

FOR ANNEXATION.

President Sent a Message to the Senate Yesterday.

TREATY HAS BEEN DRAWN UP.

Recommends Making Hawaii Part of the United States.

RECEIVED WITH APPROBATION.

Sentiment of the Senators Is in Favor of Such Action.

Text of the Proposed Treaty Has Not Been Made Public, but It Provides for After Settlement of All Details.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—The president sent a message to the senate this afternoon recommending the annexation of the Hawaiian islands to the United States. It is accompanied by a treaty of annexation concluded between the secretary of state and the Hawaiian commissioners, and a mass of correspondence relating to the question at issue.

The treaty is brief, providing merely for the annexation of the islands under the present provisional government and leaving the details of the permanent form of government, etc., to the action of congress. The correspondence is very voluminous, going back many years, and gives a complete history of the islands, so far as negotiations with the United States are concerned.

Contrary to general expectations, the senate in executive session declined to make the treaty public immediately, but decided to first have the message and documents printed for the confidential information of senators. The papers were accordingly sent down to the government printing office to be put in type for confidential use, with the probability that the seal of secrecy will be released to-morrow.

The message of the president and the correspondence were received in executive session with an attention such as no message from the president has received in recent years.

There was no debate beyond a few questions directed to the chairman of the foreign relations committee, but every word was carefully weighed, and the message and the treaty met with almost general approval.

Among the detailed dispatches received at the state department from Honolulu is one from Minister Stevens, giving an interesting account of reasons which governed him in assuming control of the islands.

It follows: "I have time before the mail steamer leaves to state briefly the additional reasons which caused us to assume a temporary protectorate of these islands. The provisional government must have time to organize a new policy, and to discipline a small military, for when the monarchy died by its own hands, there was no military force in the islands but the royal guards of about seventy-five natives, not equal in effective force to twenty American soldiers. There are 40,000 Chinese and Japanese on the islands, and evil disposed persons might stir some of them to disorder. But the chief elements of evil are in Honolulu, where are the renegade whites at the head of the lottery and opium rings, and a considerable number of hoodlum foreigners and the more vicious of the natives.

"Another important reason for our action is the possibility of the arrival here of a British war vessel. With the islands under our protection, we think the English minister will not attempt to insist that his government has the right to interfere while our flag is over the government building."

In concluding his dispatch, Minister Stevens says: "We shall continue to maintain our present position with great caution

and firmness until we hear from the president, through the secretary of state. As a necessary precaution against all contingencies, I advise that Admiral Skerritt be promptly sent here with one or two ships in addition to the Boston."