quired except in the furtherance of a policy based on the Monroe doctrine and political necessity.

The Democratic party has always been in favor of this kind of expansion, and except in the case of Alaska, practically speaking, is entitled to the credit for the acquisition of new territory. In all the territories acquired, as I have stated, we have acted in the acquisition of and in governing them strictly in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the United States. I stand with my party on the question of expansion, and in opposition to the policy of imperialism and militarism advocated by the Republicans.

Mr. Chairman, the causes leading to the annexation of the Hawaiian Islands are not in all respects the same as those leading to all former acquisitions. Along this line it may be out of place to mention some facts in connection with the acquisition of these islands and their history. They were discovered by Captain Cook in 1778, and at that time were populated by a warlike, vigorous, and hearty race. They were a higher type of what may be termed "harshious Asians." The islands are situated in the Pacific Ocean, some 3,000 miles from the coast of North America and about 4,000 from the coast of Asia.

The people of the islands were almost entirely isolated from the outside world up to the time of their discovery by Cook. The population then numbered between four and five hundred thousand. The area of the islands being only in the neighborhood of 6,000 square miles, this would give a per capita population of upward of 75 to the square mile. Since 1778, when the islands were discovered, to 1819 the islands were greatly reduced in population by the ravages of war and disease. Since then the death rate of the Hawaiians has increased to such an extent that to-day there are only about 40,000 natives and Hapans, or half-castes.

Prior to 1819, idolatry was a part of the religious practice of the Hawaiians.

May 8, 1819, Kamehameha I (then King of all the islands) died. By his will he left to his son, Liholilie, the sovereignty of all the islands, with the title of King Kamehameha II, and appointed Kaahumanu (his widow) premier, to exercise authority with the young king. These two almost immediately abolished idolatry and destroyed the infamous Tabu system, so that when the pioneer missionaries arrived at the islands, October 23, 1819, they found these people self-redeemed from idolatry and casting aside the superstitions of their fathers.

When the Christian missionaries from New England landed in the island, they were most kindly received by the natives. The people of the islands having some knowledge of western civilization from the occasional visits of passing ships, willingly received the teachings of the missionaries, and in a short while the greater part of them were converted to Christianity; and the Christian religion being the foundation stone of all lasting and progressive civilization, the Hawaiians have from that day to this made rapid progress. Up to 1820 they had only written language, crude hieroglyphics, amounting to very little in the way of education from a practical standpoint, being symbolic only.

Until January 17, 1893, the islands continued under a monarchy which had existed from time immemorial. During this period of time, from 1819, when idolatry was abolished, to 1893, when the monarchy was abolished, education became general throughout the islands and Christianity common among all the people.

In 1893 a part of the foreign population, dominated and led by Americans or people of American extraction, successfully rebelled and overthrew the existing government, deposed Queen Liliuokalani, abolished the monarchy, and set up a republican form of government, modeled for the most part after that of the United States; and, with the government securely in their own hands, they promulgated a constitution, and, among other things, a provision looking forward to and providing for annexation to the United States whenever it could be effected. This government continued until the 7th of July, 1898, when the Hawaiian Islands, by a joint resolution passed by Congress, were annexed to the United States.

The causes leading up to annexation were, first, the islands being of prominence on account of their situation in the Pacific Ocean, on the usual route of travel between Asia and North and South America, and on account of agricultural resources; and, second, its government being weak from a standpoint of force and ability to maintain itself against a strong and aggressive power. The governing power of Hawaii earnestly desired annexation by the United States as a security for their welfare for all time to come.

When war was declared by the United States against Spain, in 1898, and after Dewey had sunk the Spanish fleet in the harbor of Manila, the United States was under the necessity of transporting to the Philippine Islands ships, soldiers, and supplies. As a matter of convenience, and sometimes of necessity, our ships and vessels of war had occasion to stop at the ports of Hawaii for coal and other supplies.

The Hawaiian government treated the United States in all these matters with the utmost consideration and as if there were.