Mr. BUTLER. Mr. President, there were a number of objections made yesterday afternoon to the amendment I offered, which proposed to keep in force the present laws of Hawaii, on the ground that it would not fit. The Senator from Wisconsin, Mr. Spooner, said the amendment did not fit the present principles of the Treasury of Hawaii.

Mr. Spooner. Will the Senator from North Carolina allow me to ask him a question?

Mr. BUTLER. Certainly.

Mr. Spooner. The amendment is quite elaborate and somewhat involved, and I do not, perhaps, understand it. Who is to pay the interest on these deposits?

Mr. BUTLER. The Territorial government.

Mr. SPOONER. At what rate?

Mr. BUTLER. Two per cent.

Mr. Spooner. I have simply changed it from 4 per cent to 2 per cent. I have modified the law only so much as is necessary to make it fit into this bill.

Mr. TELLER. I am like the Senator from Wisconsin. I could not very well follow the reading of the amendment. What will the Territory or whatever this government may be do with the money? Is it to pay interest on it? What use is it to make of it?

Is there any provision for that?

Mr. BUTLER. There is a provision that whenever the amount is credited to a deposit becomes so much, it shall be turned into the treasury.

Mr. Spooner. What treasury?

Mr. BUTLER. The Territorial treasury. It is to be turned over to the treasurer appointed under this bill.

Mr. TELLER. What use will be made of it?

Mr. BUTLER. Just such use as Great Britain, France, Germany, and every other country makes of it when money under the government of a government is turned into the treasury; when the amount is credited to the deposit becomes so much and he does not desire to withdraw it.

Mr. ALLISON. Spend it?

Mr. BUTLER. Spend it or use it in any way they see fit.

Mr. TELLER. The Senator will pardon me. It seems to me there comes a great difficulty. The Government of the United States will of course have to guarantee, if we enact this into law, for it would be indecent if we did not, that the Territorial government would pay these deposits. It seems to me we will have very difficult questions, and I have been for some years, and I shall be delighted to join the Senator from North Carolina in the effort that he says he is going to make to get a national postal savings bank. But I see the great difficulty in trying to apply this salutary and beneficial principle of government. The Government of the United States takes money from a depositor and puts it into the general Treasury, there is no question of our need for the money. We can take it and pay our debts, or we can take it and pay the expenses that are going to come on us after a little, which otherwise would have to go to bonds of a like denomination.

We have abundant ways of getting rid of it, while the Territory of Hawaii, it seems to me, ought not to have any expenditures of this kind. Their current expenses ought to be raised by current taxation. We pay their debt, so that there is no need to be paid. It seems to me it will be very difficult for us to apply to Hawaii. It will be dificult for us to apply. I shall have to vote against the Senator's proposition, but I want it distinctly understood that I do not vote against it because I am opposed to postal savings banks.

Mr. BUTLER. If the Senator will permit me, we do not have to pay them. We can take this debt under the amendment, because the Territory of Hawaii—the Senator from Alabama himself admitted that the officers are in favor of it—will be glad to assume the debt and keep the system instead of us having the debt to pay. We will not pay it, but they will assume the debt and be glad to do it.

Mr. TELLER. What I meant to say was our assuming it if they failed to pay. If there were any trouble over there, we should be in honor bound to pay it.

Mr. BUTLER. That is not true of any other obligation they may incur.

Mr. TELLER. Under the general provisions of law, which the Senator from North Carolina will endeavor to secure in this direction, and I hope he may secure them, if the Hawaiian Islands become a part of the United States to the extent that they are liable to be under this law, they will be entitled to the full benefit of the national postal savings banks.

Mr. BUTLER. Of course I understand that when we establish a national postal savings bank system—and I am delighted to hear the Senator from Colorado say that he favors it—this will be repeated the moment we adopt it. It would extend to them as it