

EFFORT TO ABOLISH RACE LABOR IN COTTON FIELDS BLOCKED

Foreign Workers Opposed

Organizations Protest Importation of Porto Ricans in Southwest.

By GEORGE PERRY.
PHOENIX, Ariz., Sept. 9.—(By Coast News Bureau).—The situation in the cotton production of the Southwest has reached the critical point of choosing between using Black American labor or the less efficient Mexican labor from our sister Republic. A bumper crop in Texas, Mexico, Arizona and California of harvest hands is secured. The Chinese, Japanese and Hindus heretofore the source of labor supply, have

been driven away through the strict enforcement of the anti-alien land law. The Mexican is unavailable in sufficient quantities due to the United States immigration laws. The influx of Black American labor is undesired for fear of attracting a parasite class of migratory labor whose permanent abode will be undesirable. Free from Oriental domination, yet unable to recruit sufficient white farm hands to make up the deficiency, the farmers find themselves faced with a problem more serious than ever.

Seeking Several Solutions.
A solution in the Mexican situation is being sought through an attempt to set aside the present immigration restrictions for the purpose of allowing contract Mexican labor to be imported across the border under the condition that they are to be returned after the harvest. A bill to this extent will be introduced in the next California legislature.

Protest Porto Rican Entry
Another solution is the attempt of the American Cotton Growers' Association to import 1,500 Porto Ricans and their families into the Salt River Valley district near Phoenix, where there exist a shortage of 2,500 cotton pickers. Claiming that the Porto Ricans being classed as American citizens are not barred by Federal immigration restrictions, a shipload of Porto Ricans are being brought in by the Association. They are expected to arrive at Galveston within a short time.

Labor Organizations Protest.
The labor organizations of the Southwest have filed in Washington, a complaint against their intention, claiming that their use in the Southwest cotton fields will lower the wage-scale to the point where American labor could not compete. This same objection has applied to the use of the Chinese, Japanese and Mexican together with the fact that they are unassimilable, and retard the commercial, industrial and educational growth of the respective communities by holding back improvements of all kinds, as well as withholding their money from general circulation.

Black Americans Solution.
The bankers, railroads, merchants and moneyed interests are gradually reaching a consensus of opinion that the only real solution to the problem is to populate the various communities in the cotton districts with a thrifty selected class of producing Black American farmers. The Black American of all the laboring classes available in sufficient numbers is the only class that

measures up to the Southwest's requirements. The only objection to him is that he is Black. Nevertheless, Black Americans are assimilable to Americanism and the white man's standard of living. They maintain the same standard of morals and living as conducive to the highest type of American civilization. As shown by the 100,000 or more who now reside in this Southwest territory, the Black American maintains highly organized bodies of Christian worshippers, he has hundreds of good, modern comfortable homes, his household is maintained on an independent and self-respecting basis; he is engaged in business; his money is constantly in circulation; and as a wage earner he is to be found in thousands of homes, factories, banks and business establishments, occupying positions of respect and trust without detriment to the prevailing local standard of labor conditions and wages.