

April 6, 1900  
House  
v. 33 (4)  
p. 3851-3864

#### GOVERNMENT FOR HAWAII.

Mr. KNOX. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House now resolve itself into Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of Senate bill 222, to provide a government for the Territory of Hawaii.

The motion was agreed to; and accordingly the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, with Mr. MOODY of Massachusetts in the chair, for the further consideration of the bill S. 222.

The CHAIRMAN. The House is now in Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union for the further consideration of Senate bill 222.

Mr. MCRAE. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike out of section 80, lines 13, 14, and 15, beginning with the word "except," in line 13, and ending with the word "only," in line 15.

Mr. SHAFROTH. That section has been stricken out.

The CHAIRMAN. The effect of the proposed amendment by the gentleman from Arkansas could not be heard at the desk.

Mr. MCRAE. It is to strike out, in lines 13, 14, and 15, on page 85, of section 80, beginning with the word "except," in line 13, and ending with the word "only," in line 15.

Mr. ROBINSON of Indiana. That section has been defeated.

The CHAIRMAN. The Chair is informed that that section has been stricken out of the bill by an amendment heretofore adopted.

Mr. MCRAE. The whole section?

Mr. SHAFROTH. All except the last paragraph, and in lieu thereof the Senate section has been adopted.

Mr. KNOX. That was done last night.

Mr. MCRAE. Did the amendment of the gentleman from Colorado cover all of the section?

Mr. SHAFROTH. It took in all of section 80 down to the eighth line of page 86, and in lieu thereof it inserted the Senate section.

Mr. MCRAE. Then, Mr. Chairman, I withdraw my amendment.

Mr. MONDELL. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment to offer. The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will report.

The Clerk read as follows:

Insert, before the word "all" in the eighth line of page 86, the following: "All officers appointed under the provisions of this section shall be citizens of the Territory of Hawaii."

Mr. MONDELL. Mr. Chairman, the proposed amendment follows the amendment made last evening on motion of the gentleman from Colorado for the appointment of certain officers, and provides in effect that the judges of the supreme court, the circuit courts, the attorney-general, the treasurer, the commissioner of public lands, the superintendent of agriculture, the superintendent of public works, the superintendent of public construction, auditor, deputy auditor, surveyor, high sheriff, members of the board of health, commissioner of public instruction, board of prison inspectors, board of registration, inspectors of election, and other boards shall be citizens of the Territory of Hawaii.

Mr. ROBINSON of Indiana. Does it provide that the circuit-court judges shall be citizens of Hawaii?

Mr. MONDELL. It does. It provides that all the officers mentioned in the amendment adopted yesterday afternoon shall be citizens of the Territory of Hawaii.

Mr. KNOX. Mr. Chairman, I will state that the committee has no objection to that amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on agreeing to the amendment offered by the gentleman from Wyoming [Mr. MONDELL].

The amendment was agreed to.

The Clerk, proceeding with the reading of the bill, read as follows:

All persons holding office in the Hawaiian Islands at the time this act takes effect shall, except as herein otherwise provided, continue to hold their respective offices until such offices become vacant, but not beyond the end of the first session of the senate of the Territory of Hawaii unless reappointed as herein provided.

Mr. ROBINSON of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment which I wish to offer.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amend by striking out lines 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13, on page 86, and insert: "All persons holding office in the Hawaiian Islands at the time that this act takes effect shall continue to hold their respective offices until their successors are appointed and qualified, but not beyond the end of the first session of the senate of the Territory of Hawaii unless reappointed as hereinafter provided."

Mr. ROBINSON of Indiana. The only purpose of the amendment is to provide that the officers shall hold until the expiration of the first term of the senate, and, as I think, is in better language and less open to misinterpretation than the language of the bill.

Mr. KNOX. I think that is already covered by the language of the bill.

Mr. ROBINSON of Indiana. But the chairman of the committee will see that the language used in the section might be open to some misinterpretation, and it is only to prevent that that this amendment is proposed. It has been submitted to the members of the committee on the other side and is satisfactory to them.

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. NEWLANDS. I offer the amendment which I send to the desk.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amend section 80 by adding:

"It shall be the duty of the surveyor to report annually to the Department of Labor and to the governor of Hawaii and legislature, the area in acres of all holdings not less than 100 acres in extent, whether by grant, lease, or otherwise, of agricultural land in Hawaii; by whom owned or held, the character of the cultivation, the number of laborers employed on each holding, the nationality of the laborers, the daily, weekly or monthly wages paid, and such other information as the Department of Labor may prescribe. And it shall be his duty to call on all such holders of agricultural lands for such written statements as may be prescribed by the Department of Labor. Any failure to make such a statement by any person or corporation shall subject such person or corporation to a penalty of \$100 for each and every refusal; to be collected and enforced by the government of the Territory of Hawaii in the courts of Hawaii."

Mr. NEWLANDS. Mr. Chairman, the purpose of this amendment is to obtain statistical information relating to the agricultural lands in Hawaii and the labor employed upon those lands. The population of those islands consists of 60,000 Asiatics, 40,000 Kanakas, 15,000 Portuguese, and about 8,000 other whites. We can readily understand that if the entire legislation of those islands drifts into the hands of the landed class, we shall have there a republic in name only.

I take it, the purpose and aim of our legislation is to increase the immigration of free white persons to those islands; and our duty is to obtain such statistical information upon this subject as will enable us to legislate upon it intelligently hereafter. At present the labor there is mainly the labor of Asiatics. There is no reason why white labor should not be employed in those islands. The Portuguese and the Italians are excellent laborers in a climate of that kind.

We have had a large experience with both these classes of laborers upon the Pacific coast, and we have found them exceedingly efficient. Most of these people who come to this country are poorly educated, but their children under our free-school system acquire an education and become intelligent citizens, exercising the duties of citizenship consistently with the spirit of our institutions. Now, it seems to me that if we can encourage that kind of immigration and discourage Asiatic immigration, we shall march a long ways in the line of making the Hawaiian government a republic in spirit and essence as well as in form.

Of course we do not want to interfere with vested rights there. Nor do we wish to interfere ignorantly with the conduct of business there. But the purpose of this amendment is to secure this statistical information which will enable the legislature of Hawaii to act, and if it does not act wisely, will enable Congress itself to act on this subject.

Mr. WHEELER of Kentucky. Allow me to say to my friend from Nevada that if I correctly caught the reading of this amendment, I do not think that under it the government of Hawaii would be enabled to collect the penalty prescribed. Unless we shall more definitely define the violation of law and prescribe the mode of collecting the penalty, I think the surveyor might ignore this provision and there could be no recourse to the courts.

Mr. NEWLANDS. The amendment provides that the Department of Labor shall prescribe the form of statement required from those holding agricultural lands; and it is made the duty of the surveyor to exact such a statement; and any failure or refusal on the part of a holder of agricultural lands to make such a