THE EXODUS OF NEGROES FROM THE SOUTHERN STATES.

ALABAMA AND NORTH CAROLINA.

By Tipton Ray Snavely.

The exodus of Negroes from the Southern States during the past several months has attracted more or less widespread attention. The diversity of opinions, however, which have been expressed in newspapers, periodicals, and elsewhere sufficiently illustrates the need of accurate information concerning the movement. The report given here contains the results of an investigation, the purpose of which was to secure such facts as could be obtained in regard to the various aspects of the migration from the States visited and to ascertain the possible means of checking it.

ALABAMA.

Aside from the recent migration, some Negroes have been leaving the State of Alabama for the past few years. It is true that they have gone in small numbers, so that no special significance was attached to the movement. Their going was largely due to the presence of the boll weevil and the consequent surplus of labor in the transition from cotton to other crops. The immense reduction in the cotton acreage resulting from boll-weevil conditions is, as will be seen later, one of the principal causes for the more recent exodus.

The recent migration of Negroes from the State has been a general movement. They have gone from practically all sections having a Negro population. In 1910 the total Negro population in the State was 908,282, and it is estimated that 75,000, or 8.3 per cent, of this number have emigrated within the past 18 months. This estimate, it is true, is a personal one. It is based upon the sales of tickets by railway passenger agents, records of which are necessarily incomplete; from the records kept by the licensed immigration agents; and from opinions of individuals. The latter, of course, are open to bias. It is given, however, after a careful investigation of these sources and is believed to be approximately correct.