CIVIL GOVERNMENT FOR HAWAII

Mr. KNOX. Mr. Speaker, I present a privileged report.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman from Massachusetts presents a privileged report, which the Clerk will read.

Mr. KNOX. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading of the report and that the statement of the House conference be read.

The Speaker read the statement as follows:

The managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the House to the Senate bill, House bill, the provision for appeals from the supreme court of Hawaii to the ninth judicial circuit being stricken out and the jurisdiction of United States circuit courts concerning lands, leases, etc., was established.

The first amendment in section 22 provides salaries for the judges of the circuit courts at $3,000 each, and provides, further, that the salaries of the chief justice and associate justices of the supreme court of the Hawaiian Islands shall be made by the Senate, subject to the approval of the President of the United States.

Also, the marshal's pay is raised from $2,500 to $3,000, and the United States district attorney's pay from $3,000 to $3,500.

The amendment was sustained. It was deemed no longer necessary.

The amendment in section 22, line 9, stricken out, was one postponing for a year the application of the navigation laws of the United States to the islands, restricting the coastwise trade to American vessels.

The provision in section 101 requiring the departure of Chinese laborers, 10,000 in number, was objected to by the Senate.

Section 104: The amendment to this section substituting forty-five days for sixty days as the time when the act should go into operation, was deemed a safe period.

W. S. KNOX.
JOHN A. MOON.
Managers on the part of the House.

Mr. KNOX. Mr. Speaker, I move that the conference report be agreed to. I desire to state that the differences between this bill and the Senate bill are noted in the bill as it left the House, because they may not have been caught by the reading of the statement. The first substantial difference is the striking out of the provision for the payment of a poll tax as a requisite for voting. As the bill left the House it provided for the payment of a poll tax of $1, the Senate amended it by striking out the requirement of the poll tax. Then came the Senate provision that the first conference was that the Senate provision was put in for the payment of a personal tax of $3. After that provision was inserted providing for the payment of the personal tax of $3, the bill came back to a second conference and, as a result, all provi- sion for a tax of any kind for the payment of the necessities of the government was stricken out. There is now no qualification but citizenship, age of 21 years, residence of one year, and the ability to read, write, and speak the English of Hawaiian language.

The next amendment is that of any consequence was the land provision, which involved the necessity of a land bill.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Mississippi. The gentleman says the conference have stricken out the provision as to the poll tax. Does that mean no poll tax, or does it mean the old Hawaiian law is in force?

Mr. KNOX. There is no provision for a poll tax whatever.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Mississippi. The Hawaiian law in regard to that matter is not in force at all.

Mr. KNOX. Not at all; there is no requisite for the payment of a poll tax.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Mississippi. I asked the question for this reason: I thought if the Hawaiian poll tax was left as a tax, it might be in force and be overlooked if this provision was stricken out.

Mr. KNOX. Oh, no; in addition to that it was discovered that there was a Hawaiian law for imprisonment for debt, and an additional provision was put in so that there should be no provisions of that sort or for the payment of a poll tax.

Mr. BALL. In the confusion I failed to catch the provision in regard to the labor contracts. Will the gentleman explain about them?

Mr. KNOX. That was section 10, and it was my fault that I did not mention it before, although the change is very slight. As the bill left the House all rights in law and equity were reserved to the laborers under the so-called "obligations and contracts," through fear that by keeping these we would not evade some of those labor contracts, which the bill entirely eradicates. Mr. BALL. And there is nothing in the bill recognizing them?