Q. You proposed to experiment with a republic and in the course of time to get into the American Union?
A. Yes.
Q. As a State?
A. Yes. When I was in prison in 1892 Mr. Stevens made a speech in my favor at some Grand Army affair.
Q. Did he want you discharged?
A. He did his best. He said they did not arrest people in America for such things.
Q. There was no force used in that Ashford-Wilcox conspiracy in 1892?
A. No; it was one object to have equal rights—that was all.
Q. It is sometimes said that natives are signing petitions for annexation here, and that they are in favor of it. What have you to say about that?
A. It is not true; they may sign under some influence against their will.
Q. What sort of influence?
A. They hold positions; they would have to give up positions; they have no other occupation. Besides, they do not like these people to annex them.
Q. They hate the people who want to?
A. They hate the Provisional Government. They remember what the Commissioner said when he went to Washington.
Q. What is their idea?
A. They did not like Thurston speaking against them. He said they were like Indians. It brought great prejudice against them.
Q. Are they suspicious that this is a movement in which they will lose very largely their political power?
A. Yes.
Q. And that it is intended to put the foreigners in control?
A. Some of them think so. They think they would be disfranchised, something like Alaska Indians.
Q. The movement of 1892—did that contemplate the use of force in overturning the Government?
A. No; we talked about education. We thought we had a big following and would be supported by the people. Of course, the Government took an active part in it—took an active part in suppressing it.
Mr. BLount. I think I have asked all I want to ask you. Is there any statement you would like to make yourself in connection with this matter?
A. No.

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Q. Do the natives generally have some stock—horses and cattle?
A. Yes.
Q. How do they graze them?
A. On land; they lease it—pay so much a year.
Q. Who are the people who own the land; are they corporations or individuals?
A. Some individuals, some corporations. These sugar-planters, they have long leases on what is called crown lands.
Q. And the natives have no other means of grazing a cow or a horse?
A. Except by letting it go on their land and paying so much a year.
Q. Does this fact enable the sugar-planters and owners of plantations to exert any influence over the native vote?