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ARMED POSSE SEARCHED THE WOODS FOR BOB HOUSTON

Was Found Sleeping in Mr. J. W. Lathan's Barn and Leaped From Window—Details of the Hunt—Recognized by Cap Davis, Colored.

An armed posse numbering probably a hundred men searched the woods about a mile west and southwest of the city from five o'clock in the afternoon until late in the night Sunday for Bob Houston, the convict who on last Tuesday escaped from the State penitentiary at Raleigh, but without avail. The search was begun after Houston had been found sleeping in Mr. J. W. Lathan's barn and had leaped from the window.

About four thirty Sunday afternoon Mrs. Lathan went to the barn to feed her cow. Mounting to the loft she had stopped to gather an armful of shucks when she saw a negro asleep in the pile of shucks with only his head visible. Frightened, she raised an alarm which awakened the negro and he leaped through the window, exclaiming as he went "Don't scream, lady, I am leaving." Hurrying to the house she told her husband of finding a negro asleep in the shucks and a search was quickly instituted.

Mr. Lathan lives on Sanford street to the extreme part of the city. When the negro leaped from the barn window he started east up an alley which runs along side the barn in the direction of the city. Jim Richardson, colored, who happened to be passing on a bicycle, hearing Mrs. Lathan scream and seeing the negro running, gave chase. Houston followed the alley, it is said, until its intersection with College street. Here he turned to his right and ran up College street to its intersection with Lancaster avenue and again turned to his right. Mr. H. J. Hinson noticed a negro on foot running as if possessed of a devil and closely followed by another on a bicycle pass his home on Lancaster avenue just before five o'clock, but thought they were engaged in a friendly race. Some distance beyond Mr. Hinson's house Houston turned to his right into the fields and the negro on the bicycle was unable to follow him.

After securing arms Mr. Lathan and some of the neighbors entered upon the hunt. Leaving the road where Houston had turned they proceeded to search the fields and woods in the vicinity. In a stretch of the woods they came upon four negroes who upon their approach ran. It was thought that one of them was Houston. Mr. Lathan managed to keep in sight of one of them until he entered a barn on Hon. R. B. Redwine's farm, a mile or more from where the chase began. Cornering him in the barn several entered only to find that it was not Houston.

Meantime the officers had been notified and had arrived on the scene with Capt. B. T. Fletcher's two blood hounds. The dogs took the trail which they followed until they overcame a negro who was forced to climb a tree. But again it was the wrong negro.

As the news spread that Houston had been seen the crowd engaged in the hunt gradually increased. Every inch of the Stewart woods were searched but the quarry had departed.

It was thought that after entering these woods Houston must have turned to his left and crossed the Lancaster road some distance further down. Mr. Hayden Shepherd reports that he saw a negro stop at an old house in the field some distance from his home and light a cigarette. Mr. Shepherd was not near enough to positively identify the negro as Houston but thinks that it was, as the negro he saw was about Houston's stature.

A little after dark, Cap Davis, colored, was approaching Monroe on the Griffith road when he met a negro whom he positively identifies as Houston. He called to him to stop, without receiving a reply. He states that the negro seen by him was barefooted. This would lead one to think that the negro seen by Mr. Shepherd was Houston and that he continued across the fields until he came out on the Griffith road where he met Davis. Davis was well acquainted with Houston. When on trial Houston attempted to make it appear that some of the stolen goods found in his possession had been secured from Davis.

The search of the woods and fields proving fruitless, a member of the posse returned to Mr. Lathan's barn where the negro had been seen and upon examination found a pair of shoes and a small quantity of cheese and crackers. Deputy Sheriff Fowler identified the shoes as the pair worn by Houston when taken to the penitentiary. It was pointed out that Houston must have been sleeping in the barn for some time. It is located near the home of his wife. From information obtained one of the officers led to believe that Houston arrived in Monroe on a freight train Thursday night. The notice of his escape from the penitentiary did not arrive until Thursday morning.

Returning from the search a number of the posse searched the home of Will Houston, a brother to Bob. Will admitted that he had seen and talked with his brother the day before (Saturday). Houston has several sisters and a father-in-law living in the city and their homes were searched but without result.

About six o'clock yesterday afternoon the officers were notified that the negro had been seen near the pond which lies beyond the Bearskin cotton mill. A number of men were quickly collected and speeded to the scene in automobiles but upon arrival there could find neither hair or hide

of Houston. The spot where he was reported to have been last seen is a lonely one and would make an ideal hiding place.

Houston's criminal record is familiar to readers of The Journal. Howlings found in his possession were identified as ones belonging to Miss Hattie Bessley and stolen from the home of Mr. D. B. Snyder. How when his house was searched a pistol that had been stolen from the home of Mr. C. B. Adams, a watch that had been stolen from the home of Mr. M. C. Howie, a quantity of knives belonging to Mr. H. Q. McManus, and other things of lesser value too numerous to mention were found. It will be remembered that he was identified as the highway robber.

He was arrested on eleven different charges and sentenced to ten years in state prison. On February 4, he was carried to Raleigh to begin his sentence. Thursday morning a message came from the authorities at the prison stating that he had escaped Tuesday, March 4.

HOUSTON CAPTURED
Since the above was written information is received that Houston had been captured about a half mile beyond Mineral Springs about 12:15. He resisted capture at the hands of the posse which surrounded him, firing several shots at them, but no one was hurt. Several small shot fired from a shotgun by a member of the posse took effect in Houston's body but he was only slightly hurt.

A negro was found hiding in a stretch of woods beyond Mineral Springs and Chief of Police T. M. Christenbury was notified that it was thought it was the person who robbed the stores of H. A. Carter and the Winchester-Howey Company last night. Chief Christenbury told his informers over the phone to surround the negro and capture him. This was done and it proved to be Houston, who resisted capture as above stated.

When captured he had in his possession a high grade pistol which had been stolen from the store of Mr. H. A. Carter the night before, about ten pounds of money in nickels and pennies, several razors, a suitcase, a quantity of matches and snuff, a pair of overalls. All of which is supposed to have been secured from the stores of Mr. H. A. Carter and the Winchester-Howey Company which were robbed last night.

An entrance was effected to the Winchester-Howey Company by removing the sash from a window in the front of the store and prizing off an iron bar. The cash drawer was looted of its contents and an unsuccessful attempt was made to break open the safe. Its combination and hinges were beaten off and the safe so badly damaged as to be worthless. No particulars regarding the robbery in the store of Mr. H. A. Carter, whose pistol was found in Houston's possession when captured, have been secured.

Special Officer L. C. Robinson happened to be going to Van Wyck this morning on the eleven o'clock train and when news of the capture of Houston was received the posse was notified to give Houston into his custody. When the train reached Mineral Springs this was done. It is understood that Mr. Robinson will bring his prisoner back to Monroe on the six o'clock train this afternoon.

Among those in the posse at Mineral Springs who made the capture were Messrs. Robert Winchester, Tom Coan, Arthur Coan, Bob Taylor, Mark Winchester, William Godfrey, Tom Long, Aaron Helms and Claud H. Hines. These were all the names that could be secured as there was not sufficient time before The Journal goes to press.

From the robberies at Mineral Springs last night it is thought that Houston must have decided to leave the county after having secured money and other necessities for the trip. News that he had been captured caused considerable excitement in Monroe and no doubt because of it many a nervous person will sleep better tonight.

Hands and Pockets.

This is the story of a soldier who put his hand in his pocket to deceive his superior officer, and was cited in orders for bravery for doing so. His name is Ellsworth O. Terrill and he is a corporal. When he went over the top in the vicinity of Hagenback, Alsace, France, on August 21, 1918, he had his right hand in his pocket. In his case he did it to hide something, but he was discovered in the act, and for the offense he now wears the Distinguished Service Cross, given by General Pershing.

Corporal Terrill's hand was mangled and torn by a piece of shrapnel. He knew very well that if his Sergeant had seen that injured hand he would have lost his part in the counter attack which was then going on, so he stuck it in his pocket, and dauntlessly went over the top throwing hand grenades at the retreating enemy with his left hand.

Suppose we think of Corporal Terrill, when we put our hands in our pockets for the Victory Liberty Loan. Many hands will be put deep into pockets and withdrawn empty. Other millions will go deep to bring out savings and then pledge future earnings to make the heroism of men like Terrill worth while.

When the time comes for us to put our hands in our pockets to answer the call of our government, we should forget our excuses and remember the hand that Corporal Terrill stuck in his pocket.

To do the right thing is the thing to do, without the smallest reference to oneself.—E. Clinton.

WILLIAM H. TAFT SAYS DEFEAT OF LEAGUE UNLIKELY

Asserts Resolutions of Senate Does Not Imply the Covenant Will Fail of Ratification, As It Will Probably Be Materially Changed.

William H. Taft, writtinf for the Washington Post, says that failure of ratification of the altered League of Nations covenant would indefinitely delay peace. We quote his article as follows:

The Senate resolution, moved by Senator Lodge and supported by 37 senators, has been hailed as an indication that the covenant of Paris is not to be ratified. It may perhaps bear this construction, though its declarations do not necessarily imply this. It declares that the sense of the Senate is against the acceptance of the present covenant. It should be borne in mind that the present covenant is merely a report from a committee of the conference, signed by the representatives of the fourteen nations who are detaching the present peace to Germany. It now comes up in the conference for discussion, revision and adoption. Undoubtedly the covenant needs revision. It is not symmetrically arranged, its meaning has to be dug out and the language is ponderous and in diplomatic patois.

The form of the covenant is explained by the fact that it is a compromise. France has been struggling for a league which should have more teeth in it, should be a more complete organization with an international police, completely formed and constantly on duty, under orders of a league commander to meet any emergency involving the action of the league. So far as the United States is concerned it could not furnish forces for an army of this kind, to be ordered by a league official war without a formal declaration of war in each case by our Congress, and its authority to use the forces for that purpose. We may assume that there was the same difficulty with other nations. Nor is the existence of such a police force necessary.

France had in mind an attack by Germany upon her, like that made in the war just ending. Not only did France not succeed in getting the international police force, but she did not succeed in securing a fixed and definite obligation on the part of the nations of the league to furnish military forces to protect the covenants of the league.

The only clear, positive obligation of the members of the league is to levy a boycott on the outlaw nation. The executive council recommends the amount of military force each nation should furnish, but it seems to be left to the nation to follow its own judgment in this regard, and not to declare war at all, if it deems the boycott all that it ought to do under the circumstances. This part of the covenant might be clarified.

The covenant should also be more definite as to when its obligations may be terminated. It should be more definite by a larger reservation of the Monroe doctrine. There are other ambiguous phrases. One of these, for instance, is in respect to the executive council. Will it need a unanimous vote, or will a majority vote be sufficient where there is no specification.

The view of the senators that peace should be first negotiated and then the question of the league of nations should be taken up in a more leisurely way, cannot of course control Mr. Wilson. He believes, as many do who know the European situation, that the league is essential to the treaty in order to make the treaty practical and effective. Almost the first vote of the conference was that the league should be an integral part of the treaty. We may, therefore, anticipate that it will be, as it ought to be.

Mr. Wilson will, therefore, return with the signed treaty having the covenant in it, and with its threads running through all the articles of the treaty. It will thus be difficult by amendment to strike out the covenant and leave anything of the treaty of peace. If, however, the Senate insists on amending the treaty by striking out the covenant it will be indefinitely postpone peace, the immediate consummation of which it now declares to be of the highest importance.

When Mr. Wilson sends the treaty to the Senate with the covenant in it, therefore the situation will be very different from what it is now. The covenant will probably be changed to meet many of the reasonable objections that have been made. The European countries are doubtless quite willing to consent to them. They have a deep interest in securing for the league the prestige and power of the United States, as well as the advantage of its disinterestedness and vital democracy. They are anxious to secure the assistance of the United States in order to maintain peace in Europe. We may be sure they are entirely willing to leave to the United States and other American nations the policing of the western hemisphere until such time as an American power shall seek the assistance of European powers to meet emergencies on this side of the ocean.

The friends of the league are not discouraged over the question of its ultimate ratification. They sincerely hope and believe that with the changed relations of the Senate to the treaty and with the changes in the covenant, a sufficient number of Senators may be secured to take this great step forward toward world peace.

AMERICAN MERCHANT CRAFT PLAYING THE SEVEN SEAS

Products are Being Carried to Far-Distant Ports for First Time in Many Years—Fleet Represents One-fifth of World's Tonnage.

For the first time since the days of the famous "Clipper" ships, American merchant craft now are plying the seven seas, carrying products of the United States to the farthest corners of the earth and bringing home both essentials and luxuries.

The shipping board announced today that the American merchant marine fleet, built up under the spur of war's necessity, now represented nearly one-fifth of the entire sea-going tonnage of the world and comprised 46 per cent of all ships clearing from United States ports, as compared with 9.7 per cent before the war.

Trade routes not traversed by American craft for more than 50 years once more are invaded, with new routes established to China, Australia, New Zealand, India, the Dutch East Indies, the west coast of Africa and ports on the Mediterranean. Ships flying the Stars and Stripes also are running regularly to South America, Great Britain and continental Europe, as well as Canada and Mexico.

The fleet now engaged in overseas commerce consists of 351 freighters, 84 freight and passenger vessels, 71 oil tankers, 230 sailing vessels, and 16 miscellaneous ships, aggregating 1,961,239 gross tons. Of this total, 406,528 gross tons are employed in transatlantic trade, 315,925 tons in trans-pacific trade, 402,721 tons in South American trade, 761,252 tons in Caribbean and Mexican trade, and 76,914 tons in Alaska and Canadian trade.

When the army and navy return to the shipping board the 353 ships with which they are operating the commercial fleet under the American flag, the tonnage will be increased by 1,873,251 gross tons, making the total 3,834,750 gross tons, with many hundreds of thousands of tons building or under contract.

HOBOES STOP FREIGHT TRAIN NEAR WINGATE

Applied Air Brakes—Traffic Held Up Some Time—Arrests Made in Consequence—Three Go To Roads.

Hoboes are supposed to have applied the air brakes on about forty-five freight cars on an extra train near Ray's Fork creek west of Wingate about eight-thirty Sunday night with the result that a draw head was pulled from one of the cars and traffic tied up for some time. The opinion was expressed that the hoboes probably intended to rob the train which was loaded with merchandise.

The train had crossed Ray's Fork creek coming in the direction of Monroe when the conductor remarked to engineer Horton that something fell out of that car back there. He had hardly spoken these words when the air brakes were applied and the coupling of one of the cars parted. Investigation disclosed that the brakes had been applied by turning a rod on the sixth car from the engine. When the rod was turned it applied brakes on the other forty five cars in the rear of it.

The parting of the coupling necessitated the bringing in of the six cars next the engine to Monroe and returning for the forty-five left standing on the main track. Regular freight number 85 following the extra on which the brakes were applied was held up by the cars.

When the crew arrived in Monroe with the six cars Mr. L. C. Robinson, special Seaboard officer, accompanied them back for the other cars, where upon arrival they found about ten men, supposedly hoboes, standing near the cars. When the cars were coupled and started back one of the men, who later gave his name as R. E. Hudson, climbed aboard to beat his way to Monroe and was placed under arrest.

Some time later Clarence Meeks and Archie Leathers, who Officer Robinson states resembled men seen around the freight train, were placed under arrest on a charge of loitering around the depot here.

Arraigned before Recorder Lemmond yesterday morning, they denied having anything to do with the applying of the brakes on the train. Recorder Lemmond required them to sign a bond for twenty-five dollars and to appear at a certain hour and show they had secured work.

Other tramps arraigned yesterday morning were Earl Branshaw and W. M. Pemberton, both young white men, and Dennis Hopkins, colored. They were sentenced to thirty days on the roads.

Hoover to Quit Relief Work in July.

That Herbert Hoover, the American food administrator, and lately appointed director general of the international relief organization, is to cease his relief work in the summer was indicated in a statement issued Saturday by Mr. Hoover concerning the wheat situation. He intimated that a majority of his co-workers also would return to private life.

COUNTY OFFICERS ON SALARY. SECRETARIES DANIELS AND BAKER WILL GO ABROAD

This is One Feature of Legislation Effecting Union County—No More Carnivals—Road Commission Will Manage County Highways—Cotton Platforms to be Built—Other Local Matters.

Quite a number of important measures affecting only Union county were passed by the legislature which adjourned today. Our representatives have been industrious and in addition to local measures which have been handled by them, they have had an important influence on general legislation. Union county showed up well in both houses and her representatives gained the confidence and respect of both bodies. Representative Redwine ought to go back two years from now and become speaker of the House.

Among the several items of local legislation are the following which are now laws:

All county officers have been placed upon salaries. The clerk of court will receive \$2,100 per year with an allowance of \$999 for his deputy.

The sheriff gets \$3,000, with an allowance of \$2700 for all deputies.

The register of deeds gets \$2,100 with \$200 for an assistant.

The chairman of the board of county commissioners will receive five dollars per day and the other members four dollars.

Game laws have been amended so that the shooting season for birds has been changed from thirty days to fifteen. The thirty day limit was set by the legislature of 1902 and has remained the law since that time. The present law allows shooting from the fifteenth of December to the first of January. Opossums can be hunted now only during November and December. The county commissioners are to appoint a game warden to enforce the law.

Street carnivals are prohibited from showing in Union county.

In order to encourage the breeding of pure bred cattle it is forbidden that any one shall charge a fee for service of a scrub bull in Union county.

In the matter of road legislation there are important changes. A county system has been provided with a commission of ten men from different sections of the county. These ten men elect an executive committee of three who will have active management. All other laws are repealed. The commission may take over the chain gang if it desires. Certain kinds of vehicles that do excessive damage to roads are forbidden. If the system is adopted by the county commissioners they may levy a road tax and a bridge tax, and may issue bonds to meet Federal aid on petition of a certain number of voters. The road law will be published in full by The Journal at an early date. Free labor is abolished.

The charter of Monroe has been amended so that five wards are created with an alderman from each. The trustees of the graded school are empowered to issue bonds within the school district.

The county commissioners and the aldermen of Monroe are authorized to build a cotton platform in Monroe on the fifty-fifty basis and the same right is given as regards the other towns in the county.

Hereafter the State and county primary will be held on the same day in Union county.

The county commissioners and the city of Monroe are authorized to contribute to the Ellen Fitzgerald Memorial Hospital, and also to the erection of a suitable memorial building to the soldiers of the county in the world war.

The fees of cotton weighers have been increased to twelve cents per bale.

Under the general bill a small increase in the fees of justices of the peace are allowed.

PEACE CONFERENCE DECIDES HUNS MUST HAVE FOOD

Hunger Is a Bad Counselor So Germans Will Have Food if in Return They Comply With Terms of the January Armistice.

Sunday's Associated Press dispatch from Paris says:

Stephen Pichon, the French foreign minister, in his talk with the correspondents today, discussed the bearing of the food situation in Germany on the speedy conclusion of peace. He said that the urgent need of supplying Germany was recognized by all the governments represented at Paris.

The hunger with which Germany was confronted, he added, was a bad counselor. No one could be dead to the inhumanity of continuing present conditions there, and the supreme council had resolved to send Germany all the food that country required.

On the other hand, however, this could not be done if Germany ceased working and did nothing to make certain that the expense caused to the entente countries and the demobilization should be met.

In signing the armistice last January, Germany agreed to hand over her commercial fleet, to be used in re-creating Europe generally, and Germany particularly. Yet, continued the minister, at a recent meeting at Spa the German delegates declared that the arrangement was unsatisfactory and that they would "absolutely refuse to part with their ships."

The allies were willing, Mr. Pichon went on, not only to supply food, but to accord credit to Germany, but Germany must first declare her willingness to live up to the conditions of the January armistice.

Party to Include Naval Experts Who Will Study Types of Ships—Absence of President and Heads of Army and Navy at Same Time Is Without Precedent.

Secretary Daniels and a party of American naval experts will leave for Europe next week to discuss with allied naval officials the best type of capital warships to be built in the future, based on the lessons gained in the great war. Because of conflicting opinions on this subject among American officers, the Secretary has been asked to submit a definite recommendation to the next congress in December.

It also was learned Friday that Secretary Baker would sail for Europe about April 1 to close up the business operations of the American expeditionary forces. He will be absent about six weeks, and probably will arrive overseas before Secretary Daniels returns home.

Thus President Wilson and the heads of both the army and navy probably will be away from the country at the same time, a situation which many officials said was without precedent.

The Naval Secretary will be accompanied by Rear Admiral Taylor, chief of the bureau of construction and repair; Griffin, chief of the bureau of steam engineering; Earle, chief of the bureau of ordnance, and Commander Foote, his personal aid. The party will be joined overseas by Admiral Benson, chief of the bureau of operations, who is attached to the American peace delegation, and Vice Admiral Sims, commanding all American naval forces in European waters.

While all deductions will be drawn from war experiences will be discussed in detail, the American mission will address itself particularly to the question of future types of capital ships. It has been the judgment of the navy general board, charged with fixing the military characteristics of new ships, that the United States should continue to build dreadnoughts of constantly increasing power and battle cruisers. This view is held by Rear Admiral Fletcher, chairman of the general board, and former commander of the Atlantic fleet.

The work of the women of the country is still greatly needed in order that the Red Cross may maintain its program of helpfulness to the liberated countries of the world.

During the war the knitted articles produced by the women of America were largely instrumental in providing adequate clothing for the men at arms. These articles are still needed for the women and children of the liberated countries in Europe, North Africa, France, Belgium, Serbia, Italy, Rumania, Greece, Montenegro, Palestine, Albania and other countries are to be furnished with the garments that are needed most acutely. In many of these places the textile mills have been destroyed and hence materials for clothing are absolutely unobtainable. This is particularly true of knitting mills; hence the knitted garments from the Red Cross will fill immediate needs. The small sweaters designed for children will be worn as soon as received, as the summer climate in continental Europe is such that these sweaters will be needed at once and during the entire summer in many places.

The long stockings for children, the shoulder shawls and mufflers for women are also required and the Red Cross will supply the necessary wool for the manufacture of these garments. Every Red Cross Chapter is urged to reorganize its knitting sections and also to keep busy with the making of refugee garments material for which will also be supplied on request.

Used clothing is also needed and the Red Cross is now conducting a campaign for these articles for the people of the same liberated countries as those needing the knitted articles. Shoes, too, are requested and while it is hoped that the articles contributed will be practical in character, almost any kind of clothing can be utilized except that made of very thin material or that which is torn.

Junior Red Cross members as well as all adult members of the Red Cross are asked to aid in this campaign which is one that means no financial tax on the people but merely an organized willingness to help.—Publicity Chairman.

Seventh Grade Examinations. Teachers who are expecting to hold examination for pupils in their school who are completing the seventh grade this year, will please make application to me at once for questions for entrance examination into the high schools. Many schools on account of the influenza will not be able to complete the grades, but there are some that will be able to do this, and such will please notify me at once if they expect to hold the examination.

R. N. NISBET, County Superintendent.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Services during the week:

Tuesday—Holy communion at 7 a. m. and evening prayer at 4.

Wednesday—Litaney at 7:30 p. m. Thursday—Morning prayer at 7; evening prayer at 4.

Friday—Evening prayer at 7:30. Sunday, March 16—Holy communion at 7 a. m. Morning service at 11. Sunday school at 3 p. m. and Men's Bible Class at 4 p. m. Evening prayer at 7:30.