

new plantations. For instance, when the annexation of Hawaii was talked of, we were told it was the best coffee country in the world, and that great coffee plantations would be opened upon the annexation of that country to the United States. But there is no duty on coffee from any country to the United States, while we have levied a duty of almost 2 cents a pound upon sugar.

The result is that since annexation the sugar business, which is exceedingly profitable, has taken the place of the coffee business; and we no longer hear about the raising of coffee in Hawaii, but they are plowing up the coffee plantations and putting them into sugar. In fact, the profits of raising sugar are enormous under the bonus we give in the way of a remission of duties to the sugar planters of Hawaii, amounting this year to nearly \$12,000,000, which we would collect upon a like amount of sugar from any other country. This enormous bonus goes to a few planters who have absorbed all the land of that country and who pay the most meager wages to the slave labor which is employed to raise the sugar.

Mr. GALLINGER. Will the Senator permit an interruption?
Mr. PETTIGREW. I will.

Mr. GALLINGER. I was interested when the Puerto Rican bill was under consideration in the committee of which I chance to be a member to learn the fact that in Puerto Rico they only produce from 1 to 2 tons of sugar per acre, while in Hawaii they produce from 6 to 11 tons per acre. That is very productive sugar land, perhaps the most productive in the world. I want to ask the Senator, who I think has been in Hawaii and has investigated these matters, if these poor Asiatics are not taken there as contract laborers, would they voluntarily go and labor there under better conditions than surround them as contract laborers—their lot seems very hard, according to the statement of the Senator, as contract laborers—would they go in sufficient numbers to meet the requirements of the planters in Hawaii for ordinary laborers?

Mr. PETTIGREW. Undoubtedly they would go there if the wages were high enough to induce them to go, although I believe none have gone heretofore, practically, except those who have gone under contract.

Mr. SPOONER. I desire to ask the Senator a question.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. NELSON in the chair). Does the Senator from South Dakota yield?

Mr. PETTIGREW. Certainly.

Mr. SPOONER. I tried to obtain recognition before I asked the Senator to yield. I desire to ask the Senator whether the labor contracts referred to reserve the right to "dock" the laborers, as he used that word?

Mr. PETTIGREW. Oh, yes, Mr. President; and I have the report here of the secretary of the bureau of immigration, Mr. Taylor, who examined two of these plantations, and in his report showed the methods pursued. In one case the contract called for twelve dollars and a half a month, the laborers to board themselves; but he says in his official report that they only receive from six to seven dollars a month, because the superintendent would dock them if they were slow, if the men did not move quite fast enough for him.

Mr. SPOONER. If the Senator will permit me, I put the question to him for the reason that, perhaps, in his absence the bill has been amended, partly on motion of the Senator from Minnesota [Mr. NELSON] who occupies the chair for the moment, so as to provide that no suit or proceeding shall be maintained to enforce specifically any contract heretofore or hereafter entered into for personal labor or service; nor shall any remedy exist or be enforced for a breach of any such contract, except a civil suit, brought solely to recover damages for such breach. While that, of course, guards against almost all of the hardships and evils which we want to reach, it would not guard necessarily against the right reserved in the contract, if it is in the contract, to arbitrarily dock laborers because they are not fast enough; and it was with a view to ascertaining whether the amendment which has already been adopted was sufficiently explicit and broad to extricate these troubles that I put my question to the Senator; and I should be glad to have him answer in that view.

Mr. PETTIGREW. I was aware of the amendment we have already adopted, but it is not satisfactory to me for the reason that it provides a civil remedy. The legislature over there is quite liable to be controlled by the vast interests we have built up there. We have remitted duties to the amount of \$80,000,000 to the sugar planters there; we have taken that money out of the pockets of the people of the United States and paid it over to them, because their importation of sugar did not reduce the price in the United States one mill. By this bonus we have built up that vast interest, and that vast sum of money is taken out of the people of the United States and paid to those sugar planters, and it can be used for any purpose they choose. They can control the legislature of Hawaii, and that legislature can enact laws by which, if the penalty is simply one of civil damages, the planters can get judgment against

those people and then proceed to provide that they shall work out the judgment.

Mr. SPOONER. I should be sorry to have my friend think I am antagonizing his proposition—

Mr. PETTIGREW. I am simply trying to answer the Senator's question.

Mr. SPOONER. Because I admit that, if the contracts are as stated by the Senator from South Dakota—I asked that question the other day in his absence—the amendment which has been adopted would not cover the entire trouble.

Mr. PETTIGREW. Here is a further difficulty. These plantations are on remote islands, and they are generally visited by steamboats only when they go to take off the sugar. The boat goes there simply in the interest of the owner of the plantation; and these poor laborers have no chance to hear from the world or to have the world hear from them; and they will never hear of this law, if we enact it, unless it is somebody's duty to go and notify them.

Mr. SPOONER. I agree to that.

Mr. PETTIGREW. Therefore, they would be held, as they are being now held, by force and punished and abused, and this disgrace continue under our flag. It is for the purpose of remedying that that I have offered my amendment.

I will read an extract from the report of the secretary of the immigration bureau:

The men receive \$12.50 a month, but out of this \$1.50 is remitted to the board of immigration toward paying the laborer's return passage when he desires to return to China. That leaves him \$11, but there are very few that receive over \$6 or \$7, and some of them even less than that, on account of the persistent docking—for what they are at loss to understand. It would be of no use to say anything to the manager; he is always deaf to any of their complaints. Their next complaint was with regard to the number of hours they have to work. The contracts call for ten hours in the field. In this matter I find that the men are turned out earlier than they ought to be, and sometimes are a little late in being sent home. I do not know what particular time is kept on the plantation, but I am very much under the impression, from what I gathered, that the mill clock is one of a kind that moves quickly or slowly, as required. The men told me that since the fight the clock had changed.

On this plantation the men rebelled and some people were killed. That led to an investigation. I think this is a fair sample of the whole system. I have another report from another plantation, which is as full as that.

Mr. GALLINGER. From what has the Senator been reading?

Mr. PETTIGREW. I have been reading from the official report signed by Mr. Taylor, who is secretary of the bureau of immigration.

Mr. GALLINGER. Of Hawaii?

Mr. PETTIGREW. Of Hawaii. This report was made April 27, 1897. I received it from Joseph O. Carter, who is one of the most capable citizens of that country, and a man of very high character. I think that this statement will be corroborated by all classes of people in Hawaii.

The report shows that the overseer would take one of these Japs by the hair, lift him up, and throw him upon the ground; that he would go along with a club and strike and knock them down; that he would punch them in the side, and variously abuse and maltreat those people in that country.

I ask, however, without further reading, unless some Senator desires to have it read, to have this report published in the RECORD. If any Senator desires to have it read I shall ask to have the Secretary read it.

The report referred to is as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION,
Honolulu, H. I., April 27, 1897.

SIR: In accordance with your instructions, I left Honolulu on the steamer *Mikahala* Wednesday, April 21, and proceeded to Lihue, Kauai, for the purpose of investigating the causes that led up to the recent riot on Lihue plantation, and which resulted in the death of a Chinese contract laborer and the arrest of fifteen others on the charge of rioting. Ng Chan, a Chinese interpreter, accompanied me.

Arriving at Lihue on the 22d, at 4 p. m., I at once made myself known to Mr. Carl Wolters, the manager, and stated to him the object of my visit, and then had a long conversation with him. At the time of my arrival all was quiet on the plantation.

Early next morning I was out in the fields among a large gang of Japanese and Chinese laborers. I picked out the following men: Lau Pow, Leong Chin, Chung Hop, Shun Bun, Chin Yow, Fook Lung, Dung Mee, and Wong Duck; took them one by one and examined them through the interpreter in regard to the recent trouble, as well as to how they had been treated on the plantation since their arrival. The testimony was very much the same in each case.

Their chief complaint was directed against the head luna, William Zoller, who, they say, was at all times very hard in his treatment of them. When they would line up for work in a morning, waiting to receive their tools, if they did not move quite fast enough to suit him, he would knock them about or else kick them. Sometimes he would poke them in the back with the handle of a hoe. When in the field they were at work doing their best, he would yell at them to work quicker, in fact, he was at them pretty much all the time they were out in the fields. He rarely spoke to them through an interpreter, and as a consequence they could not understand what he said, as they are not acquainted with the English language.

On the morning of the row, they testified that after lining up, and while waiting for their tools, the luna, instead of giving out the tools, shouted out something, which they afterwards understood was an order to go and pick up rocks. At the time they did not understand the order, and this, they claim, is what started the whole row and led to the fight, as they were pretty well