

*In the article below, an unidentified columnist describes the migration of African Americans. The article appeared in The Atlanta Constitution, which was one of the largest newspapers in Georgia at the time.*

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**Notwithstanding** there is some excuse, perhaps, for negro migration growing out of the fears which have been **engendered** by the actions of mobs, and the false stories of threats which emigration agents have fed them, the southern negro who is **lured** by their persuasion usually fares worse in the end, if he does not lose his life into the bargain.

It is a pitiful story that comes from Newark, N.J. . . . In a recent church meeting on the subject, reported in the *Newark Evening News*, Rev. O.M. Bonfield, pastor of a negro congregation is quoted as saying that –

Many of the newcomers are driven north by persecution in southern states as well as by the **lure** of high wages in the **munitions** factories. . . . These people in many instances need proper clothing to enable them to withstand the rigors of this climate: they need decent housing facilities. . . .

The northern idea of persecution in the south is, of course, a very exaggerated one; but we have to admit that in the work of the mob, at least, it has some foundation. It is a matter of common knowledge, however, that the honest and industrious negro gets along better and gets more out of life here in the south than he can anywhere else in the country.

The emigrants, and it is stated there are some 12,000 of them in and around Newark alone, working chiefly in the **munitions** factories, are in actual need of housing and clothing, which, with all the promise of big wages, they have not been able to procure. Nor is that the whole story. Many of them are dying . . . due to the unhealthy surroundings in which they are compelled to live. . . .

**Source:** The Atlanta Constitution, "*Penalties of Migration*," December 14, 1916.