

# NEGRO IMMIGRATION.

For political effect the department of justice affects to believe that the large migration of Southern negro labor to the Northern states is due to a political conspiracy to colonize negro voters in doubtful states. The department of labor, with ~~the same idea in view~~, but taking a different tack, insists that the negro is being imported for the purpose of breaking down the labor market and bringing about lower wages.

All of which, of course, is rank nonsense. The migration of negro laborers from the South is a purely economic matter and is due to one cause and to one alone, the growing scarcity of labor in all manufacturing communities, due to the great amount of work to be done and to the shutting off so largely of immigration from Europe. The higher wages paid on every line of labor in the North naturally and inevitably invite the migration of the more intelligent negro laborers of the South to take advantage of opportunities for the first time extended to them on any large scale.

Practically all of this immigration has been within the past few months. All of the states to which this labor has gone have election laws and registration laws limiting the franchise to registered voters who have been residents of the state for a year. Wholesale frauds on these laws are impossible, save through the gross corruption of public officials and the utter inadequacy of the members of an opposition party to look out for their own interests, none of which conditions is likely to prevail in any doubtful state.

The department of labor has joined in the movement to check the migration of negro labor, not for its pretended purpose of assisting in keeping up the high wages, but for the political reason that the loss of the negro labor, which has been kept in a semi-servile condition in many Southern states, is a serious thing to the cotton planters, who elect the members of congress who control national legislation whenever the Democrats are in power.