Charleston, S. C., Bisbee, Ariz., and Philadelphia, Pa.

At Charleston, S. C., on May 10, United States sailors led a mob in a race riot until martial law was declared, scores being injured and at least one death resulting. At Bisbee, Arizona, on July 3, clashes occurred between local police and members of the Tenth United States Cavalry (colored) whose commander, Lieut.-Colonel F. S. Snyder (white) charged that local officials had deliberately sought to aggravate the Negro troopers. Five persons were shot. A race riot at a carnival in Philadelphia on July 7, resulted in eight arrests and one man being taken to the hospital.

Phillips County, Arkansas

Early in October, the report was spread broadcast that Negroes of Phillips County, Arkansas, had organized to "massacre" the whites. Federal troops were called in to suppress the "massacre." It is significant, however, that five whites were killed and some twenty-five to fifty Negroes. Among the Negroes killed were four Johnson brothers, one of them a successful dentist who owned a three-story building in Helena, another a prominent Oklahoma physician who had come to Helena on a visit. These men were returning from a squirrel hunt when they were shot by a mob after having been arrested (one of them had shot an officer when they discovered they were trapped).

FARCICAL TRIALS HELD

Hundreds of Negroes, reported by the press as 800, were rounded up by the federal troops and 150 to 200 of them detained. Within a month of the outbreak 94 Negroes were put on trial at Helena. The trials lasted only five days.

Twelve were condemned to death and 80 were sentenced to imprisonment from twenty-one years to one year.* Five of those condemned to death were tried in one proceeding, the jury being out six minutes when it brought in a verdict of guilty. The day before the trial counsel was provided for these ninety-four men by the court but these counsel did not consult with their clients, put no witnesses on the stand and did not address the jury in behalf of their clients. No change of venue was asked despite the excitement and prejudice which would exist in the county where this affair had occurred within so short a time before the trials; nor was any Negro summoned for jury duty despite the fact that there was a considerable number of qualified Negro citizens who could have been summoned. Further, in the case of the five men condemned to death and tried in a single proceeding, counsel did not ask for a severance and a separate trial for each defendant, as was their right under the law. Not only was the trial itself a case of railroading men who were prejudged guilty before they were tried, but the whole affair proved to be a gigantic miscarriage of justice.

This case has been fully written up in *The Nation* for December 6 ("Massacring Whites" in Arkansas—by Walter F. White) and in *The Crisis* for December, 1919 (The Real Causes of Two Race Riots.)

LURID CHARGES MADE

Early press reports charged that a plot had been hatched, led by a white man, U. S. Bratton of Little Rock, Ark., or one of his sons, for "social equality" and to take over the land of white men after the owners had been massacred. Investigation shows that a group of Negro farmers had organized to

^{*} Fifty-four in the first five days and 26 more within two weeks