

Peonage in The Cotton Vale.

Editor, Daily Worker.—The management situation in extremely worse in the agricultural districts of California, especially the cotton lands. Many Mexicans, Chinese, and Negroes are working for what they can get. Some workers, taking advantage of the situation and the general distress, refuse to pay any money wages at all. They make arrangements with the land owner-shipper to allow the employer a limited amount of credit. This practically endures the worker since he is unable to get enough money together to leave the district.

Where such wages are paid, they are generally the very lowest figures possible. The competition for jobs is so keen that from \$1.10 to \$1.25 per acre is offered for a one-day day in the Palo Verde Valley.

Cotton pickers are urged to come into the valley in the fall. They are usually given just about enough work to keep themselves going until the cotton is harvested. When the cotton is gone (about February) a horde of Irish, crowded agricultural laborers is set loose for the spring planting. Hence, although the growers pay \$1.00 per acre for picking, the crop is shared for practically nothing, the labor expense being practically negligible.

—JOHN DUNN,
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