

[Report No. 249.]

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FEBRUARY 8, 1900.

Mr. PAYNE, from the Committee on Ways and Means, reported, in lieu of H. R. 6883, the following bill; which was committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

A BILL

To regulate the trade of Puerto Rico, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That the provisions of this Act shall apply to the island of
4 Puerto Rico and to the adjacent islands and waters of the
5 islands lying east of the seventy-fourth meridian of longitude
6 west of Greenwich, which was ceded to the United States by
7 the Government of Spain by treaty concluded April eleventh,
8 eighteen hundred and ninety-nine; and the name Puerto Rico,
9 as used in this Act, shall be held to include not only the
10 island of that name, but all the adjacent islands as aforesaid.

11 SEC. 2. That on and after the passage of this Act the
12 same tariffs, customs, and duties shall be levied, collected, and
13 paid upon all articles imported into Puerto Rico from ports
14 other than those of the United States which are required by
15 law to be collected upon articles imported into the United
16 States from foreign countries.

1 SEC. 3. That on and after the passage of this Act all
2 merchandise coming into the United States from Puerto Rico
3 and coming into Puerto Rico from the United States shall be
4 entered at the several ports of entry upon payment of twenty-
5 five per centum of the duties which are required to be levied,
6 collected, and paid upon like articles of merchandise imported
7 from foreign countries, and in addition thereto upon articles
8 of merchandise of Puerto Rican manufacture coming into the
9 United States customs duties equal in rate and amount to the
10 internal-revenue tax which may be imposed in the United
11 States upon the same articles of merchandise of domestic
12 manufacture; and upon articles of United States manufacture
13 coming into Puerto Rico customs duties equal in rate and
14 amount to the internal-revenue tax which may be imposed in
15 Puerto Rico upon the same articles of Puerto Rican manu-
16 facture.

17 SEC. 4. That the customs duties collected in Puerto Rico
18 in pursuance of this Act, less the cost of collecting the same,
19 and the gross amount of all collections of customs in the
20 United States upon articles of merchandise coming from
21 Puerto Rico shall not be covered into the general fund of the
22 Treasury, but shall be held as a separate fund, and shall be
23 placed at the disposal of the President to be used for the
24 government and benefit of Puerto Rico until otherwise pro-
25 vided by law.

56TH CONGRESS, }
1ST SESSION.

H. R. 8245.

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By **Mr. PAYNE.**

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