6. Such a law by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts would be class legislation of the most insulting, degrading and prejudicial kind, in that it would declare all Negro blood to be physically tainted and Negroes to be inferiors.

Michigan: An anti-intermarriage bill introduced in the Michigan Legislature early in the session remained pigeon-holed until the adjournment of the Legislature in May. This bill discriminated not only against Negroes but against Japanese, Chinese and Turks. The N.A.A.C.P. branches worked quietly and efficiently. Although petitions were being received by both houses urging the passage of the measure into the last week of the session, the Judicial Committee of the Senate did not permit the bill to come up. Such a measure has been introduced in every session of the Michigan Legislature for the past eight years and each time it has been defeated.

New Jersey: Through the activity of the New Jersey branches of the N.A.A.C.P. an anti-intermarriage bill, introduced in February, died in committee.

Rhode Island: In Rhode Island an anti-intermarriage bill was introduced in the General Assembly on January 27. On the following morning Mr. William P. H. Freeman, President of the Providence Branch, with Mr. James M. Stockett, Jr., waited on the Chairman of the State Republican Committee, protesting against the bill. Though they were told not to worry, they went ahead with plans to prevent passage of the measure. They had the hearty support of a number of state senators, especially of Senator Alberic Archambault. The bill was blocked.

DISCRIMINATION

Two forms of discrimination were met by special activity on the part of the Association in 1927. The first of these was brought to light during the Mississippi floods, when it was made known not only that relief agencies were being used to help perpetuate the peonage practiced on the delta plantations, but that Negroes were being grossly discriminated against in the administration of supplies and relief.

The Assistant Secretary, sent to investigate, found that Negroes were being prevented from leaving concentration camps without the consent of their landlords; that attempts were being

Made to charge Negroes for relief administered; and that some Negroes preferred to escape from refugee camps and go without shelter, food and clothing rather than be returned to the plantations from which the flood had driven them.

The Assistant Secretary's findings were made the basis of a report to the authorities in charge of flood relief.

A second investigation made in October by Misssubstantiated the findings of the first investigation and brought to light many details which were published in the Crisis.*

During the height of the flood emergency, in response to requests from outside persons for a distributing agency, the New Orleans Branch of the Association, under the leadership of Dr. George W. Lucas, volunteered to receive and did receive through the National Office and distribute donations for the Negro sufferers from the flood in the sum of \$741.48.

Another form of discrimination fought during the year with conspicuous success in several instances was the long standing segregation in the Government Bureaus in Washington.

So early as 1913, in its annual report, the Association had said:

"The recent effort of the present administration to segregate its colored employees gave this Association a great opportunity to put its program on record, an opportunity it was not slow to seize... The campaign opened by our releasing on August 15... an Open Letter to Woodrow Wilson... This was followed by a series of meetings held by our branches all over the country. The Secretary was then sent to Washington to make an investigation and her report was printed and sent to the news services, 600 dailies, the colored press, secret societies, fifty magazines, to members of Congress, etc."

Since that time the N. A. A. C. P. has protested against segregation in the government departments, through letters to the President of the United States, through publicity, and otherwise. It was realized, however, that mere protest, to the President or in any other form, would have slight effect if the victims of this segregation were unwilling to give definite and specific information upon which a case could be built.

In 1923 the National Office tried to get at the facts of segregation in the departments through the District of Columbia Branch, and Mr.

^{*}January, February, March, 1928.