secure settlements from land owners under the name of the Progressive Farmers and Household Union of America, which later became the Farmers and Labor Household Union of America, an organization incorporated under the laws of Arkansas. Literature of the organization reads that it is for the purpose of "advancing the intellectual, material, moral, spiritual, and financial interests of the Negro race." Applicants for membership had to answer under oath such questions as "Do you believe in God?" "Do you attend church?" "Do you believe in courts?" and "Will you defend this Government and her Constitution at all times?"

Sixty-eight Negroes, who alleged that they had not received settlements from the plantation owner on whose plantation they were living, had met a representative of Bratton and Bratton, attorneys of Little Rock, at Ratio, Ark. This meeting was for the purpose of employing this legal firm of white lawyers either to secure a voluntary settlement from the plantation owner or to bring suit in the courts, as the law firm had done in many other similar cases.

In the meantime, Negroes were meeting in a church near Hoop Spur, a small community, some ten miles away. Some firing took place and a special agent of the Missouri Pacific Railway, W. D. Adkins, was shot. Press reports say that Adkin's automobile broke down in front of the church and that while it was being repaired he and his party were fired into and Adkins killed. Negroes say, on the other hand, that this special agent and a deputy sheriff, who accompanied him, fired into the church.

A "Committee of Seven" consisting of the county judge, the sheriff, the mayor of Elaine and four others, some of them planters, took charge of affairs. The Governor came with troops and the hue and cry went abroad, "Negro insurrection!"

Move for New Trials

Since the trials and convictions, eminent Arkansas counsel have been secured for the convicted men and efforts begun to set aside the verdicts of the Phillips County juries and to secure new trials. The Arkansas Supreme Court has granted appeals in the cases of the twelve men condemned to death. Among the allegations made by counsel in asking for new trials, in addition to the failures to safeguard the Negroes' rights previously mentioned, were that torture of a "third degree" character was used to compel the men, while in prison and without counsel, to testify in accordance with the desires of the authorities and their prosecutors. Arrangements have been made to carry these cases, including those of the men under prison sentences, to the Supreme Court of the United States if necessary, in order to secure to them a fair trial under the laws of the land.

The Ku Klux of 1919

Colored men who have dared to speak out for the rights of the Negro have, in some instances, suffered at the hands of mobs, and have been ordered out of town not to return. We cite a few examples. At Macon, Miss., several leading white men, including a banker, a deputy sheriff, and a city marshal, took out representative colored citizens and gave them a severe beating. These men were accused of having advised Negroes to demand better pay for their work. One of the men was flogged for saying "Yes" and "No" to a white man. All the men, after the beating, were ordered to leave town.

The colored Mayor of Hobson City, Ala., a Negro settlement, having been threatened by white men with death unless he left town, gave up his position and came North. Two colored men, prominent in the Branch of the Association at