Southern Railway Proves Route of Migrant's Exits From Dixie Cotton ... The Pittsburgh Courier (1911-1950); Jun 2, 1923; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Pittsburgh Courier pg. 2



Trains Passing Through Greensboro Nightly Bear Hundreds of People Hurrying From the Southern Agricultural Belt to the Industrial Plants of the North

GREENSBORO, N. C., May 31.— The Negro exodus from the cities, towns and fields of the south to the north, "the promised land," is shown to be of enormous proportions by actual figures, first-hand facts, the accuracy of which can not be disputed. Here at the "gateway" of North Carolina, also the gate for the northward bound, information gathered from a source reliable and conservative shows that a steady stream of migrants is pouring to the steel mills, to the building centers, to the boom industrial centers beyond the Potomac, west to the Mississippi.

For example, Southern train No. 32 one night last week, carried between 190 and 200 people with tickets reading to points north of Washington. Twenty-two of them caught the train here, others were from points in the state south of here. And No. 32 is only one of five trains daily going to Washington or north of there upon which they may ride, and there are seven days in each week.

So large is the traffic north that it has become a problem to railroad managements, the Atlantic Goast Line and Seaboard as well as the Southern. It is a one-way traffic, with the windows of the Jim Crow cars filled with faces staring out with curious eyes. There are "boll weevil" natives, pushed out from the cotton belt by the "billion dollar bandit." There are unskilled migrants from villages, towns and cities, and many skilled carpenters, bricklayers and concrete workers, speeding in a steady stream, day and night, at the behest of labor agents, who are said to be combing the state, offering high wages.

It is stated here that the steel mills of Pittsburgh and Ohio are taking a considerable part of the migration, which is interesting in connection with the recent statement of Elbert H. Gary, that the immigration restrictions should be relaxed in order to help supply a labor shortage, followed by Hon. Emmet J. Scott's article, calling Gary's attention to "eight million to ten million" Negroes in the south available for work in his plants and others in the north and northeast.

Greensboro is for some of the migrants from the cotton belt, a resting place, a stop-over, a place to work a while before embarking upon the trip into a wholly unknown land. A considerable number of them have wintered here, working their way gradually to what they have been told is a better land.

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