Q. You can state it both ways.
A. It became a public enunciation January 16, and before that time there had been several. I know of one instance where the same movement was in force to bring about annexation.
Q. What time was that?
A. Between the months of March and October of 1892.
Q. Was that the Ashford-Wilcox movement?
A. Yes; I was requested to join the movement. It was a secret conspiracy at that time.
Q. The object being to dethrone the Queen?
A. To overthrow the throne and have annexation. I won’t say to what republic. It was the initial step to evolve a system of annexation.
Q. Why did it fail?
A. In the first place the officials nabbed the head conspirators before the thing was ready. My personal conviction is that the time was not ripe; that capital, which is proverbially timid and slow to accept a new order of things, was unwilling to embark in the scheme.
Q. Did the leaders of that movement have anything to do with the failure of the capitalists to join?
A. Yes, sir; I believe it was the want of responsible men—who were known as men of financial standing in the community—that was the cause of the failure. Some of the leaders who were then announcing annexation are now violently opposed to it.
Q. And were they on the 16th of January?
A. I know of two who in public utterances opposed the movement.
Q. What is your judgment as to the disposition on the part of the people toward the Provisional Government?
A. Hawaiians, you mean?
Q. You can take the several classes in such order as you want.
A. I believe the feeling among the whites generally is in support of the Provisional Government. There are exceptions, but I think I have a right to say they do not represent the respectable element in the community.
Q. How are they in point of numbers? What percentage of the white population?
A. I know there are very few.
Q. There is an English element here. How is it disposed towards the present Government?
A. Equally divided as to annexation and non-annexation.
Q. Is it true or not that they and the whites generally are looking at the matter from a business standpoint?
A. In my conversations with a number of leading sugar-planters, and managers who represent owners, they have advanced several reasons like this: We are fully aware that the bounty is a thing that can be knocked in the head. We do not care. We want better government. And as for the contract labor, we can get along without it. We have enough Japanese in the country now. Some of them look at the thing from a financial point of view, and might be unwilling to express these views.
Q. What do they desire and expect if they entered into union with the United States?
A. Stable government.
Q. What do you mean by stable government?
A. A government which is not under the pleasure of a sovereign whose mere will or wish or pleasure will overthrow constitutional rights.