

# NEGRO EXODUS TO NORTH IS WATCHED

Federal Officials Suspect Another "Plot"—Labor Leaders Are Dubious.

## HIGHER WAGE IS SOUGHT

Federal Employment Service Is Inclined to Refuse to Aid Movement and South Fears It Must Raise Wages.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 27.—Both the Department of Justice and the Department of Labor are watching closely the migration of Southern negroes to Northern industrial centers. The legal officers hope to check possible election frauds, while the labor authorities are interested primarily in preventing their Federal employment service from being used to further migration schemes.

Attorney-General Gregory, in addition to general instructions recently given to Federal District Attorneys in advance of the elections, has ordered a special inquiry into complaints that negroes are being sent in considerable numbers to doubtful states under promises of work at high wages. District Attorney Miller at Louisville has been ordered to report the names, towns and destinations of all negroes or of any possible voters going from Kentucky, Alabama or any other part of the South passing through Louisville in suspicious numbers. Other District Attorneys in the South and in Middle Atlantic states are understood to be under similar instructions.

### All Reports Are Withheld.

Department of Justice officials decline to talk on the ground that it might interfere with the Government's plans and all reports and correspondence are being withheld from publication.

The Attorney-General conferred today with his assistants on the subject of election frauds generally. He is giving the subject personal attention and under his direction special agents of the department are at the call of every District Attorney desiring assistance. So far, complaints have reached the department of alleged frauds or contemplated frauds affecting candidates for office in Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, New York and Missouri.

The Department of Labor has issued orders designed to prevent the use of the Federal employment service in assisting in the migration of large numbers of negroes from the Southern states. Assistant Secretary Post said the department had no intention of becoming a party to schemes which might be devised for the purpose of lowering wages or breaking labor strikes.

### Higher Wages Are Promised.

At the same time it was made clear that in cases where investigation proved that skilled laborers were being hindered because of lack of unskilled assistants and where there was legitimate work for negroes, efforts would be made to secure them, just as any other class of labor would be secured.

Much information regarding the migration has been collected. In the South complaint is made that the negroes are being taken North with promises of much higher wages and that, if this is continued, a serious shortage of labor may result. The Labor Department was represented today as feeling that any laborer is justified in going to that place where the wages are best and that the place he leaves can remedy the situation by raising the scale.

The American Federation of Labor, according to Secretary Frank Morrison also is watching the movement of negroes with the idea that "if it is not a scheme to get votes it is for the purpose of securing cheaper labor than is available at present."

Representatives of the Federation have been asked to observe and report on all large movements of negro labor.