

“South Loses Power by Migration”—Blease

SOLID SOUTH'S POWER DOOMED BY MIGRATION

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Aug. 30
— The Migratory Movement has cost the state of Georgia more than \$2,000,000 in a single year!
The migratory movement has cost the south a decrease of almost 500,000 people in population.
The migratory movement has caused federal authorities to investigate the stories of peonage and to urge a federal law to abolish lynching and the use of the mask.
But more potent, more powerful and more dreadful (to the white south) is the realization that with the departure of the Negro goes the political power of the South.
Speaking on this phase of the question, an entirely new angle is given it by Cole Blease, one-time Governor of South Carolina.

South's Power Doomed
“The Night of the Solid South is a Fading Glory.”
Standing before an audience of five thousand white and colored citizens of Columbia, S. C., Cole Blease, one-time Governor of the State, at a conference for the discussion of inter-racial relations, threw a bomb shell into the calm contentment of the whites by telling them that the scepter of political power was about to depart from Judah. Taking the question up in detail, he told them how they had enjoyed representation in the lower house of Congress upon the basis of population. In a state where the two races were nearly equal in number, like his own, the whites had all the representatives, though the blacks furnished half of the population on which they were apportioned. With migration going on, and thousands and tens of thousands leaving, the 1930 census will find an entire shift of population, the South having less and the North having more people. The result will be less Southern Congressmen and more Northern.
Cole Blease, in all his terms of office, made nationally famous by his spectacular acts, such as the release of many hundreds of prisoners from the state penal institutions, never made such a sensation as this speech. Secure for half a century in political power, regardless of shifts of opinion elsewhere in the country, Southern democracy has wrapped its mantle of power about it and stood to be catered to. Its certainty of continued victory has made it the leader of even the National Democratic party. It has imposed its will upon the National party through its unity in caucus. And now, as related by Cole Blease, the boll weevil and the migration of the Negro have stripped off the robe and shown it to be just a big imposing shell, covered over with pretense and supported on the skeleton legs of shifting population.
It was a sober meeting when he had concluded. The Negroes realizing that citizen rights and even human rights were furthest from the thoughts of the leaders of their states, could see no end to the march northward. The whites, seeing the end of the benighted ignorance of Negroes about conditions elsewhere than in the place of their birth, knew no concessions now, not even actual equality before the law, would stop the stampede, and realized that at last their political system had been weighed in the balance and found wanting, and that even now the enemies' forces were thundering at the gates of their moth-eaten aristocracy. “You may think what you please, you may do what you please,” concluded Blease, “the day of the political South is almost done!”