not the one the people do not want paid? The people do not want this paid. They do not want the postal savings bank system abolished.

Mr. CULLOM. That is not the question. The annexation law provides that shall be first paid. It is not a question as to what we want to do. We are acting and this report was made under the annexation joint resolution, and we thought we must wind up that bank, pay its debts, and then pay the remainder of what we promised—the public debt.

Mr. HALE. Otherwise there would be nobody to pay this bank debt.

Mr. CULLOM. No.

Mr. BUTLER. You notice you make no provision for continuing the system which has been very beneficial to and very popular with the people. Is the purpose of the committee to abolish it? I notice the committee has brought in a bill which they intend to present to us pretty soon—4945—to abolish the whole thing outright.

They not only, leave out the law, repeal it, but provide for completely abolishing it and making an end of it.

Mr. CULLOM. The President pro tempore. Does the Senator from North Carolina yield to the Senator from Illinois?

Mr. BUTLER. I do.

Mr. CULLOM. I am very sorry that the discussion must proceed in this sort of way, but it seems to be necessary.

The foregoing shows the gross public debt on August 13, 1898, to be $46,720,000. On the same day they have cash in treasury to the credit of the following accounts, certified to by the register of—

Public accounts .......................................................... $46,720,004

I will not take up time by reading the remainder of the statement, but that was the amount of the public debt on the 12th of August, 1898.

Mr. BUTLER. Mr. President, all that I desire is that this system, which has worked admirably, which is popular, which has been very beneficial, shall not be abolished as a punishment to our people. When we take them in as a part of our civil government. Are we to take from them some of the advantages and conveniences and blessings of civilization when taking them under our wing and flag? Are we to make them retrograde? As I have stated, every civilized government of any importance, so far as I have been able to find out, except our own, have followed the example of Great Britain and other nations and have established such a system.

There never has been a country in which such a system has been established where it has ever been abolished. There has never been a country in which such a system was abolished where there ever was any objection made to it that was successful or even formidable. The only effort in any country where such a system has been established is to perfect it. Such postal banks have grown in popularity and strength everywhere.

The Hawaiian system is not perfect, but let us keep it and perfect it. Let us improve it. It will be a blessing to our people, and a blessing that I hope we will soon find it the own of our own people.

Mr. SPOONER. Will the Senator allow me to ask him a question?

Mr. BUTLER. Certainly.

Mr. SPOONER. I suppose it is necessary to any postal system that the government shall pay interest on deposits?

Mr. BUTLER. Certainly, if it sees fit, and whatever amount it sees fit. We can pay 2 per cent or 1 per cent, or even nothing, if we see fit.

Mr. SPOONER. Will the Senator kindly answer the question put by the Senator from Texas [Mr. CHILTON], on what theory he proposes that the Government of the United States shall pay interest on deposits in Hawaii and nowhere else in the United States? If the Senator thinks we should have a postal savings bank system in Hawaii, that is a matter which will come up, as an independent proposition, later in the session. How can we adapt that to the present situation in Hawaii?

Mr. BUTLER. I think if we can not begin the good system all over the country we ought to keep it in that portion of our country, among those people whom we have taken under our wing, and not rob them of what they have. We certainly have enough sense, ingenuity, and patriotism to do it if we desire to do it.

Mr. MASON. If we are to have one law for this land and another law and another constitution for the other land, what is there to prevent the people in Hawaii from enjoying the postal savings bank system there?

Mr. BUTLER. That is exactly the proposition.

Mr. MASON. It is the proposition. We propose to leave to the people of Hawaii the benefit of the postal savings bank system. I do not understand that you propose to extend the Constitution to Hawaii.

Mr. CHILTON. Oh, yes, 

Mr. MASON. Do we?

Mr. CULLOM. Of course we do.

Mr. MASON. That is news to me.

Mr. SPOONER. It is a fact just the same.

Mr. MASON. I am very glad to hear it. We extend both the laws and the Constitution to them. Mr. KYLE. Hawaii has been annexed, has it not?

Mr. MASON. I know; but there are other places to which it has not been extended. Puerto Rico has been annexed.

Mr. CHILTON. They were good enough to put it in the bill.

Mr. STEWART. We get it in every bill we can.

Mr. MASON. Very well. In Hawaii they have a postal savings bank system, whereas the people who have a few cents and a few dimes can deposit them in the savings bank and can have security. The only country in the world that is absolutely dominated in its legislative branch by the bankers apparently is the United States. We have offered year after year a proposition to take the money out of the Post Office, of the postal savings bank system, and the hiding places where the poor people with small savings hide their money and put it in the Government's hands at a small rate of interest.

I had the distinguished honor of helping to report from the committee that was produced by the Senator from North Carolina [Mr. BUTLER], and of joining him in the report, to give to the United States the benefit of the postal savings bank system. As he has said and as the record shows, this is the only civilized country in the world where the bankers control legislation to the extent of keeping the people with small savings from depositing them in the Post Office Department or in a Department of the Government.

Mr. President, read, if you like, the communications from the bankers of this country. They would rather stagnate circulation. They would rather that the millions of the poor people should be left in their vaults in preference to running the risk of having the small deposits taken from their banks and put with the Government. There is no civilized nation in the world, except ours, that does not borrow from the poor people who have small amounts to loan, and it is strange that the people who receive money without interest demand the legislation here.

In this particular amendment the Senator from North Carolina proposes to leave some of the good things in Hawaii that they have discovered for themselves. We have taken a voting system from Australia. We might possibly take a banking system from the Hawaiian Islands. There is the bootblack and the scrub woman and the man who shovels in the streets can take his or her small savings to the government and say “1 or 2 per cent: all we want is security.” Hawaii has that system. It is one of the good things she had before we took her in, and the proposition of the Senator from North Carolina is to leave Hawaii what she already has in that respect.

Gentlemen tell us here that we are to establish ideal governments; that we are to travel across the sea and to establish great things with the aid of pure-minded and strong men, and after we have established the Crystal Palace in Chicago and New York and possibly the Congress of the United States. There is no liberty-loving man but who knows that the bankers of this country have defeated every proposition that has been made here to give the American people a chance at the savings banks. The proposition here of the Senator from North Carolina is that we give the people of Hawaii a better government. If we have better police laws, give them to them; if we have better laws of any sort, give them to them; but if they have a good thing, leave it to them. They have a simple banking system under which the poor people can go and deposit their money. If the amendment does not fit the case we can then change the bill.

Mr. CULLOM. Will my colleague allow me?

Mr. MASON. Excuse me; I do not mean my colleague.

Mr. CULLOM. Whenever the Senator is ready to spread the postal savings system all over this country, then we will see whether such a proposition ought to be put upon the statute books as to Hawaii. We have by this bill, as far as we have gone, extended the laws of the United States over that Territory. But the Senator will excuse me. He has saved some laws they had there.

Mr. CULLOM. Oh, you forget them.

Mr. MASON. We wanted you to save this law. It is the best one left, and he has not saved it.

I simply ask to put in as a part of my remarks the compiled laws as to postal savings banks in Hawaii, pages 164, 165, 166, and 167.

Mr. BUTLER (to Mr. MASON). Put in the report of the counsel at Hawaii.

Mr. MASON. It may be a little long. Very well; I will be glad to have that put in also. It will be found in Document No. 39, Fifty-fifth Congress, second session.