Mr. HOAR. I will not say that it is not a matter of the slightest possible general importance, but the adoption of the resolution is not very important, because I presume we can get the information in another way, by inquiring of the Secretary of State, or by a private note from the committee.

I will state the reason for offering it. Some complaints have reached me. I have one now on my desk, which I shall not undertake to read and which I did not propose to make public, from a very worthy and excellent Massachusetts soldier, as to the obligation to deposit a sum of money before he could land at the Hawaiian Islands and to get a passport, of which he sent me a photograph, before he could leave for home.

The reason why I directed the resolution to the Committee on Foreign Relations was because the Senate had committed to that committee the bill in regard to the Hawaiian Islands and members of that committee had visited the islands and had specially investigated the subject. The bill was largely their work, and I thought this piece of information as to whether those laws were in force or were modified, a mere matter of information, would be more easily rendered by that committee, which has just been over the subject, than by the new committee.

I do not think there is any probability that there will be anything but a simple reply that these regulations have now been abolished, which will be a public satisfaction for travelers. I think that is all that will come of it. It is not a resolution which to my mind indicates any necessity for probing into the matter; but if the Senator from Ohio prefers, I will modify the resolution by saying "the Committee on Pacific Islands and Porto Rico" in lieu of "the Committee on Foreign Relations."

Mr. FORAKER. Mr. President, I have no special preference about it, and I called the attention that I did to the matter because I thought this was not a very important subject, simply in order that it might be brought to the attention of Senators in introducing similar resolutions that there is such a committee, and we are supposed to have charge of that which pertains to the Pacific Islands.

Mr. HOAR. I reflected on that.

Mr. FORAKER. There have been a number of similar resolutions introduced and I paid no attention to them, but I thought it my duty, in behalf of the committee of which I have the honor to be chairman, to direct attention to it. I have no objection to the inquiry going to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. HOAR. It seemed to me, if I may repeat, that this was merely an inquiry as to the effect of the bill which had just come from the Committee on Foreign Relations, and that the chairman of that committee would reply that this state of things had been changed by the new law, and that information would go to the public.

Mr. FORAKER. I am quite willing now, after this explanation has been had, that the inquiry may go to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection to the present consideration of the resolution?

Mr. PLATT of Connecticut rose.

Mr. HOAR. If the Senator will look at it he will see it is a very trifling matter.

Mr. PLATT of Connecticut. Will not the Senator be satisfied if the resolution is referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. That will satisfy me. Otherwise I want to look at it.

Mr. HOAR. Very well; if my friend wishes to make a mountain out of a molehill, be can.

Mr. PLATT of Connecticut. I do not think molehills ought to be introduced into the Senate.

Mr. HOAR. Mr. President, when a mote gets into the eye of an American citizen, it is sometimes quite exasperating, even if it is not of any great size. I should like to repeat that this resolution was offered simply in order to elicit some information which would enable American travelers to know that the requirement to get passports and deposit sums of money in the Hawaiian Islands had now been remedied; that is all. It is the slightest possible affair.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection to the reference of the resolution to the Committee on Foreign Relations? The Chair hears none, and it is so referred.