Mr. S. M. B. Hodge, of New York, explained the propriety of the measures contemplating the immediate immediate emancipation of the slaves in the Southern States. He said:

"Sir, we are met here to discuss the measures which the Executive is about to take for the immediate emancipation of the slaves in the Southern States. It is a subject of vital importance to the future welfare of the country, and we should not shrink from discussing it with the full force of our convictions. The Constitution of the United States guarantees to all citizens the right to freedom, and it is the duty of the Federal Government to see that this right is respected. The Executive, therefore, has the power to act in this matter, and we should support any measure that he may propose."