Mr. KNOX. That is true, but we do it in order to preserve the title of "sheriff" on each of the islands.
Mr. ROBINSON of Indiana. I thank the gentleman for the explanation.
Mr. KNOX. I offer the amendment which I send to the Clerk's desk.

The Clerk reads as follows:
On page 25, section 64, lines 12, add the following:
The amendment is agreed to.

The Clerk reads as follows:

COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS.
Sec. 78. That the laws of Hawaii relating to public lands, the settlement of homesteads thereon, and the administration of the public domain in the Territory of Hawaii, as the same shall be in effect on July 7, 1888, and as changed by this act, shall continue in force until Congress shall otherwise provide, subject to the introduction of such improvements as will be necessary to make them useful in the possession and occupation of the public domain, and agreements concerning the same, shall be reported in writing to the Secretary of the Interior, who shall have authority to confirm, reverse, modify, suspend, and annul any of said transactions. That all of said transactions so reported upon which no action shall have been taken by the Secretary of the Interior, and all of said filing of such reports in his office shall thereupon and thereby be confirmed and ratified.

The Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized and required to provide and promulgate the rules and regulations relative to all contests on the disposition of the public domain and appeals to him. That all sales, grants, leases, and other dispositions of the public domain, and agreements concerning the same, shall be reported in writing to the Secretary of the Interior, who shall have authority to confirm, reverse, modify, suspend, and annul any of said transactions. That all of said transactions so reported upon which no action shall have been taken by the Secretary of the Interior, and all of said filing of such reports in his office shall thereupon and thereby be confirmed and ratified.

Mr. KNOX. I offer the following amendment to section 73.
The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Massachusetts offers an amendment which the Clerk will report.

The Clerk reads as follows:
On page 22, section 73, line 16, after the word "eight," add the following: "Provided, That there shall be excepted from the provisions of this section, the lands hereof set apart as reserved by Executive order or orders by the President of the United States."

Mr. KNOX. Mr. Chairman, I will simply state that this amendment was suggested by the Department as necessary. Certain lands, since July 7, have been appropriated, by order of the Executive, out of the General Land Office, under the Hawaiian law, and the purpose of this amendment is to exempt them from the operation of this section.

Mr. BARLETT. Does that apply to any other lands?
Mr. KNOX. Not at all, except those that have been actually taken under the General Land Office.

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. LACEY. Mr. Chairman, I offer the following amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Iowa offers an amendment to the bill with the report.

The Clerk reads as follows:
Add to section 73 the following:
Provided, That all bona fide occupants of public lands who have improved the same, and who have purchased the same, shall have the preferential right in acquiring the same under the laws of Hawaii as modified in this act, but such purchase shall not include public lands, and such improvements shall be not less than the appraised price of such lands.

Mr. KNOX. Mr. Chairman, under the laws of Hawaii the acquisition of homestead rights is very carefully provided for by what are called homestead leases, running for ninety-nine years, which may be purchased by any person who has lived on the land for ten years and has paid the purchase price. Such leases may be extended for a like period, and such improvements shall be not less than the appraised price of such lands.

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I think also that the gentleman's provision that the occupancy should be in good faith would not help the matter any. These homestead lands are valuable, and this bill seeks to preserve them to the real homesteaders, to prevent others from obtaining them, and to prevent any unjust occupation.

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