H. R. 8878.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FEBRUARY 24, 1900.

Mr. Cooper, of Wisconsin, introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Insular Affairs and ordered to be printed.

A BILL

To provide a government for 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 name Puerto Rico, as used in this Act and all of
4 the provisions of this Act, shall apply to and include the
5 island of Puerto Rico, the adjacent island of Vieques, and
6 all other adjacent islands and the waters thereof east of the
7 seventy-fourth meridian of longitude west of Greenwich,
8 which were ceded to the United States by the treaty of
9 peace concluded between the United States and Spain on the
10 eleventh day of April, in the year eighteen hundred and
11 ninety-nine.
12
13 THE CAPITAL.
14 Sec. 2. That the capital of Puerto Rico shall be at the
15 city of San Juan, and the seat of government shall be main-
16 tained there, and the sessions of the legislature of Puerto
17 Rico hereinafter provided shall be held there.
PERSONAL RIGHTS AND LEGISLATIVE LIMITATIONS.

SEC. 3. That no law granting a title of nobility shall be enacted; and that no person holding any office of profit or trust in Puerto Rico and no inhabitant thereof shall, without the consent of the Congress of the United States, accept of any present, emolument, office, or title of any kind whatever from any king, queen, prince, or foreign state.

SEC. 4. That no law shall be enacted respecting the establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.

SEC. 5. That no ex post facto law or bill of attainder shall be enacted.

SEC. 6. That every person may freely speak, write, and publish his sentiments on any subject, being responsible for the abuse of that right; and that no laws shall be enacted to restrain or abridge the liberty of speech or of the press. That in all criminal prosecutions or indictments for libel the truth may be given in evidence, and if it shall appear that the matter charged as libel be true, and was published with good motives and for justifiable ends, the party shall be acquitted.

SEC. 7. That no law shall be enacted to abridge the right of the people peaceably to assemble to consult for the common good, and to petition the Government, or any department thereof.

SEC. 8. That in all criminal prosecutions the accused
shall enjoy the right to be heard by himself and counsel, to
demand the nature and cause of the accusation against him,
to have a speedy and public trial, to meet the witnesses face
to face, and to have compulsory process to compel the attend-
ance of witnesses in his behalf.

Sec. 9. That no person shall be held to answer for a
criminal offense without due process of law; and no person
for the same offense shall be twice put in jeopardy of punish-
ment, nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a
witness against himself. That all persons shall, before con-
viction, be bailable by sufficient sureties, except for capital
offenses when the proof is evident or the presumption great;
and that the privilege of the right of habeas corpus shall not
be suspended unless, when in cases of rebellion or invasion,
the public safety may require it.

Sec. 10. That no money shall be paid out of the treas-
ury of Puerto Rico except in pursuance of an appropriation
by law. That no appropriation shall be made for the pay-
ment of any claim against Puerto Rico, except claims of the
United States and judgments, unless filed within six years
after the claim accrued.

Sec. 11. That no special or private laws shall be enacted
by the legislature of Puerto Rico in the following cases: First.
For assessment or collection of taxes, or for extending the
time for the collection thereof. Second. For granting fran-
chises, corporate powers, or privileges, except as in this Act
provided. Third. For changing the name of persons, or con-
stituting one person the heir at law of another. Fourth. For
authorizing the sale or mortgage of the real or personal prop-
erty of minors, or of insane persons, or of others under dis-
ability.

Sec. 12. That the legislature of Puerto Rico shall pro-
vide general laws for the transaction of any business that may
be prohibited by the preceding section eleven of this Act, and
all such laws shall be uniform in their operation throughout
Puerto Rico: Provided, however, That such general laws
shall not conflict with any statute or statutes of the United
States locally applicable.

Sec. 13. That no city, district, school district, or other
municipal corporation in Puerto Rico shall be allowed to be-
come indebted in any manner, or for any purpose, to any
amount, including existing indebtedness, in the aggregate ex-
ceeding five per centum of the value of the taxable property
therein, to be ascertained by the last assessment of taxes pre-
vious to the incurring of such indebtedness.

Sec. 14. That any city, district, school district, or other
municipal corporation in Puerto Rico incurring any indebted-
ness as aforesaid shall before, or at the time of doing so, pro-
vide for the collection of a direct annual tax sufficient to pay
the interest on such debt as it falls due, and also to pay
and discharge the principal thereof within twenty years from
the time of contracting the same.

Sec. 15. That no law shall be enacted which shall
deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due
process of law, or deny to any person therein the equal pro-
tection of the laws.

Sec. 16. That the rule of taxation in Puerto Rico shall
be uniform, and taxes shall be levied upon such property as
the legislature of Puerto Rico shall prescribe.

Sec. 17. That the legislature of Puerto Rico shall pro-
vide by law for the speedy publication of all statute laws, and
of such judicial decisions made in Puerto Rico as may be
deemed expedient; and that no general law shall be in force
until published.

Sec. 18. That no law impairing the obligation of con-
tracts in Puerto Rico shall be enacted by the legislature
thereof.

Sec. 19. That no tax or duty shall be laid by the legis-
lature of Puerto Rico on articles imported into Puerto Rico or
exported therefrom.

Sec. 20. That no private or local bill which may be
passed by the legislature of Puerto Rico shall embrace more
than one subject, and that subject shall be expressed in the
title of the bill.

Sec. 21. That on the passage in either house of the
legislature of any law which imposes, continues, or renews a
tax, or creates a debt or charge, or makes, continues, or re-
news an appropriation of public or trust money, or releases,
discharges, or commutes a claim or demand of the govern-
ment of Puerto Rico, the question shall be taken by yeas and
nays, which shall be duly entered on the journal; three-fifths
of all the members elected to such house shall, in all such
cases, be required to constitute a quorum therein.

SEC. 22. That no person shall be imprisoned for debt
arising out of or founded on a contract, express or implied.

SEC. 23. That the property of no person shall be taken
for public use without just compensation therefor.

SEC. 24. That no warrant shall issue but upon probable
cause supported by oath or affirmation and particularly de-
scribing the place to be searched and the persons or things to
be seized.

SEC. 25. That all money collected on any tax levied or
assessed for a special purpose shall be treated as a special
fund in the Treasury and paid out for such purpose only.

THE GOVERNOR.

SEC. 26. That the official title of the chief executive
officer shall be "The Governor of Puerto Rico." He shall
be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and
consent of the Senate; he shall hold his office for a term of
four years, and until his successor is chosen and qualified,
unless sooner removed by the President; he shall reside in Puerto Rico during his official incumbency, and shall maintain his office at the seat of government; he may grant pardons and reprieves, and remit fines and forfeitures for offenses against the laws of Puerto Rico, and respites for offenses against the laws of the United States, until the decision of the President can be ascertained; he shall commission all officers that he may be authorized to appoint, and shall participate in and may veto any legislation enacted, as hereinafter provided; he shall be the commander in chief of the militia, and shall at all times faithfully execute the laws, and he shall in that behalf have all the powers of governors of the Territories of the United States that are locally applicable; and he shall annually, and at such other times as he may be required, make official report of the transactions of the Government in Puerto Rico, through the Secretary of State, to the President of the United States: Provided, That the President may, in his discretion, delegate and assign to him such executive duties and functions as may in pursuance with law be so delegated and assigned.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS.

SEC. 27. That there shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, a secretary of administration, an attorney-general, an auditor, a commissioner of the interior, and a commissioner of education for...
Puerto Rico, each of whom shall hold his office for a term of four years and until his successor be appointed, unless sooner removed by the President, and each of whom shall reside in Puerto Rico during his term of office and have the powers and duties hereinafter provided, and who shall have power to employ the necessary deputies and assistants for the proper discharge of his official duties.

SEC. 28. That the secretary of administration shall record and preserve minutes of the proceedings of the council, and all the laws enacted by the legislature, and of all official acts and proceedings of the governor; and shall promulgate all proclamations and orders of the governor and all laws enacted by the legislature. He shall, within sixty days after the end of each session of the legislature, transmit to the President of the United States, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Secretary of State of the United States one copy each of the laws and journals of such session.

SEC. 29. That in case of the death, removal, resignation, or disability of the governor, or his temporary absence from Puerto Rico, the secretary shall exercise all the powers and perform all the duties of the governor during such vacancy, disability, or absence.

SEC. 30. That the attorney-general shall have all the powers and discharge all the duties provided by law for an
attorney-general of a Territory of the United States in so far as the same are locally applicable, and he shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by law and shall make such reports, through the governor, to the Attorney-General of the United States as he may require.

Sec. 31. That the treasurer shall give bond, approved as to form by the attorney-general of Puerto Rico, in such sum as the governor and council may require, not less, however, than the sum of dollars, with surety approved by the governor, and he shall collect and be the custodian of the public funds, and shall disburse the same as required by law, on warrants signed by the auditor and countersigned by the governor, and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by law, and make, through the governor, such reports to the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States as he may require.

Sec. 32. That the auditor shall keep full and accurate accounts, showing all receipts and disbursements, and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by law, and make, through the governor, such reports to the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States as he may require.

Sec. 33. That the commissioner of the interior shall superintend all works of a public nature, and shall have charge of all public buildings, grounds, and lands, except those be-
longing to the United States, and shall execute such require-
ments as may be imposed by law with respect thereto, and
shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by law,
and make such reports, through the governor, to the Secretary
of the Interior of the United States as he may require.

SEC. 34. That the commissioner of education shall super-
intend public instruction throughout Puerto Rico, and all dis-
bursements on account thereof must be approved by him, and
he shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by law
and make such reports, through the governor, as may be re-
quired by the Commissioner of Education of the United
States.

QUALIFICATIONS OF VOTERS.

SEC. 35. That at the elections in this Act mentioned all
citizens of Puerto Rico shall be allowed to vote who possess
the qualifications of voters under the laws and military orders
in force on the first day of February, nineteen hundred, sub-
ject to such additional regulations and restrictions as to regis-
tration as may be prescribed by the governor.

THE LEGISLATURE.

SEC. 36. That all local legislative powers hereby granted
shall be vested in a “Legislature of Puerto Rico,” which shall
consist of two houses, styled, respectively, the council and
house of delegates.

SEC. 37. That no member of the legislature of Puerto
Rico shall be liable in any civil action or criminal prosecution whatever for words spoken in debate.

SEC. 38. That members of the legislature of Puerto Rico shall, in all cases except treason, felony, and breach of the peace, be privileged from arrest; nor shall they be subject to any civil process during the session of the legislature, nor for ten days next before the commencement and after the termination of each session.

SEC. 39. That no person holding any military or civil office under the United States shall be eligible to a seat in the legislature of Puerto Rico; and if any person shall, after his election as a member of said legislature, be appointed to any office, civil or military, under the Government of the United States, his acceptance thereof shall vacate his seat in said legislature.

SEC. 40. That each house of the legislature of Puéarto Rico shall be the sole judge of the elections, returns, and qualifications of its members, and shall have and exercise all the powers with respect to the conduct of its proceedings that usually appertain to parliamentary legislative bodies.

THE COUNCIL.

SEC. 41. That the council shall consist of fourteen members, seven of whom shall be appointed by the President, and seven of whom shall be elected as herein provided. One member of said council shall be elected from each of the
seven districts of Puerto Rico. That for the purposes of such
election Puerto Rico shall be divided by the governor into
seven districts of contiguous territory, and as nearly equal as
may be in population; and each district shall be entitled to
elect one member of the council.

SEC. 42. That the members of the council shall hold
office for a term of four years. When the council is first
organized it shall be divided into two classes by lot, the first
class to consist of four elected and three appointed members,
to hold office for a first term of two years, and the remainder,
or second class, to hold office for a term of four years, so that
one-half of said members shall be appointed or elected every
two years.

SEC. 43. That in case of a vacancy of an elected member,
such vacancy shall be filled by an appointment by the Presi-
dent until the same can be filled by general or special election.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

SEC. 44. That the house of delegates shall consist of
thirty-five members, elected biennially by the qualified voters,
as herein provided.

SEC. 45. That each of the election districts into which
the governor shall divide Puerto Rico, as herein provided,
shall be entitled to five members of the house of delegates.

SEC. 46. That the first election for members of the
council and house of delegates shall be held on such date and
under such regulations as to ballots, registry, and voting as
the governor may prescribe; and at such elections the voters
of each legislative district shall choose five delegates to repre-
sent them in the house of delegates from the date of their
election and qualification until two years from and after the
first day of January next ensuing, and a member of the
council for four years, as herein provided.

SEC. 47. That fifty days’ notice of the date of such first
elections of members of the council and house of delegates
and of said regulations as to ballots, registry, and voting shall
be given by publications in the “Official Gazette” and by
printed notices distributed and posted throughout each election
district, as the governor by written order may prescribe.

SESSIONS OF THE LEGISLATURE.

SEC. 48. That the first session of the legislature shall
be subject to the call of the governor, as herein provided.

SEC. 49. That the legislature shall have annual sessions
for the years nineteen hundred and nineteen hundred and
one, and that it shall have biennial sessions thereafter; but
the governor may call special sessions of the legislature when
in his opinion the public necessities may so require.

SEC. 50. That the first and second sessions of the legis-
lature may each be continued for sixty days, but that any
succeeding regular or special session shall not continue for
more than thirty days.
COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.

Sec. 51. That each member of the legislature shall be paid for his services at the rate of five dollars per day for each day’s attendance while the house is in session and mileage at the rate of ten cents per mile for each mile necessarily traveled from his usual place of residence, once each way, to and from each session of the legislature.

PUNISHMENT OF MEMBERS.

Sec. 52. That each house may punish its own members for disorderly behavior or neglect of duty by censure, or by a two-thirds vote may suspend or expel a member.

OFFICERS AND RULES.

Sec. 53. That the council and house of delegates shall each choose its own officers, determine the rules of its own proceedings, not inconsistent with this Act, and keep a journal.

AYES AND NOES.

Sec. 54. That the ayes and noes of the members on any question shall, at the desire of one-fifth of the members present, be entered on the journal.

QUORUM.

Sec. 55. That a majority of the number of members to which each house is entitled shall constitute a quorum of such house for the conduct of ordinary business, of which quorum a majority vote shall suffice; but the final passage of a law
in each house shall require the vote of a majority of all the
members to which each house is entitled.

SEC. 56. That a smaller number than a quorum may ad-
journ from day to day and compel the attendance of absent
members in such manner and under such penalties as each
house may provide.

SEC. 57. That for the purpose of ascertaining whether
there is a quorum present the chairman shall count the num-
er of members present.

PUNISHMENT OF PERSONS NOT MEMBERS.

SEC. 58. That each house may punish by fine or by
imprisonment not exceeding thirty days any person not a
member of either house who shall be guilty of disrespect of
such house by any disorderly or contemptuous behavior in its
presence or that of any committee thereof.

ORGANIZATION OF LEGISLATURE.

SEC. 59. That the council so chosen and appointed shall
convene at the capital at such time as may be designated by
the governor, as herein provided, and organize by the election
of a clerk, a sergeant-at-arms, and such other officers and
assistants as it may require. The secretary of administra-
tion shall act as president of the council.

SEC. 60. That the house of delegates shall at the same
time and the same place convene and organize by electing a
speaker, a clerk, a sergeant-at-arms, and such other officers
and assistants as it may require.

SEC. 61. That all future elections of members of the
legislature shall be governed by the provisions hereof so far as
they are applicable and until the legislature shall otherwise
provide.

SEC. 62. That no person shall be entitled to member-
ship in the legislature of Puerto Rico who is not twenty-five
years of age and able to read and write either the Spanish
or English language, or who is not possessed in his own right
of taxable property, real or personal, situated in Puerto Rico,
and who has not resided in Puerto Rico for one year next
prior to such election.

LEGISLATION.

SEC. 63. That any bill may originate in either house,
but no bill shall become a law unless it be passed in each
house by a majority vote of all the members belonging to
each house and be approved by the governor within ten days
thereafter.

ENACTING CLAUSE.

SEC. 64. That the enacting clause of the laws shall be:
"Be it enacted by the legislature of Puerto Rico."

OATH OF OFFICE.

SEC. 65. That all officials authorized by this Act shall,
before entering upon the duties of their respective offices, take
an oath to obey the laws of Puerto Rico and faithfully to
perform the duties of their respective offices.

VETO OF GOVERNOR.

Sec. 66. That every bill that shall have passed the legisla-
ture shall be certified by the presiding officers and clerks of
both houses, and shall thereupon be presented to the governor.
If he approves it he shall sign it, and it shall become a law.
If the governor does not approve such bill, he shall return it
with his objections, within ten days thereafter, to the house in
which it originated. He may veto any specific item or items
in any bill which appropriates money for specific purposes;
but shall veto other bills, if at all, only as a whole.

PROCEDURE UPON RECEIPT OF VETO.

Sec. 67. That upon the receipt of a veto message from
the governor by either house of the legislature, it shall enter the
same at large upon its journal and proceed to reconsider such
bill or part of a bill, and again vote upon it by ayes and
noes, which shall be entered upon its journal.
If after such reconsideration such bill or part of a bill
shall be approved by a two-thirds vote of all the members to
which such house is entitled, it shall be sent, together with the
objections, to the other house, by which it shall likewise be
reconsidered, and if approved by two-thirds of the members
to which such house is entitled it shall become a law.

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FAILURE TO SIGN OR VETO.

SEC. 68. That if the governor neither signs nor vetoes a bill within ten days after it is delivered to him it shall become a law without his signature, unless the legislature adjourns sine die prior to the expiration of such ten days.

If any bill shall not be returned by the governor within ten days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him, the same shall be a law in like manner as if he had signed it, unless the legislature by their adjournment prevents its return, in which case it shall not be a law.

APPROPRIATIONS.

SEC. 69. That appropriations, except as otherwise herein provided, shall be made biennially by the legislature.

SEC. 70. That the governor shall submit to the legislature, at each regular session, estimates for appropriations for the succeeding biennial period.

SEC. 71. That in case of failure of the legislature to pass appropriation bills providing for payments of the necessary current expenses of carrying on the government and meeting its legal obligations, as the same are provided for by the then existing laws, the governor shall, upon the adjournment of the legislature, call it in extra session for the consideration of appropriation bills; and until the legislature shall have acted the treasurer may, with the advice of the governor, make such payments, for which purpose the sums appropriated in
the last appropriation bill shall be deemed to have been
reappropriated.

LEGISLATIVE POWER.

SEC. 72. That the legislative power hereby granted
shall extend to all rightful subjects of legislation not incon-
sistent with this Act or with the laws of the United States
locally applicable. The legislature may by general act per-
mit persons to associate themselves together as bodies
corporate for conducting manufacturing, agricultural, and
other industrial pursuits, and for conducting the business
of insurance, savings banks, banks of discount and deposit
(but not of issue), loan, trust, and guaranty associa-
tions; for the establishment and conduct of cemeteries,
and for the construction and operation of railroads,
wagon roads, vessels, and irrigating ditches, and the coloniza-
tion and improvement of lands in connection therewith; or
for colleges, seminaries, churches, libraries, or any other
benevolent, charitable, or scientific association. No divorce
shall be granted by the legislature, nor shall any divorce
be granted by the courts of Puerto Rico, unless the appli-
cant therefor shall have resided in Puerto Rico for one year
next preceding the time of the application, but this provision
shall not affect any action pending when this Act takes
effect; nor shall any lottery or sale of lottery tickets be
allowed; nor shall any public money be appropriated
for the support or benefit of any sectarian, denominational, or private school, or any school not under the exclusive control of the government; nor shall the government of Puerto Rico, or any political or municipal corporation or subdivision thereof, make any subscription to the capital stock of any incorporated company, or in any manner lend its credit for the use thereof; nor shall any debt be authorized to be contracted by or on behalf of Puerto Rico, or any political or municipal corporation or subdivision thereof, except to pay the interest upon the existing indebtedness, to suppress insurrection, or to provide for the common defense, except that in addition to any indebtedness created for such purposes the legislature may authorize loans by Puerto Rico, or any such subdivision thereof, for the erection of penal, charitable, and educational institutions, and for public buildings, wharves, roads, and harbor and other public improvements; but the total of such indebtedness incurred in any one year by Puerto Rico, or any subdivision, shall not exceed one per centum upon the assessed value of taxable property of Puerto Rico, or subdivision thereof, as the case may be, as shown by the last general assessment for taxation, as hereinbefore provided; and the total indebtedness of Puerto Rico shall not at any time be extended beyond seven per centum of such assessed value, and the total indebtedness of any subdivision shall not at any time be extended beyond
five per centum of such assessed value, but nothing in this
provision shall prevent the refunding of any existing indebted-
ness at any time; nor shall any such loan be made upon the
credit of the public domain or any part thereof, nor shall any
bond or other instrument of any such indebtedness be issued
unless made redeemable in not more than five years and
payable in not more than twenty years from the date of the
issue thereof.

The legislative power shall extend to and include the
power to borrow money and issue bonds and other obligations
authorized by law to protect the public credit and to reimburse
the United States for any moneys which have been expended
out of the emergency fund of the War Department of the
United States for the relief of the industrial conditions of
Puerto Rico caused by the hurricane of August eighth, eight-
een hundred and ninety-nine. The legislative power shall
include the power to create, consolidate, and reorganize the
municipalities of Puerto Rico so far as may be necessary, and
also the power to alter, amend, modify, and repeal any and
all laws and ordinances now in force throughout Puerto Rico,
or in any municipality or district thereof, but not in a manner
inconsistent with the provisions of this Act: Provided, how-
ever, That all grants of franchises, rights, and privileges, or
concessions of a public or quasi-public nature shall be made
subject to the approval of the President of the United States,
who shall report the same to Congress.

THE JUDICIARY.

Sec. 73. That the judicial power shall be vested in the courts and tribunals of Puerto Rico as already established and now in operation, including municipal courts, under and by virtue of General Orders, numbered one hundred and eighteen, as promulgated by Brigadier-General Davis, United States Volunteers, August sixteenth, eighteen hundred and ninety-nine, and including also the police courts established by General Orders, numbered one hundred and ninety-five, promulgated November twenty-ninth, eighteen hundred and ninety-nine, by Brigadier-General Davis, United States Volunteers, and the laws and ordinances of Puerto Rico and the municipalities thereof in force, so far as the same are not in conflict herewith, all which courts and tribunals are hereby continued. The jurisdiction of said courts, and the form of procedure in them, and the various officials and attachés thereof, respectively, shall be the same as defined and prescribed in and by said laws and ordinances, and said General Orders, numbered one hundred and eighteen and one hundred and ninety-five, until otherwise provided by law: Provided, however, That the chief justice and associate justices of the supreme court, and the marshal thereof, shall be appointed by the President, by and with
the advice and consent of the Senate, and the judges
of the district courts shall be appointed by the governor, by
and with the advice and consent of the executive council, and
all other officials and attachés of all the other courts shall be
chosen as may be directed by the legislative assembly, which
shall have authority to legislate from time to time, as it may
see fit, with respect to said courts and any others they may
deeb it advisable to establish, their organization, the number
of judges and officials and attachés for, each their jurisdic-
tion, their procedure, and all other matters affecting them.

JUDICIAL DISTRICT.

Sec. 74. That Puerto Rico shall constitute a judicial
district, to be called "The District of Puerto Rico," which
shall be attached to the second judicial circuit of the United
States. The President, by and with the advice and consent
of the Senate, shall appoint a district judge, a district attorney,
and a marshal for said district, each for a term of four years,
unless sooner removed by the President. The district court
for said district shall have power to appoint all necessary offi-
cials and assistants, including a clerk, an interpreter, and
such commissioners as may be necessary, who shall have
like power and duties as are exercised and performed by com-
missioners of the circuit courts of the United States, and
shall have, in addition to the ordinary jurisdiction of district
courts of the United States, jurisdiction of all cases cognizant
in the circuit courts of the United States, and shall proceed therein in the same manner as a circuit court. The laws of the United States relating to appeals, writs of error, and certiorari, removal of causes, and other matters and proceedings as between the courts of the United States and the courts of the several States shall govern in such matters and proceedings as between the courts of the United States and the courts of Puerto Rico. Regular terms of said court shall be held at San Juan, commencing on the second Monday in April and October of each year, and also at Ponce on the second Monday in January of each year, and special terms may be held at such other times and places in the district as said judge may deem expedient. All pleadings and proceedings in said court shall be conducted in the English language.

The United States district court hereby established shall be the successor to the United States provisional court established by General Orders, numbered eighty-eight, promulgated by Brigadier-General Davis, United States Volunteers, and shall take possession of all records of that court, and take jurisdiction of all cases and proceedings pending therein, and said United States provisional court is hereby discontinued.

SEC. 75. That writs of error and appeals from the final decisions of the supreme court of Puerto Rico shall be allowed and may be taken to the Supreme Court of the United States in the same manner and under the same regulations and in
the same cases as from the supreme courts of the Territories
of the United States, and such writs of error and appeal shall
be allowed in all cases where a treaty of the United States or
an Act of Congress is brought in question and the right claimed
thereunder is denied; and the supreme and district courts of
Puerto Rico, and the respective judges thereof, may grant
writs of habeas corpus in all cases in which the same are
grantable by the judges of the United States in the District
of Columbia. All such proceedings in the Supreme Court of
the United States shall be conducted in the English language.

SEC. 76. That all judicial process shall run in the name
of the "President of the United States," and all criminal or
penal prosecutions in the local courts shall be conducted in
the name and by the authority of "The People of Puerto Rico."

COMPENSATION OF OFFICIALS.

SEC. 77. That the salaries of all officials of Puerto Rico
not appointed by the President, including deputies, assistants,
and other help, shall be such, and be so paid out of the reve-
 nues of Puerto Rico, as the executive council shall from time
to time determine: Provided, however, That the salary of no
officer shall be either increased or diminished during his term
of office. The salaries of all officers and all expenses of the
offices of the various officials of Puerto Rico, appointed as
herein provided by the President, including deputies, assist-

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ants, and other help, shall also be paid out of the revenues of
Puerto Rico on the warrant of the auditor, countersigned by
the governor.

The annual salaries of the officials appointed by the Presi-
dent, and so to be paid, shall be as follows:

The governor, eight thousand dollars; in addition thereto
he shall be entitled to the occupancy of the building hereto-
fore used by the chief executive of Puerto Rico, with the
furniture and effects therein free of rental.

The secretary of administration, four thousand dollars.
The attorney-general, four thousand dollars.
The treasurer, five thousand dollars.
The auditor, four thousand dollars.
The commissioner of the interior, four thousand dollars.
The commissioner of education, four thousand dollars.
The chief justice of the supreme court, five thousand
dollars.
The associate justices of the supreme court (each), four
thousand five hundred dollars.
The marshal of the supreme court, three thousand
dollars.
The United States district judge, five thousand dollars.
The United States district attorney, four thousand dollars.
The United States district marshal, three thousand five
hundred dollars.
SEC. 78. That the provisions of the foregoing section shall not apply to the municipal officials. Their salaries and the compensation of their deputies, assistants, and other help, as well as all other expenses incurred by the municipalities, shall be paid out of the municipal revenues in such manner as the legislature shall provide.

SEC. 79. That taxes and assessments on property, and license fees for franchises, privileges, and concessions, may be imposed for the purposes of the insular and municipal governments, respectively, as may be provided and defined by act of the legislature; and where necessary to anticipate taxes and revenues bonds and other obligations may be issued by Puerto Rico, or any municipal government therein as may be provided by law, to provide for expenditures authorized by law and to protect the public credit: Provided, however, That no public indebtedness of Puerto Rico or of any municipality thereof shall be authorized or allowed in excess of ten per centum of the aggregate tax valuation of its property as hereinbefore provided.

SEC. 80. That the qualified voters of Puerto Rico shall, on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November, anno Domini nineteen hundred, and every two years thereafter, choose one Delegate to the House of Representatives of the United States, who shall be entitled to a seat, but not to a vote, in that body on the certificate of election of the
governor of Puerto Rico, who shall have the same rights
provided by law for a Territorial Delegate, and the same com-
ensation, payable as now provided by law for a Territorial
Delegate: Provided, That no person shall be eligible to such
election who is not a bona fide inhabitant of Puerto Rico,
and who is not thirty years of age, and who does not read
and write the English language, and who is not possessed of
taxable property in his own right situated in Puerto Rico.

CITIZENSHIP.

SEC. 81. That all inhabitants continuing to reside in
Puerto Rico who were Spanish subjects on the eleventh day
of April, eighteen hundred and ninety-nine, and then resided
therein, and their children born subsequent thereto, shall be
deemed and held to be citizens of Puerto Rico, except such
as shall have elected to preserve their allegiance to the Crown
of Spain on or before the eleventh day of April, nineteen
hundred, in accordance with the provisions of the treaty of
peace between the United States and Spain, entered into on
the eleventh day of April, eighteen hundred and ninety-nine;
and they, together with citizens of the United States who
reside in Puerto Rico, shall constitute a body politic under the
name of “The People of Puerto Rico,” with governmental
powers, as hereinafter conferred, and with power to sue and
be sued in the courts of the United States in all cases in which
such courts have jurisdiction where one of the parties is a State or Territory of the United States.

FORMER LAWS IN FORCE.

SEC. 82. That the laws and ordinances now in force in Puerto Rico shall continue in full force and effect, except as altered, amended, or modified hereinafter, or as altered or modified by military orders and decrees enforced when this Act shall take effect, and so far as the same are not inconsistent or in conflict with the laws of the United States locally applicable, or the provisions hereof, until altered, amended, or repealed by the legislative authority hereinafter provided for Puerto Rico or by Act of Congress of the United States.

NAVIGATION LAWS.

SEC. 83. That the laws of the United States relating to commerce, navigation, and merchant seamen are hereby extended to and over Puerto Rico, and the Commissioner of Navigation may make such regulations as he may deem expedient for the nationalization of all vessels owned by the inhabitants of Puerto Rico on the eleventh day of April, eighteen hundred and ninety-nine, and which continued to be so owned up to the date of such nationalization, and the coasting trade between the island and any portion of the United States shall be regulated in accordance with the provisions of law applicable to such trade between any two great coasting districts of the United States.
QUARANTINE.

Sec. 84. That quarantine stations shall be established at such places in Puerto Rico as the Supervising Surgeon-General of the Marine-Hospital Service of the United States shall direct, and the quarantine regulations relating to the importation of diseases from other countries shall be under the control of the Government of the United States.

RECOINAGE.

Sec. 85. That for the purpose of retiring the Puerto Rican coins now in circulation in Puerto Rico and substituting therefor the coins of the United States, the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized to redeem, on presentation in Puerto Rico, all the silver coins of Puerto Rico known as the peso and all other silver and copper Puerto Rican coins now in circulation in Puerto Rico, not including any such coins that may be imported into Puerto Rico after the first day of March, nineteen hundred, at the present established rate of sixty cents in the coins of the United States for one peso of Puerto Rican coin, and for all minor or subsidiary coins the same rate of exchange shall be applied. The Puerto Rican coins so purchased or redeemed shall be recoined at the expense of the United States, under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury, into such coins of the United States now authorized by law as he may direct, and from and
after three months after the date when this Act shall take effect no coins shall be a legal tender in payment of debts thereafter contracted for any amount in Puerto Rico except those of the United States; and whatever sum may be required to carry out the provisions hereof and to pay all expenses that may be incurred in connection therewith is hereby appropriated, and the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized to establish such regulations and to employ such agencies as may be necessary to accomplish the purposes hereof: Provided, however, That all debts owing on the date when this Act shall take effect shall be payable in the coins of Puerto Rico now in circulation, or in the coins of the United States at the rate of exchange above named.

Sec. 86. That all expenses that may be incurred on account of the government of Puerto Rico for the salaries of officials and the conduct of their offices and departments, and all expenses and obligations contracted for the internal improvement of the island, not, however, including defenses, barracks, harbors, light-houses, buoys, and other works undertaken by the United States, shall be paid by the treasurer of Puerto Rico out of the moneys in his custody.

Sec. 87. That the statutory laws of the United States locally applicable, except as hereinbefore or hereinafter other-
wise provided, shall have the same force and effect in Puerto Rico as in the United States.

Sec. 88. That the legislative authority hereinafter provided shall have power, by due enactment, to amend, alter, modify, or repeal any law or ordinance, civil or criminal, continued in force by this Act, as it may from time to time see fit.

Sec. 89. That all vested property rights, and all obligations, contracts, actions, rights of action, suits at law or in equity, prosecutions for crimes and misdemeanors, and all sentences and civil judgments and decrees now existing shall remain unaffected by this Act and continue enforceable.

Sec. 90. That this Act shall take effect twenty days from and after the date of the approval thereof.
A BILL

H. R. 2878