

LAST ELAINE RIOTERS WILL SOON BE FREED

New York, Nov. 23.—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People announces that the last of the farmers sentenced to death in connection with the 1919, in Phillips county, Arkansas would shortly be freed.

Of the twelve men sentenced to death, six were released by order of the Arkansas Supreme court. The other six had their sentences reversed by the United States supreme court, to which the association carried their cases after three years of litigation.

In lieu of retrying these men, the Arkansas authorities offered a compromise of conviction of second degree murder, with twelve-year sentence, which leaves the men eligible for parole this year, as they have already served one-third of their terms. This compromise was accepted by the attorney for the N. A. A. C. P., and Governor Thomas C. MacRae has commuted the sentences.

Fifty-nine of the sixty-seven farmers sentenced to life and long term

imprisonment have been freed. It is expected that the remaining eight plus have been applied, will soon be released.

In connection with this announcement, James Weldon Johnson, secretary of the N. A. A. C. P., issued the following statement:

"The wild statements of a plotted insurrection by Negro farmers of Arkansas have now been disproved by four years of court action. The rumors, spread throughout the nation by the press that Negroes were organized to massacre whites are shown to have been without foundation. It should be remembered that although 12 Negroes were sentenced to death and 67 to long terms of imprisonment, not one white man was punished in connection with these disorders in which hundreds of Negroes met their death. All of the Negroes will soon have been released, we hope and expect. That is the best answer to the kind of law and order indulged in by the white people of Arkansas."