Mr. PLATT of Connecticut. Well, if they are to be preserved, I certainly want to know that the penal laws which they have passed punishing these contract laborers for not fulfilling their contracts shall in some way be abrogated and annulled.

Mr. TELLER. Let me say one word. The difficulty I found was not that there were a great lot of Haitian laborers in this country, but that the contract or not, and that would remain in full force and effect as though this act had not been passed. That is a specific reference to that particular subject, and it seems to me it would control as against the general provision that the laws of the United States should take effect.

Mr. PLATT of Connecticut. If the contracts they have entered into there, running three years, with alien laborers brought in under contract are to be preserved to the end of the term—

Mr. CULOM. Now, can they be annulled by a statute?

Mr. PLATT of Connecticut. I think that the extension carried with it the prohibition, either directly or indirectly, of any such contracts as exist there now in respect of laborers.

Mr. TELLER. I hope to find it, but I could not. I hope the Senator will look it up and let us know about it.

Mr. CULOM. I will be glad to look it up and find out the exact fact, and bring in an amendment to cover the case if it is needed.

Mr. FAIRBANKS. I have had the same difficulty that the Senator from Colorado has had. I have examined the bill with care, and have failed to find any provision which would prohibit the introduction of contract labor. I would be glad if some reference were made to the clause which guards against its introduction would be furnished.

Mr. PLATT of Connecticut. I think, so far as that is concerned, that extending the laws of the United States over those islands will extend our laws against the introduction of alien contract labor.

Mr. CULOM. Undoubtedly it does that.

Mr. TELLER. Why not say so in an emphatic manner?

Mr. PLATT of Connecticut. I think that is provided for in the bill. The only trouble I have had about it is whether the legislation, dealing with labor, and exempting those between laborers and employers in the islands, made in the islands, could pass obnoxious laws.

Mr. CULOM. I see the force of the Senator's suggestion.

Mr. PLATT of Connecticut. I do not know what the facts are.

Mr. CULOM. I confess that I have not the knowledge of them, but my impression is that any legislation of those laws would wipe out all such contracts as now exist and prevent such contracts being made all over.

Mr. PLATT of Connecticut. We have had no evidence on that subject.

Mr. CULOM. Suppose that was not there?

Mr. FORAKER. I think it would be well to insert there an exception to the act.

Mr. PLATT of Connecticut. If there is anything in its acts inconsistent with the laws of the United States, then their laws are so far repealed and modified.

Mr. CULOM. Yes.

Mr. PLATT of Connecticut. But we have laws on that subject.

Mr. CULOM. Why have we not? Do we not prosecute people for—

Mr. FORAKER. We have laws prohibiting the introduction of contract laborers.

Mr. PLATT of Connecticut. Exactly, and their laws of that sort are undoubtedly repealed.

Mr. FORAKER. But I ask the Senator, would it repeal such a law in view of the provisions of section 10, that every contract that shall be entered into, and shall remain in full force and effect as though this act had not been passed? That is a specific reference to that particular subject, and it seems to me it would control as against the general provision that the laws of the United States should take effect.

Mr. CULOM. Now, can they be annulled by a statute?