

Race Riot Danger Ever Present in Cities of North

By Carl W. Ackerman.
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East St. Louis, Ill., August 29.—
(Special.)—It does not matter how
anxious one may be to report only
the facts regarding the negro
problem in the industrial centers of
the north, one cannot avoid the con-
clusion of scores of men, white and
black, with whom I have spoken,
that as long as conditions remain
as they are race riots may be ex-
pected at almost any time. That
there is no disturbance today does
not mean that there will be no
bloodshed tomorrow. "What are
the conditions which may bring
about a repetition of the disgrace-
ful racial war started in East St.
Louis last year and repeated in
Washington and Chicago recently?"

This question was put to business
men, social workers, police officials
and negroes in Chicago, Detroit,
Cleveland, Indianapolis and here,
and the answer may be summarized
as follows:

First. The influx of negro la-
borers from the south during the
war which resulted in the over-
crowding of "colored districts."

Second. Lack of proper housing
facilities and the antagonism of
white citizens to an extension of
the "negro neighborhood."

Third. The general policy of ne-

ately following the Chicago riots
"patrol load." In other cities where
the police have not taken this dras-
tic step I was informed that the
police had warned all second-hand
stores and hardware shops not to
sell weapons of any kind to negroes.
This rule, I believe, is now in force
in Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, In-
dianapolis and here. This fact the
police departments have had to
face although the general public
has had no intimation of this policy
of the negroes.

125,000 in Chicago.

One must exclude, of course, that
large body of sensible negroes who
have lived in the north long enough
to rely upon police protection, but
this body of men and women present
no problem and they must not be
included in any discussion except
as far as their attitude and in-
fluence must be relied upon for aid
in solving the disagreeable ques-
tion. It is the uneducated and dis-
turbng elements of both races
which constitute the "problem."

The extent to which the negroes
have "invaded" the white districts
may be gleaned from some data I
obtained in Chicago. That city today
has a negro population estimated at
125,000, making the lake city rank
either third or fourth in point of
negro population in the United
States. Of this number about one-
tenth lives in the black belt. The

