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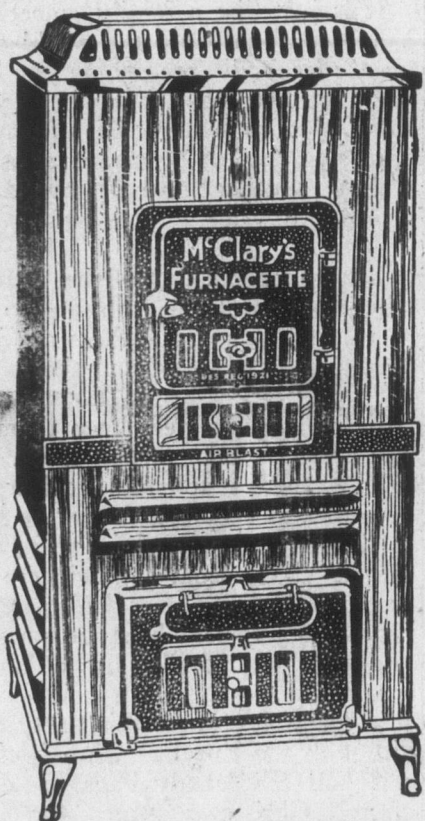
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London, Toronto, Montreal, Winnipeg, Vancouver, St. John, Hamilton, Calgary, Saskatoon, Edmonton; Liverpool, England.

Trend in Race Relations During the Past Year

(Continued from Page One)

with the rapid decline of lynchings in recent years.

Another significant development has been the growth of interracial interest among college groups. Scores of curriculum courses in race relations voluntary discussion groups, interracial student forums, the interracial message carried by colored speakers into many white institutions, the featuring of race relations in every summer student conference—these and other means are favorably affecting the attitudes of multitudes of students every year.

There is growing interest also on the part of religious bodies, many of which are working out and passing down to their organized millions programs of interracial study and activity. In one denomination alone more than 200,000 women are studying race relations at regular intervals and thousands of them are beginning to do something about it. This sort of thing is steadily leavening the lump with good will and Christian charity.

But what of the eddies and backwashes? Of these there have been two of menacing proportions—one in the South, the other in the North and Middle West. In the Southern states the only serious backset has been the upward turn in the lynching figures—sixteen in 1925 and twenty-odd in 1926. After several years of steady decline from a 40-year average of 103 a year to a minimum less than one-sixth as great, it is very depressing to have the figures begin to climb again.

However, the increase has not yet been great enough or general enough to indicate a permanent trend. No lynching occurred in North Carolina, Alabama, Louisiana or Oklahoma, and but one each in Georgia (which had a 40-year average of 11 a year) Arkansas (former average 7 a year), Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia. In the one case in Georgia 9 members of the mob have been convicted and sentenced to long prison terms, the leader for life. Even in Florida, which heads the lynching roll this year, a public conscience has been aroused and mobilized that promises to make things different in days to come.

Perhaps on the whole the most disquieting interracial trend of the year has manifested itself in the North and Middle West. There the incoming tides of Negro migration have developed serious situations which still await solution. Bombings and mob attacks on Negro property in Chicago, Detroit and other centers; the emergence of the separate school question in Cleveland and Dayton; efforts to restrict Negro residential areas in city after city, street clashes in New York, Brooklyn, Philadelphia, Beverly, N. J.—these are unhappy manifestations of a spirit the North did not realize it possessed. Perhaps they are the result of temporary maladjustment and will speedily pass as conditions become more settled. On the other hand, as migration continues, the conflict may become more general and acute. The possibilities are

serious enough to arouse deep concern on the part of both groups, and to stir their leaders to calm joint consideration of the situation and to co-operative effort to meet it.

Detroit Negroes Face Acute Police Situation

Robert W. Bagnall, Director of Branches of the N. A. A. C. P., on his return from a western tour, reports a serious police situation confronting the colored people of Detroit. Conditions are aggravated, Mr. Bagnall reports, by the fact that more than 60 per cent of the Negro workers are now out of jobs or doing part-time work.

"A case was brought to the branch on the night I met with the executive committee," reports Mr. Bagnall, "in which two police officers arrested two Negroes who were fighting, and while one officer was calling the patrol wagon, the other officer beat his prisoner over the head with his night club. The prisoner when attacked had his hands in the air, offering no opposition. After knocking the man to the ground, the officer, cursing, shot him several times, killing him. The officer then waved his pistol at the bystanders threatening to shoot them unless they moved back. One of the witnesses was a graduate of the University of Michigan and interne in the Douglas hospital. The Branch has referred the matter to its attorney and will seek to bring all available evidence before the inquest in order to obtain a warrant against the police officer, if possible."

Pickens Now Writing For Moscow Papers

New York, Jan. 21.—Letters have just been received by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 69 Fifth Avenue, from William Pickens, Field Secretary of the N.A.A.C.P., who has visited Russia on his European lecture tour.

Mr. Pickens states that he addressed an audience in Moscow including 22 Chinese generals, a number of Russian leaders and representatives of ten to twelve nations and races. The entire group, writes Mr. Pickens, was photographed at least 50 times, motion pictures being made of the speakers in action.

Among the Russian leaders Mr. Pickens has conferred with are Kalinin, sisters of Trotsky and Lenin, and prominent editors. He reports that "The Fire in the Flint," by Walter White, and "Bursting Bonds" and "The Vengeance of the Gods" by Mr. Pickens himself are to be translated into Russian, and perhaps put on the stage as well as made into motion pictures.

Mr. Pickens has written a comprehensive article on lynching during the past forty years, detailing the campaign conducted for 17 years against this evil in America by the N.A.A.C.P. This article is to be published in newspapers in Moscow, Berlin and Paris, writes Mr. Pickens, who has also written for Russian magazines on American race problems.

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