

the constitutional amendment does not apply to the preceding year, not to the current year? Is not that so?

Mr. LINNEY. But it affects this year also, the year 1899, because the poll tax required to be paid is the tax due on the 1st day of March prior to the election and in the hands of the sheriff for collection.

Mr. KLUTTZ. Is it not so?

Mr. LINNEY. Let that be as it may—

Mr. KLUTTZ. Is not that so? I ask an answer.

Mr. LINNEY. That was the preceding year. The preceding year means the year for which the taxes were collectible prior to the election. But substantially it applies to this year (1899 taxes). If such a provision as that now under consideration here were enforced in North Carolina, 700 white men of that county would be disfranchised because of their misfortune. I am willing that crime may disfranchise, but not the failure to pay a tax of \$1. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I shall vote against this amendment; and I hope that the Republican side of this House will not vote to adopt it, because—mark my prediction—in any State where such a provision may be adopted the result will be the disfranchising of thousands of the best kind of men. If a man is poor and ignorant, the ballot in his hands is an educator. Take that from him, and he will never shake off either the poverty or ignorance that degrades him. No country can afford to withhold from the poor and ignorant the only power that can elevate them.

Mr. KNOX. Mr. Chairman, I ask for a vote.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on agreeing to the amendment offered by the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. WILLIAMS]. The question being taken, the Chairman announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Mississippi demanded a division.

The committee divided; and there were—ayes 55, yeas 82.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Mississippi. Mr. Chairman, I have another amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Mississippi offers an amendment; which the Clerk will report.

The Clerk read as follows:

In line 3, page 74, after the word "government," add "and the registration shall be held at least six months before the election."

Mr. WILLIAMS of Mississippi. Mr. Chairman, the amendment is simply this: To add, after the word "government," in line 3, this language:

And the registration shall be held at least six months before the election.

I offer the amendment in that form in order to obviate certain objections that were made to it in its other form, and for the purpose of making it the poll tax of the current year instead of the poll tax of the previous year, yet at the same time to prevent all temptation to election manipulators and political corruptionists to buy votes by paying the poll tax.

Mr. ROBINSON of Indiana. What does the gentleman say with reference to clothing the legislature of Hawaii with the power to regulate that domestic affair?

Mr. WILLIAMS of Mississippi. We are now fixing the suffrage qualifications for Hawaii. If you are going to leave it to Hawaii to fix them, why, then do that. If there is anybody here who wants to run the risk of Kanaka rule in the islands of Hawaii, to run the risk of those Kanakas overthrowing and overturning the white people in those islands, then let him leave the entire matter of the suffrage to the people of Hawaii, making everybody out there voters, as you have done in other Territories.

Now, I for one do not believe in that. I for one opposed the admission of Hawaii, and did not want its destinies committed to my charge; but since it is here, I want white civilization in Hawaii, and I do not want Kanaka rule. So much in answer to the gentleman's question.

Mr. ROBINSON of Indiana. I would suggest to the gentleman from Mississippi, however—

Mr. OLMSTED. Do you want that sort of a law in this Territory that will permit voting on the principle on which it is done in Mississippi, which sends seven Congressmen here with a total Congressional vote in the entire State of less than 25,000?

Mr. WILLIAMS of Mississippi. Mr. Chairman, I have, perhaps, less respect for the ad hominem argument than almost any man, but since the gentleman has made it, I might reply that you have already given Hawaii the Mississippi constitution, with this difference, and this difference only, that in Mississippi, after we had adopted these clauses, we broadened the suffrage by another one, and you have not.

Now, this is not a question to be discussed in a partisan spirit. I am not here for the purpose of bringing Mississippi into the discussion. You did not adopt these provisions because Mississippi had adopted them. You adopted them by the unanimous voice of the committee, because, under the circumstances, they seemed wise provisions to be adopted. Your committee have acted wisely and well in adopting the educational qualification, and you are

going to adopt it, and also the poll-tax provision with or without my amendment.

Mr. OLMSTED. Your amendment will not permit a man to be registered or to vote if he happens to move from one side of the street to the other into a new election precinct within six months preceding the election.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Mississippi. I beg the gentleman's pardon. I can not hear him and talk at the same time. Leaving him and his suggestions aside, which I have not heard, I say that the committee have acted wisely in adopting the educational qualification, in the first place, and also in adopting a qualification which will prevent, to a large extent, the votes of the thriftless and careless, and those who are indifferent to the sacredness of the suffrage as one of the most precious possessions of an American citizen. Any man who is willing to be bribed for a dollar not to vote is a man who does not attach sufficient weight to the franchise to be worthy to vote.

Mr. WHITE. What should be done with the man who offers the bribe?

Mr. WILLIAMS of Mississippi. You should give him no opportunity to offer it. That is what I am attempting to provide against. If you are going to adopt this provision of a poll tax, then, for heaven's sake, adopt it in such a way as that it may not become a mere piece of machinery for political corruption. If you want to have a poll tax, why should you leave it in such a condition that politicians can come upon election day, or a little time prior to that, and by paying the sum of \$1 poll tax for each voter bribe those voters to cast their ballots? The amendment which I offer is a provision for the safeguarding or purification of the ballot. Either leave the poll-tax provision out or else let the poll tax be paid a sufficient time prior to the election to be certain of the fact that it shall not be an engine of corruption. Now, the amendment is simply that "the registration shall take place six months before the election." It takes place by Hawaiian law quite a while before the election now, but I fear present legal provisions might be changed later.

Mr. KNOX. Let us have a vote.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. I move to strike out the last word.

The CHAIRMAN. That motion would not be in order.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Chairman, I believe this is a new amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. It would be open to five minutes' debate against the amendment. Does the gentleman desire to be recognized for that purpose?

Mr. UNDERWOOD. No; I wish to offer an amendment to the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The amendment is not amendable. The amendment itself is an amendment to an amendment.

Mr. ROBINSON of Indiana. I desire to be recognized in opposition to the amendment.

Mr. KNOX. Will the gentleman permit a statement which does not affect this pending question? As the time is getting so near when we are to take a vote that the probability is that we shall not finish the reading of the bill, I desire to say that there are committee amendments to one or two sections which there is no dispute about, which are desired by both sides of the House. One is upon the last section, to the provision requiring the Chinese to register. There has been an apprehension that under that law they would have the right to come into the United States, and it is not the purpose of the committee that they should. I ask unanimous consent that that amendment to section 102 may be offered now, and the other section passed over temporarily.

Mr. RICHARDSON. There are thirty-odd sections to the bill not yet read.

Mr. KNOX. We can agree, perhaps, upon the others, but why not let this be offered?

Mr. RICHARDSON. I think we should proceed in the regular way.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Mississippi. I call for a vote on the pending amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Indiana [Mr. ROBINSON] is recognized against the amendment.

Mr. ROBINSON of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, much that the gentleman from Mississippi has said with reference to the amendment he proposes I consider inapplicable in Hawaii. We have heard much of the missionaries there, much of the Dole family compact, and the difficulty is that if those in power there were clothed with more privileges, with more chances to take advantage of the rank and file of the people, it would prove disastrous to the people.

All of those who are here representing Hawaii are united as to the wisdom of these provisions which are presented by the committee. A condition prevails there that does not exist in this country, and I think if the situation was understood that the rank and file of the people there would be better subserved and their interests better protected by adopting the committee section.