

when such mercenary schemes as this are presented and receive recognition and adoption by the Republican majority in this Congress.

Mr. Chairman, the proviso under discussion is the production of the syndicate back of the subsidy scheme. They contemplate the continuance and extension of arbitrary power so that they can hold in subjection and servitude, even to the uttermost parts of the earth, those who may once come under their control. They seek the further use and extension of Federal bayonets, so that not alone in distant Idaho, but in the cities, in Chicago, in Cleveland, in Pittsburg, in Philadelphia, New York, and everywhere and anywhere they please American labor can be crushed by American bullets. [Applause.]

I ask the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. GROSVENOR] not to leave the floor, but stand at his place here and now and defend American seamen against the slavery continued by this proviso.

I denounce the schemes contemplated by the servants of syndicates here. I denounce this proviso, and I beg every man on this side of the House—aye, if there be a patriot, a lover of his country, a friend of justice, and a friend of labor on the Republican side, I beg him to join with us and vote to strike out with just indignation this glaring wrong to American seamen. [Applause.]

Each one of us here has sworn that we will support the Constitution of the United States. It is absolutely binding upon us all. Framed, interpreted, and applied for over a century, becoming the very Government itself, the Constitution should be the object of our care and solicitude. We should above all others obey its articles and keep within its limitations, and yet it is deliberately proposed here to violate this fundamental law of our land. I plead with you to-day for justice to the American seaman. I call upon you to open the way for a broader application of the principles of equity and right. I plead that in the exercise of our constitutional duties we secure to all classes of American citizens the blessings and privileges granted to them under the Constitution we have sworn to obey. Give to labor its just dues and prerogatives. Give it the protection it demands—equality alone—nothing more, nothing less.

We have fought in days gone by for our political independence and won; we fought for the maintenance and preservation of the Union and won; but we must now battle with a more dangerous and subtle foe than we have ever faced on battlefield. Greed, avarice, and unholy ambition threaten our national existence. Let us be men, strong, brave-hearted, and true; true to our country and true to our countrymen; and stand for the right and for the rights of all as against special privileges to a few. Corrupt influences and means in times past have brought about temporary triumph of evil, but—

Though the heel of the strong oppressor
May grind the weak in the dust,
And the voices of fame with one acclaim
May call him great and just,
Let those who applaud take warning
And keep this motto in sight:
"No question is ever settled
Until it is settled right."

[Applause.]

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on agreeing to the amendment offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. KNOX].

The question was taken; and on a division (demanded by Mr. KNOX) there were—40 ayes and 27 noes.

So the amendment was agreed to.

Mr. ROBINSON of Indiana. Now, Mr. Chairman, I move to add to the last section the substitute I send to the Clerk's desk.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Indiana moves an amendment which the Clerk will report.

The Clerk read as follows:

Add to the last section the following:

"That all contracts made since August 12, 1898, by which persons are held for service for a definite term, are hereby declared null and void and terminated, and no law shall be passed to enforce said contracts in any way; and it shall be the duty of the United States marshal to at once notify such persons so held of the termination of their contracts."

Mr. HITT. Mr. Chairman, the subject which is provided for by the proposed amendment is one that the bill presented to this House by the commissioners contemplated, in other language, which I will read, and which is carried into effect in the Hawaiian Islands by the fifth section of this bill and the original commissioners' bill:

All contracts for a term of service of any subject of China, Japan, or any oriental country in the United States are hereby declared void.

That is in the statutes of the United States which were extended over the Hawaiian Islands by the bill of this committee and by the original bill.

Mr. ROBINSON of Indiana. That was not considered by the other body of Congress as sufficient to wipe out the system of contract labor in Hawaii. Outside of the two words "obligation" and "contract," which are embodied in the amendment of the chairman of the Committee on Territories, this is deemed a supplemental section to his amendment which strikes this system

down effectually and has already met the indorsement and approval of the other body of Congress.

The question being taken, the amendment was agreed to; there being, on a division called for by Mr. ROBINSON of Indiana—ayes 45, noes 42.

Mr. McRAE. I now offer the amendment which was read a moment ago.

The CHAIRMAN. The amendment of the gentleman from Arkansas [Mr. McRAE] will be read.

The Clerk read as follows:

Add the following paragraph to section 11:

"That the act approved February 26, 1885, to prohibit the importation and immigration of foreigners and aliens under contract or agreement to perform labor in the United States or its Territories and the District of Columbia, and the acts amendatory thereof and supplemental thereto, be, and the same are hereby, extended to and made applicable to the Territory of Hawaii."

Mr. KNOX. I have repeatedly stated that by express provision of this bill the act referred to in the gentleman's amendment, as all other acts of the United States relating to the importation of alien labor or contract labor, are extended to Hawaii. If we once start to specify different laws of the United States as being extended by this bill we can never complete it.

Mr. McRAE. I am satisfied, Mr. Chairman, that the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. KNOX] desires to accomplish exactly what I do; but I am afraid that the resolution which annexed Hawaii and which continued in force the Hawaiian laws, and section 10 of this bill, which undertakes to deal with the labor contracts, will still leave this question in doubt. The power to exclude contract laborers and the power to prohibit the steamship owners from carrying them there is what is needed and is just what my amendment will give. It is a short paragraph, and it can do no harm, and may do much good. I do not want us to take any risk about it. I know that this very language was passed by the House in the last Congress without a division, but the Senate for some reason refused to adopt it.

There have been brought into Hawaii within the last year over 30,000 laborers under contract, in violation of our law. Unless you make it perfectly plain that we intend to prevent alien contract labor, it will be brought in, to the great detriment of the honest laborers of this country. Those who dominate these islands want such labor, and the provisions of section 10, which only permits suits on such contracts, will not break up the system.

Mr. KNOX. The objection made to the bill which was before us in the last Congress was that it was a separate bill, and that the provision in question should be included in the general bill. I am sure the gentleman will remember that that objection was made.

Mr. McRAE. There was no substantial objection here. The bill passed this House, and went to the Senate, where it was buried in some way. I think, in view of this fact, that this paragraph ought to be put in this bill in plain unmistakable language and denouncing heavy penalties against those who violate it. To allow suits without making the acts criminal will do but little if any good toward preventing such contracts.

The question being taken on the amendment of Mr. McRAE, it was agreed to; there being—ayes 58, noes 48.

The Clerk read as follows:

OATH OF OFFICE.

SEC. 19. That every member of the legislature and all officers of the Territory of Hawaii shall take the following oath or affirmation:

I solemnly swear (or affirm), in the presence of Almighty God, that I will faithfully support the Constitution and laws of the United States, and conscientiously and impartially discharge my duties as a member of the legislature, or as an officer of the Territory of Hawaii (as the case may be).

Mr. KNOX. I desire to offer an amendment—simply verbal.

The Clerk read as follows:

After the word "officers," in line 18, section 19, page 60, and after the word "officer," in line 24 of the same section, insert the words "of the Government."

The amendment was agreed to.

The Clerk read as follows:

PUNISHMENT OF PERSONS NOT MEMBERS.

SEC. 25. That each house may punish by fine, or by imprisonment not exceeding thirty days, any person not a member of either house who shall be guilty of disrespect of such house by any disorderly or contemptuous behavior in its presence or that of any committee thereof.

Mr. ROBINSON of Indiana. I move to amend by inserting after the word "thereof," in line 4, page 62, the language which I send to the desk.

The Clerk read as follows:

Who shall, on account of the exercise of any legislative function, threaten harm to the body or estate of any of the members of such house; or
Who shall assault, arrest, or detain any witness or other person ordered to attend such house, on his way going to or returning therefrom; or
Who shall rescue any person arrested by order of such house.
But the person charged with the offense shall be informed, in writing, of the charge made against him, and have an opportunity to present evidence and be heard in his own defense.

Mr. ROBINSON of Indiana. This provision was passed by the Senate in the form in which I have offered it. It relates to the authority of each house of the legislature over the proceedings of