The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair is informed that the bill was before the Senate and that the amendment reported by the committee had been read.

Mr. ALDRICH. What is the bill? Let it be read by title.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The title will be stated.

The SECRETARY. A bill (S. 3000) regulating appointment to and removals from civil offices in outlying dependencies of the United States.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The bill is before the Senate as in Committee of the Whole, and the amendment reported by the committee will again be stated.

The Secretary read the amendment reported by the Committee to Examine the Several Branches of the Civil Service, which was, to strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

That all appointments to civil offices made by the President or any head of a Department in Alaska, Hawaii, or any place brought within the jurisdiction of the United States by the recent treaty with Spain, shall be made irrespective of the political opinions of the persons appointed, and so far as consistent with the proper performance of the duties of the office, in such a manner as to represent the entire country. In case of removal from any such office, whenever practicable, charges shall be made in writing and a copy thereof furnished to the accused, who shall be afforded reasonable opportunity to make answer thereto; and the President or head of a Department making the appointment may, wherever the public interest shall seem to require it, suspend the official pending hearing or investigation of such charges.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on the amendment of the committee, which has been read.

Mr. GALLINGER. Mr. President, when the Senator from Vermont [Mr. ROSS] a little time ago asked for the consideration of this bill, I raised some objection, and it went over. I merely rise to-day to say that while I shall not object, as I desire to be very courteous to the Senator from Vermont, I regard it as an unnecessary and an absurd bill.

The amendment was agreed to.

The bill was reported to the Senate as amended, and the amendment was concurred in.

Mr. VEST. Mr. President, from what committee does the bill come?

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. From the Committee to Examine the Several Branches of the Civil Service.

Mr. ROSS. I will state that the report of the committee is unanimous.

Mr. VEST. It seems to be a very strange bill.

Mr. TURLEY. Mr. President, I am a member of the committee which reported the bill, and the Senator from Texas [Mr. CURBEESEN] and myself, the Senator from Vermont will remember, when the bill was in committee, asked, and we understood it was agreed to, that the caption of the bill be changed so as to strike out the words "outlying dependencies."

Mr. ROSS. There is provision for that in the amendment reported to the title of the bill.

Mr. TURLEY. I mean in the title of the bill.

Mr. ROSS. That will be in order after the bill shall have been passed.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. There is a proposed amendment to the title, which will be reached in time. The question now is on ordering the bill to be engrossed for a third reading.

Mr. VEST. I must confess, Mr. President, I do not understand this bill. I have no idea what origin it has. It is not known to any of us in the Senate. We are telling the President of the United States—true, it is a mere platitude—that he shall make appointments with a view to the interests of the whole country. I hardly think it is exactly our province to tell the Executive what his duty is about appointments. That matter is exclusively for him, with the approval of the Senate. The Constitution gives him the right to make appointments on the advice and consent of the Senate; and now we anticipate his action and say, if I understand it—a Senator was talking to me at the moment and perhaps I did not correctly catch the meaning of the bill—"Mr. President, you must make these appointments with a view to the best interests of the entire country." I am not representing the President, but I rather think he will do that, and rather think we are going out of our way to tell him he ought to do it. If we had a Democratic President, I should certainly think so.