Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I present a report from the Committee on Ways and Means.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman from New York calls up a privileged bill, which the Clerk will report.

The bill (S. 4500) to provide for officers in the customs district of Hawaii was read, as follows:

Be it enacted, etc., That there shall be in the customs district of Hawaii one collector, who shall reside at Honolulu, and who shall receive a salary of $4,000 per annum, and such deputy collectors and other customs officers as the Secretary of the Treasury shall deem necessary.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I want to say that a bill like this passed the last House unanimously, and this bill is unanimously reported by the Committee on Ways and Means. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered in the House as in Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman from New York asks unanimous consent that this bill be considered in the House as in Committee of the Whole. Is there objection?

Mr. McRAE. With the opportunity to move an amendment to limit the number of officers, I am ready to consent to it.

Mr. PAYNE. I do not understand the gentleman.

Mr. McRAE. With an opportunity to move an amendment to limit the number of officers.

Mr. PAYNE. Why, if the gentleman desires to offer an amendment, I will yield to him for that purpose.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection, with that understanding? There was no objection.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, this bill has been read. It simply provides for a collector of customs at Honolulu, at a salary of $4,000 a year. While the bill that passed the House regulated the matter of customs duties for the Hawaiian Islands and created customs districts, it did not provide for any collector of customs at Honolulu. That was an omission. I want to say that in the last Congress a bill was introduced in the House providing for the collection of customs in the Hawaiian Islands, providing collection districts, and also providing for this very officer, a collector of customs at Honolulu, at a salary of $4,000. It was the unanimous voice of the committee at that time, and of the House as well, but the bill was not acted upon by the Senate. I understand at the Treasury Department that they are anxious that this legislation be had now, because they want to send officials there to provide for the collection of the customs, to reach there by the 15th of June. If I mistake not, the Hawaiian bill goes into operation on the 1st of July.

Mr. KNOX. Forty-five days from the date of its passage.

Mr. PAYNE. It will be necessary for the officials to reach there by the 15th of June in order to get the machinery in order to collect the customs.

Mr. KNOX. It goes into effect earlier than the gentleman stated.

Mr. RIDGELEY. Will the gentleman allow me to ask him a question?

Mr. PAYNE. Certainly.

Mr. RIDGELEY. Is it proposed to put a tax upon commerce between the Hawaiian Islands and the United States, the same as was imposed a short time ago in the case of these islands?

Mr. PAYNE. Not by this bill. I will say, however, that the House and Senate did impose in the Hawaiian bill a tax upon articles coming from the Hawaiian Islands, which articles were imported into the Hawaiian Islands from foreign countries prior to the passage of the bill. While the gentleman from Kansas [Mr. RIDGELEY] may regard this as a violation of the Constitution, yet both sides of the House fractured the Constitution with respect to the Hawaiian bill, if that is a fracture of it.

Mr. RIDGELEY. Can the gentleman inform us as to whether his committee would favor a tax upon the commerce between this country and the Hawaiian Islands?

Mr. PAYNE. I can not speak for the committee. So far as I am concerned, I am in favor of the provision that was put in the Hawaiian bill, to put the full tariff duties of the United States upon all articles the products of foreign countries which were imported into Hawaii previous to the passage of the bill and afterwards imported into the United States.

Mr. RIDGELEY. How about goods that are produced there and goods that are produced here being exchanged?

Mr. PAYNE. Oh, sufficient to say that I voted for the Hawaiian bill, which does not impose a duty upon those articles, the Hawaiian people not having had any hurricane or any other destructive calamity, and having sufficient resources within themselves to provide for the government of the islands otherwise than by imposing duties upon articles of traffic between this country and the Hawaiian Islands. There is no necessity for it, and of