

lanta to take out a \$2,000 mortgage on his place. Atlanta bankers told him his property was all right except its location—they didn't care to do business in such lawless parts. The cashier of the bank at Cumming corroborated that story and stated frankly that Forsyth County has no credit with the outside world. Secondly, the farmers with Negro tenants lost a very large part of the cotton crop the year of the exodus because they could get no one to pick it. Mr. Gober told me he lost over \$5,000 in money and supplies advanced to Negroes against the crops they were prevented from gathering, and other landholders of course lost accordingly. Thirdly, the district is still losing to the extent that land owned by Negroes who have been unable to sell at any figure lies idle, growing up to weeds as their empty cabins decay. This last is of course an insignificant item in the counties' resources. And finally, they feel the judgment of the commercial world in the increased insurance rates which are demanded. In Cherokee County, since the fires of last month, the editor of the Cherokee *Advance* stated, the insurance companies have refused to issue policies on any terms.

It is now easy to understand the explanation for the Cherokee County fires of December 5 which is currently accepted in both Forsyth and Cherokee Counties by the average man one talks with. Gus Coggins is one of the largest employers of Negro labor in the county, having taken on several of the Forsyth fugitives. Sherman and Stringer both employed Forsyth Negroes, and both have stated that they received warning to get rid of their colored help. Parks Bates and one other Negro who thought it time to move again were fugitives from across the Forsyth line. It looks decidedly as though the crackers thought it a good time to kill two birds with one stone by driving out the Negroes with fire while running off some valuable mules under cover of the confusion.

The proceedings of the Circuit Court which opens in Canton on February 1, may show the fires to have had no connection with Negro baiting but the general opinion is that they marked the beginning of an effort to drive the Negroes from Cherokee which died after twenty-four hours when the gang saw that the Governor and the sheriff intended to get them if possible.

GOOD WORDS FOR THE CRISIS

I wish to state that I am inexpressibly well pleased with your grand magazine and I use every opportunity to tell others so. After reading your editorial of November I am all the more encouraged in my regard for its triumph and the general success of the association of which it is such a representative organ.

Yours truly,
Tom Clement, Los Angeles, Cal.

You will find enclosed my personal check for the renewal of A. B. McKnight's subscription. He has been in Laguna, P. I., for the past eight months but is now returning to the United States. As I look for the return of my boy, so I look for the Crisis. That is my criticism.

Yours,
H. D. McKnight, Sumter, S. C.

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