Mr. HALE. Mr. President, before the matter is voted on, I desire to say that I wish I could share in the hope and expectation that the Senator from Vermont [Mr. Ross] has, that the peaceful and perfect programme that he has marked out for what are called our new possessions could ever be realized. I do not expect it ever will be realized. The history of colonial possessions from the days of the Romans to the present time is a history of robbery, of speculation, of extravagant expenditure of money, of wrongdoing in high places, and of corruption broad and large. I do not think that the examples of to-day go to show that we are to be exempted from the monstrous evils that have always attended colonial rule.

The consular system of the Roman Empire and of the Roman Republic was the system that produced the abuses against which Cicero spoke to the Senate, and, to use Macaulay's language, Tacitus thundered against the oppressor of Africa. The world has not changed. The jaunty way in which the American people embarked in this enterprise of colonial possessions and sent out its officials and its armies has certainly had a rebuke in what has been seen to happen in the last few months; and the Senator from Vermont and I will be older than we are now before the rule that has been laid down in all history is changed in our experience.

I do not object to the passage of the bill, but before it was passed I wanted to say this.

Mr. ALLISON. I hope the Senator from Vermont will not press that bill at this time. I yield to the Senator with the view of giving him an opportunity of making some observations on the bill. After I have concluded the business I have in hand I shall not interfere with the further business of the Senate to-day. I now ask that the conference report on the District of Columbia appropriation bill may be laid before the Senate, without interfering, of course, with whatever is the order of business this morning.

Mr. HOAR. I suggest to the Senator from Iowa that he allow the bill of the Senator from Vermont to be considered—indeed, it is before the Senate—and then that the Senator from Vermont give way to the conference report, because if the bill has to be called up anew in a week or a fortnight hence it will take an hour or two then, whereas it might not take five minutes to finish it now.

Mr. ALLISON. The junior Senator from Massachusetts [Mr. LODGE], who has charge of what is known as the Philippine bill, which is the regular order by unanimous consent of the Senate, desires it to preserve that situation and position.

Mr. HOAR. That bill can be laid aside informally. I think the bill of the Senator from Vermont will not take much time.

Mr. ALLISON. If it will not take much time, that is another matter.

I ask now that whatever is the pending business before the Senate may be informally laid aside until I can present to the Senate the conference report on the District of Columbia appropriation bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the unfinished business will be temporarily laid aside, and the conference report on the District of Columbia appropriation bill be laid before the Senate. The Chair hears no objection, and that order is made.

CIVIL OFFICES IN ALASKA, HAWAII, ETC.

Mr. McMillan. I ask unanimous consent for the present consideration of the bill (S. 3939) to provide for eliminating certain grade crossings on the line of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad Company in the city of Washington, D. C., and requiring said company to depress and elevate its tracks, and to enable it to relocate parts of its railroad therein.

Mr. ROSS. Senate bill 8000 was laid aside temporarily for the consideration of the conference report on the District of Columbia appropriation bill, and, unless there is objection, I should like to have action upon the bill by the Senate.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. What is the request of the Senator?

Mr. ROSS. That the bill I have named be considered at the present time, unless there is objection or more discussion is desired upon it. The bill is really under consideration now. It was laid aside temporarily for the consideration of the conference report. The amendment reported by the committee has been read.