

CHANGES WROUGHT BY THE EXODUS

A Summary of Its Political and
Economic Effect Upon the
Southern States

SOUTH LOSES BIG PROFITS

Oppression And Low Wages Named
As Causes Of Alarming Migration
Of Negro Labor.

(By D. J. Gilmer.)

Greensboro, N. C.—There has been recently a man in the South gathering data and observing conditions bearing upon the present Negro exodus and he states that within the next year there will have gone from the Southern state enough Negroes to justify the reduction of seventeen congressional districts in the total number now represented in the Congress from the South.

Seventeen congressional districts represent a total of 3,601,900 people. Of course such a political loss to the South must be alarming, but let us consider for a moment the monetary loss. If three million and more people are worth as much to the Southern states from which they are constantly going as they will be to the Northern section seeking them, then the South will have lost in the first year of their absence \$465,192,551, and the merchants of the South will have lost in the same period of time in profit alone \$86,519,255.04, and the banks will have lost in clear profits \$6,977,888.25. With these conditions confronting the South it would seem that logical and righteous steps should be taken to remedy the evil consequences of such an exodus. Before an evil can be remedied, however, the cause must be located.

Now, therefore, what is the cause of the exodus? The shortest answer is this: Oppression and an inadequate wage.

How is the proof of an inadequate wage to be obtained? As follows: From a United States ration table the rations, etc., per day for one healthy man, according to the present price of food products, costs 82 cents; fuel, 17; house rent, 27; illuminating supplies, 8; clothing and laundry, 23; total \$1.57. For insurance, 5 cents; incidentals, 15; church and lodge dues, 7. Total, 27 cents. Grand total per day for one laborer \$1.84.

From the above figures one dare not question too seriously the truthfulness of the statement that "many laborers of the South have been compelled to dart with cunning through the cordon lines of a vigilant police force between the hours of midnight and day, and many of the weaker sex have been forced to sacrifice their all upon an altar of sustenance, because of an inadequate wage."

The present exodus seems to be thoroughly planned and there is no Negro leadership competent to stop it.

Letters are coming back from many of those already gone, and whether the statements contained therein are true or not they are alluring. This and the impelling effect of the exodus will certainly carry great numbers away who might not now contemplate going.

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