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 of Massachusetts in the chair.

The CHAIRMAN. The House is in Committee of the Whole for the consideration, under the five-minute rule, of the Senate bill which the Clerk will report to the committee.

The Clerk, under the order made yesterday, proceeded to read the substitute in the nature of an amendment, by sections.

CITIZENSHIP.

SEC. 4. That all persons who were citizens of the Republic of Hawaii on August 12, 1888, are hereby declared to be citizens of the United States and citizens of the Territory of Hawaii.

Mr. MCRAE. Mr. Chairman, for the purpose of asking a question of the chairman of the committee, I move to strike out that section. I would like to know who were citizens of the republic of Hawaii on August 12, 1888.

Mr. KNOX. The laws of the republic of Hawaii provided that all persons born or naturalized in Hawaii, under the republic of Hawaii, should be citizens of the republic of Hawaii. At that time they comprised the same persons whom we now make citizens—the Germans, Americans, native Hawaiians, and Portuguese—with the exception that there have been under the monarchy about 700 Chinese naturalized, about 830 of whom only remain, the rest having gone back; so that the only Asiatic citizens is composed of about 330 naturalized Chinese.

Mr. MCRAE. Do you adopt them as citizens?

Mr. KNOX. I will state, further, that in order to prevent further naturalization of Asiatics the constitution of Hawaii provided that they should naturalize citizens of nations which by their laws provided for the naturalization of Hawaiians. As there were no such nations, it excluded from that time the naturalization of Chinese.

Mr. MCRAE. But that would put it in the power of foreign nations to naturalize people for our country, would it not?

Mr. KNOX. That is the power of the Senate bill, and not the power of this bill.

Mr. MCRAE. Do you say that bill?

Mr. KNOX. Do you by this bill adopt the 330 naturalized Chinese who were in Hawaii at the time of the passage of the resolution annexing the islands?

Mr. KNOX. Those 330, inasmuch as—

Mr. MCRAE. You adopt them as United States citizens?

Mr. KNOX. Inasmuch as we could not draw the line, we made a general provision making all citizens of the republic of Hawaii citizens of the United States, and that would include those 330 Chinese.

Mr. MCRAE. Is the anti-alien contract-labor law extended to Hawaii by this bill?

Mr. KNOX. Yes; all the laws of the United States are so extended, and the law prohibiting these contracts and the penal provision is retained by this bill; but there is to be a subsequent amendment further extending it so as to make it absolutely certain that we stamp out every vestige of contract labor.

Mr. MCRAE. I am not quite certain that that is done.

Mr. KNOX. There is an amendment prepared which stamps out every vestige of the contract-labor system.

Mr. MCRAE. At the proper time I should like to move a new paragraph in the bill which will, beyond all question extend the anti-alien contract-labor law.

Mr. KNOX. It will be an amendment to section 10.

The CHAIRMAN. The amendment offered by the gentleman from Arkansas will be withdrawn.

Mr. ROBINSON of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike out the last word, The.

Mr. ROBINSON of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, at this time I think it would be proper for me to make a brief statement.

My judgment is that this is one of the most important things that has been presented to the House since I have been a member.

The Committee on Territories, for days and weeks, with careful attention and consideration to this bill. At the time of the introduction of the bill into the House this bill was introduced into the Senate. Differences of opinion among the members of the committee have resulted in very many changes in the original bills introduced into the respective Houses and a remodeling and recasting of many of the sections. The Senate considered a report of the House before the House and the amendments to it for nine days. With the exception of three set speeches they considered the bill by sections. During that time they covered 193 pages of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in the discussion of amendments and sections of this bill.

We must now, perforce, do all the work in consideration and debating the bill that was done by the Senate in over a week. The committee have been careful, but differences of opinion have arisen. It was almost impossible to understand the industrial conditions of Hawaii, almost impossible to get information on the subject of its judicial and other matters. The result is there are differences of opinion now on various sections as to their meaning and interpretation.

The Senate, after mature deliberation, have passed a bill which to my mind is far less objectionable that more perfect which we have received from the Senate. This bill is, I think, perfect as possible, because those people have troubles enough of their own. Now, if we proceed to the consideration of the sections of this bill and confine ourselves to the subject-matter involved, we may possibly complete the work in four or five days. If we succeed in doing that, then my hope that we may be able to pass the bill without a division may be answered. There are sections tough, at the end of the bill, which we should r-d, very important, and amendments to them will be presented.

Mr. DE ARMOND. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike out the words “the Constitution and” on lines 24 and 25.

Mr. DE ARMOND. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike out the words “the Constitution and” on lines 24 and 25.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will report the amendment.