacific on the west, from the Gulf of Mexico, on the south to the Great Lakes on the north, was intended for one great country under one national government.

So, in this way, expansion of our territory was brought about by constitutional methods, and, except in the case of Texas, which was admitted as a sovereign State, always with a view to utilizing the lands so secured into Territories with local self-government, and, eventually, to the admission of these Territories into the Union as sovereign States.

This wise and statesmanlike policy has been carried out to such an extent that to-day there are only four Territories, Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Indian Territory, within the bounds of the above acquisitions.

In 1837 we purchased from Russia Alaska. This purchase, I believe, was not so much because the territory was valuable at the time, or that it was considered that it would ever be of any great use for purposes of emigration and settlement, or from a commercial standpoint, but because, the Russian Government being in the humor to sell, it was thought advisable for the United States to purchase, rather than at some time this territory should fall into the hands of Great Britain, it being held for a long time, and long before that it would be wise on our part, from a national standpoint, to permit England to secure any further acquisition of territory in North America.

Mr. Chairman, in all those cases in charge of governing and shaping the national policies of the United States were wise and sagacious; the territory acquired being in all instances, practically speaking, an unsettled wilderness and needing only the hand of an intelligent, industrious, and liberty-loving American citizen to be applied in order that it might become an important and valuable part of our great Republic.

National security from external dangers, the perpetuation of our republican form of government, the welfare, prosperity, and happiness of the people of the United States, made it necessary that these acquisitions of territory should be made. This was expansion in its best and truest sense.

Prior to the war with Spain no territory was acquired by the United States outside of North America, nor was any of this ac-