

the opening with clubs in their hands to check too ardent performers, but the pressure from the back, where wives and sweethearts fought to get in on the leave-taking, was not to be checked. For fifteen minutes the young and old, tattered and well dressed, black and blacker, struggled through the gate. Then another gate was opened to relieve the pressure.

There were all sorts of scenes of parting. Most of them were very humorous. The average age of the 1,050 is probably under 30, and many of those who left are mere boys. Morning trains from Jacksonville brought forty-five of the laborers to this city, and these joined the big exodus in the afternoon. It was said by employees of the Coast Line that two trains were due to leave Jacksonville at 6 o'clock last night with negro laborers. Jacksonville is practically stripped clean of negro laborers, these men say, and wages have gone up from \$1.25 a day to \$1.30. The men leaving here and Jacksonville will receive \$1.80 for their work in Pennsylvania.

We venture the opinion that most of them will be back South again before snow flies.

A NEW NEGRO PROBLEM

The South has a new negro problem to face, and tempers are being lost while frantic efforts are being made to thwart efforts of Northern employers of labor to get the South's negroes away. Reference was made on this page in April to the fact that hordes of negroes were coming North where more attractive wages and better conditions awaited them. For a time there was a lull in the exodus of negroes, but from the appearance of southern papers at the present time there has been a big impetus given the scheme to supply laborers for jobs in this section and to rob the South of its usual source of supply. The situation in one large city of the South, Savannah, has become critical, according to "Morning News," and both the mayor of the city and the city council are taking a hand in the effort to stop the steady outflow of black men, who are turning their faces—for the first time in their lives—towards the North.

On Monday morning of last week the scene in the Savannah Union Station much resembled troops departing for the border, except that the mass of men and women were black instead of white, and the policemen had to be stationed throughout the crowd to keep order. Many affecting scenes were reported in the papers and the city is keenly alive to the fact that a very serious inroad is being made on its available supply of labor. The negroes leaving that city alone last Monday totaled 1,100, and the crowd assembled to see them off numbered as many more, as Savannah had quite a problem on its hands.

This latest bid for negro labor comes from the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, which has had two representatives in Savannah for some time enlisting southern negroes for railroad construction work in the north. Higher wages are offered them, free passes given them over the lines north, and all sorts of rosy promises made them, it is asserted, in order to turn them towards the portion of the country where they seem to be needed most.

The "News" says that employers of labor are viewing with alarm the heavy inroads made upon their source of supply and that the city's officials are making earnest efforts to check the stream of negroes leaving the city. A special meeting of the city council was called for last Tuesday to take action in the matter, and in the meantime the two representatives of the railroad company have been arrested and put under a bond on the charge of violating a state law in enticing laborers to leave the state of Georgia, without first procuring a license. The officials of Savannah allege that too tempting offers have been made, that misrepresentations have been dealt in, and that the negro has been made to see things in a false light.

The explanation given by the agents of the railroad company is quite simple. They have a large amount of work to do and are experiencing great difficulties in finding the men in the Northern states to do it. The South pays much smaller wages than the company has offered, and great numbers have accepted the terms of the shrewd men and have decided to come to this section of the country. The "News" gives an interesting description of the scene and condition at the Savannah station when the men left:—

More than 2,500 negroes swarmed into the Union Station between 5 and 6 o'clock yesterday afternoon, some 1,000 of whom, according to police officials, left on two special trains, provided by the Atlantic Coast Line, for points in Pennsylvania and New Jersey along the line of the Pennsylvania railroad.

The platform room of the Union Station presented a scene of life and animation when the surging mob of 2,500 negroes, closely packed into a composite mass of men, women and children, suitcases and lunch boxes, moved forward as one of the gates was opened at 5:30 o'clock to allow the fortunate few to enter the train shed. Officers stood at each side of