

ANNEXATION OF HAWAII

Senator Morgan Tells Why He
Believes It Would Benefit
the United States.

IN COMMERCE AND IN WAR

He Says that to Permit Great Britain
to Obtain Control of the Islands
Would Be Disastrous to
American Interests.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18.—Senator Morgan of Alabama, member of the Committee on Foreign Relations, has reached here on his return from Honolulu, where he went to post himself on the annexation question. For the first time he submitted to-day to an interview on the results of his trip, and said:

“My conclusions, based on my observations, are only a full confirmation of what I had previously believed—that it is our National duty and will be in every way advantageous to all concerned, to annex Hawaii to this country. I have studied the question from the most authentic and reliable sources.

“The establishment of an outpost of the United States within the tropics and 2,200 miles from our coast challenges the inquiry whether such action is necessary to our National welfare. Our Northwestern possessions on the Pacific along the Aleutian Archipelago are over 1,000 miles west of Honolulu. This gives us control of practically the entire American coast of the North Pacific. The intervention of the British possessions from the Straits of Fuca to the northern boundary of Alaska creates a powerful reason for our occupation of Hawaii.

“Without imputing to Great Britain any other motive than to extend her national policy of commercial conquest, it seems very obvious that if she should acquire dominion of Hawaii and open and fortify Pearl Harbor, her military fortress at Esquimault, on the island of Vancouver, cooperating, would cut our coast line in two, and would leave us incumbered with a mass of territory in Alaska, whose defense would be almost impossible, and the advantage of which would be lost to us. The Vancouver coal fields would give the British Navy almost irresistible advantage in war and virtual dominion of commerce in time of peace.

“Beginning with Key West we have annexed the entire Gulf coast to the Rio Grande by purchase of territory, and extending up the Rio Grande across the continent to the Pacific we have annexed all the territory lying to the north of that line, and have annexed the entire Pacific coast except the frontage of 600 miles conceded to Great Britain. This rapid and vast expansion has contributed much to civilization, and in none of the transactions have we cause for regret. I have no fears of such expansion, especially as to possessions in the Pacific in those islands that constitute a part of the geographical and commercial system of the North American Continent.

“There would not be the slightest difficulty in the character, condition, or wishes of the 31,000 native people of Hawaii. They are far better adapted to American citizenship than many millions of those whom we have welcomed here from Southern Europe, and better adapted than the Indians, Mexicans, and native Alaskans. Except among the few who expect personal favors and advancement from re-establishment of the royal Government, the general body of Hawaiian population will rejoice in the honor, safety, peace, and prosperity which annexation will bring. Morally and practically the silent invasion of Hawaii from the Orient (the Japanese) violates all the declared policy and often-expressed purpose of the United States to protect those people against foreign interference.

“The islands as a national possession would richly reward us for expenditure of a hundred millions. The annexation would cost us nothing, and will not at present excite the open opposition of any nation.”

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