

# Negro Exodus Is Stayed And Return Movement On

### Backward Flow in This as in Previous Migrations Lacks Impetus of Outgo but Eventually It Will Bring Most of Black Labor Back Home

By ROBERT T. SMALL  
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Jacksville, Fla., Jan. 11.—The negro exodus from the South has been stayed and a great return movement has begun. There is no longer any doubt of this. You hear it from the railroad officials and trainmen and you see it for yourself on a day's journey through the Southland.

The backward flow of the negro has not the impetus that of one time was attained by the outgo. It is not the result of an exportation nor has it any financial backing.

The negroes are coming back singly or in groups of two and three. Occasionally one encounters a Rossylvan family group. A trail colored woman boarded the southernmost train at Washington. With her were seven children, the oldest one appearing to be about ten years of age. With the husband and father, this family, too, had heard the call of the North. It had migrated to Philadelphia. But a family of nine on a Southern farm and a family of nine in the crowded colored quarter of Philadelphia are two entirely different propositions. The mother and children have come home. That was all the money they had. The father must work a little longer in the North until he also can return to the farm.

The backward influx of the negro is being regulated entirely by his or her ability to pay the expense of getting home. There was no such difficulty encountered in leaving the South. The country-side was filled with industrial agents drumming up the emigrants, offering them wages they had never heard of before and presenting them with railroad tickets to the new promised land.

That has always been one of the most pitiful sides of all the negro migratory movements of the past, this constant searching for the "promised land." In some way the negroes associate it with the camp meeting and revival songs that they sing. They begin to believe there is a land that is fairer than this, and then along comes some colorizer painting the picture of a land flowing with milk and honey right here on earth without the necessity of waiting for the hereafter. It is estimated that the poor deluded negroes of the South have sunk in the aggregate millions of hard earned dollars in the various schemes to transport them to Liberia, to other parts of Africa and to some golden tropic island in the never-never land. Frequently the day of departure has been set by the fraudulent promoters and thousands of negroes, having given up homes and jobs and money, have been left waiting at the depot.

The recent cold waves in the North and West have driven the recently migrated negroes home in large numbers. Many of those who went out of Georgia and Alabama were taken to Chicago. That was to be their Promised Land. But when the Chicago mercury ten days ago went sliding down to 16 degrees below zero, the promised land became one of suffering and misery to the negroes who at home had always thought of a temperature of 40 degrees above as a "sho nuff" cold wave.

The return of the negro is viewed with a great deal of satisfaction by the white people here in the South-east. They say now that they knew the colored people would come back

in time and they assert now that, generally speaking, the exodus was not started by any bad treatment of the darkey.

They say the movement was 90 per cent economic. Florida felt the exodus the least perhaps of any of the Southern states, for there was no upset in any particular line of industry here. Georgia was hit hardest of all, probably because the boll weevil wrought his ravages in the cotton crop there and the negroes, easily discouraged, readily listened to the agents of the Northern industry and went away. They are anxious now to return home and those already arrived say the others are coming as soon as they can get the money.

In the end the voluntary movement will not have been without its blessing on both sides. The ignorant colored farm hand of the South will have learned there is comparatively little he can do in the North in competition with white labor, and the white people of the South in the joy of getting their natural helpers back, will do much more to make their lot a contented one. The Northern agents seem to have disappeared and a great feeling of peace pervades the older section of the Southland.

### PRESIDENT POTEAU TO WASHINGTON CONVENTION

Wake Forest, Jan. 15.—Dr. W. L. Poteau, president of Wake Forest College, left Saturday for Washington to attend the Anti-Slavery League convention, January 12 to 16 inclusive. President Poteau was appointed as a delegate to the convention by Governor Morrison and also by the State Baptist convention. Mrs. Poteau is accompanying him on the trip. The keynote of the convention will be law enforcement, loyalty to the Constitution and statutory enactments. At the final meeting of the convention a great mass meeting will be held at which Governor Pinchot of Pennsylvania and William Jennings Bryan will speak.

### FLOCK TO BAVARIAN TOWN FOR LOW PRICED FOODS

Strasbourg, Bavaria, Jan. 15.—Of 27 travelers who alighted from a train here recently 24 were railroad men who had passes and had come to Strasbourg to take advantage of the prevailing low prices in food stuffs.

An investigation by the town authorities of the sudden influx of purchasers showed that most of the men were from Munich and other cities where prices were higher. Strasbourg officials have protested against the railroaders using their passes to swoop down upon their peaceful little town and buy up their cheap eggs and milk and meat and bread and everything.

### IRISH FREE STATE ABOLISHES SEVERAL UNITS OF ITS ARMY

Dublin, Jan. 15.—With the intention of ultimately reducing the cost

of the Free State army from \$55,000,000 to \$20,000,000, the salvage corps and nine infantry battalions have been disbanded, and the corps and service branch and the administration branch of the department of the chief of staff have been abolished and their duties placed upon the general staff.

A military customs brigade, which will assist customs officers on the northern border and patrol the roads has been approved.

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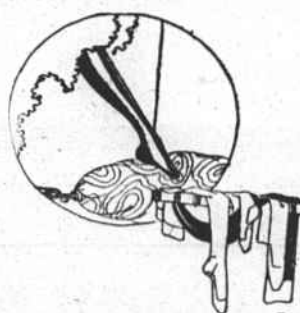
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