

IDLENESS AS CAUSE OF RACE RIOT.

"Make the negro work" is the remedy for outrages by blacks, suggested by a number of Southern newspapers. Laws against vagrancy and idleness should be enforced, they say. In this way they believe that vicious tendencies will be curbed.

"In nine cases out of ten," remarks the Dallas News, "the negro who assaults women is the negro who does not work, but who is supported by a female admirer from the kitchen of her white employer, or a negro who roams through the country in search of localities where he can the most easily procure something to eat. . . . Scourge the loafer to labor."

And likewise the leading spirit of the white mob, the Dallas paper says, is the white idler. A meeting in Atlanta of reputable white and black citizens, declared that "the worst elements" of both races were responsible for the cause of the outbreak and its results, the worst elements being of the non-laboring, vagrant classes.

"There can be no security," says the Dallas News, "where there is a professional idle class," adding:

It must be destroyed or it must be driven away if there is to be protection of life and property. For it refuses to recognize the right of the man to that which he works for and creates. It will beg, and if the results of begging are unsatisfactory it will steal. If it is obstructed in its thieving it will murder. With no respect for the rights of property, it quickly reaches the point where it has no respect for life. And having come to this place in the lowest scale, riot, bloodshed and murder are attractive to it, and in such it is always the most prominent element, as it is charged to be in the deplorable affair at Atlanta.

The Augusta Chronicle takes this same view, saying: "Make the loafers work and trouble is obviated." Do away with the idlers, it remarks, and the better class of negroes remain. "These latter are not the ones who make trouble. It is the loafing, drunkard class of negro men and negro women who make the police do extra work and entail so great expense on the community through court costs and jail expenses. It is among the negroes principally that the chain gang is recruited. . . . When the better class of colored people and the better class of white people are earnestly at work together for better conditions and better understanding, they will surely attain them."