

AUTHORIZING ADDITIONS AND REPAIRS TO CUSTOMS
BUILDINGS IN PORTO RICO

MARCH 23, 1926.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the
state of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. KIESS, from the Committee on Insular Affairs, submitted the
following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 9314]

The Committee on Insular Affairs, to which was referred the bill (H. R. 9314) to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to contract for the enlargement of the present customs warehouse at San Juan, P. R., and to pay for same out of duties collected in Porto Rico, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with the recommendation that the bill do pass without amendment.

Hearings were held by the committee at which appeared and testified Gen. Frank McIntyre, Chief of the Bureau of Insular Affairs, and Hon. Felix Cordova Davila, the Resident Commissioner of Porto Rico. The testimony of these witnesses convinced the committee of the necessity of the addition to the customs buildings. This measure also has the approval of Hon. H. M. Towner, Governor of Porto Rico. A letter was received from Hon. H. L. Moore, collector of customs at San Juan, strongly recommending the passage of this legislation. The customhouse and post office in San Juan are both in the same building. The post office needs the space occupied by the customhouse, and for this reason it is necessary to enlarge the customs warehouse at San Juan and provide offices for the collector of customs. It is proposed to erect a second story on the new customs warehouse at San Juan. It will take a year to make the plans, specifications, have them approved by the Treasury Department, select bids for building, award the contract, and have the department approve the contract. The bill limits the expenditure to the sum of \$230,000. The preliminary estimate of the total cost was \$213,000.

The customs service in Porto Rico last year paid \$1,300,000 to the treasurer of Porto Rico. This was the largest amount so paid in the history of the United States customs since American occupation of the island 28 years ago. Since July 1, 1925, the customs office has disbursed to the treasurer of Porto Rico up to and including February 28, 1925, \$1,024,518.12. It is estimated that the receipts before June 30, 1926, will be not less than \$300,000, which will make the total collections exceed those of last year.

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