Shades of Kosuth, Washington, and Lincoln, behold the slavery under the American Constitution, beneath the American flag!

On the plantations of from 5,000 to 10,000 acres, with from 500 to 1,200 laborers on each, are latinas, or, as commonly called them, “slave drivers.” A luma is over 40 to 100 contract laborers, and he stands over them with a long or loaded whip, docks them, when it suits his fancy, a quarter or a half day, and drives them back and forth to work. A whistle is carried to summon other latinas to subdued refractory spirits.

If any of the laborers grow refractory at the conduct of the drivers and revolt, the mananger telephones some miles to the local attorney, who then swears to an affidavit (invokes the sacred law to enforce slavery) charging the laborers with disobedience, and officers are sent to seize and bind them and drag them into court, before a judge appointed and not elected, and who is a part of the anti-labour Dole official family and the officialdom, under the influence of the immigration and the slave mill and plantation managers, enforce these nefarious practices, and the supreme court decides that all these practices are lawful, and decides that they are not in violation of the Hawaiian constitution, that declares that involuntary servitude, except for crime, of which the party shall be duly convicted, shall not exist in the islands.

What do Americans think of such a judiciary, such officials, such a slavery?

Talk to Americans about a judiciary that supports such practices! It ought to be pulled up root and branch. Get a judiciary that knows the law and will enforce it—one that is free from the controlling influence of officers appointing and officers surrounding.

Once in a while a luma is killed, but oftener a laborer. Conflicts and personal beatings are common.

What is the price they get for submitting to this slavery? For Orientals $15 and for Europeans $18 a month and board and clothes themselves. Wives and daughters and sons are paid as follows: Wives and daughters 20 years old, 40 cents a day; 18 to 20 years old, 35 cents a day; 16 to 18 years old, 30 cents a day; 14 to 16 years old, 32 cents a day; 12 to 14 years old, 25 cents a day.

To show the power, and self-executing power, lodged in the hands of the masters, it only need be stated that before leaving their countries the immigration company exacts security in money or from friends that the laborer will continue his service, and the immigration company on desertion returns to the master a proportionate share of the guaranty.

In these prisons on American soil, like on the boat that brought them over, they are crowded into rooms with ten or fifteen in a department, wearing stripes like criminals.

Of course the people over there in that part of our country are unhappy and unfortunate; all are unfortunate—the master, the slave, the free—all, are unfortunate, for the bubonic plague is upon them.

Those who are not suffering are fleeing in mind and in body from its ravages and deaths. What is the condition of these 40,000 laborers, what is their plight in this misfortune in that part of our country? What chance for charity will they stand either in indulgence or in money from the exorbitant masters of the Hawaiian islands, who, paying their managers from $7,000 to $12,000 a year, are yet able to pay annual dividends of 60 per cent? What will the masters do for the contract laborers during this plague? They brought these laborers there who are peculiarly susceptible to this disease. Who knows but they brought this disease to the American islands? But the inquiry now is, what can be expected of men and corporations in this exigency who will countenance and continue such a system of slave labor? The masters will deduct the time that the slave suffers from it or from it and add the lost time to the end of the service.

The Government of this country will appropriate hundreds of thousands to quarantine the suspicious, to relieve the distressed, and to build the hale, but the masters will hold their ill-gotten gains while they add to the deaths and the fury of the disease by imprisoning in coops the slaves for violation of their civil contract.

This may be harsh treatment for the violation of a contract, but some of the prisoners told Rev. Levy last summer that prison was preferable to service under brutal and slave-driving masters and landlordism and tyranny on the plantations.

Let us call upon the press to protect labor against such abuses, on the pulpit to denounce this crying evil, and may we not hope that Congress will crush it out now and forever and its members be held responsible for labor for a continuance of this infamous contract-labor system? [Loud applause.]

Mr. KNOX. I yield to the gentleman from Iowa [Mr. LANE] such time as he may desire.