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GEORGIA JURY RETURNS A VERDICT OF GUILTY

J. S. Williams, Who Is Alleged To Have Caused Death Of 11 Negroes, Sentenced

Covington, Ga., April 9.—John S. Williams, Jasper county farmer, was taken to Atlanta and placed in jail today to await action April 30 on his motion for a new trial which was made here today immediately after he was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment on a charge of murder. He expressed confidence he would finally be cleared of the charges.

The trial was the first one arising from accusations that Williams caused the killing of 11 negro farm hands after department of justice agents had started to investigate alleged peonage charges on his farm February 18, last. Three negroes, including Lindsey Peterson, whom he was specifically charged with killing, at the trial ending today, were alleged to have been brought into Newton county and drowned.

The other eight negroes were declared by Manning, negro farm boss, and self-confessed accomplice, to have been killed in Jasper county and inquiry by the grand jury with a view to indicting Williams and three of his sons is to open there Monday.

Williams appeared to take his conviction calmly but when his wife and daughters broke into sobs, their grief affected him and he struggled to hide his emotions as he sought to comfort them. He was allowed to remain in the courtroom with them for 10 or 15 minutes before being taken to Atlanta.

Date for trial of Williams on the other two indictments here has not been set nor has the court announced when Manning will be tried, although it was indicated the negro would face a jury before the regular term. Counsel for Williams hold that he cannot be tried on the indictment charging murder of Willie Preston, whose body was found chained to that of Peterson, but the state contends the indictment resulting from the death of Preston is a separate one and that he can be tried on it as well as on the third indictment charging murder of another negro, Harry Price. The defense contend the drowning of Peterson and Preston was one act.

NEGRO FARM BOSS TELLS OF PART HE TOOK IN KILLINGS

Covington, Ga., April 6.—Fear for his own life was the motive that prompted Clyde Manning, negro farm boss, to help kill 11 negro farm hands employed on the Jasper county plantation of John S. Williams, the negro sold the jury trying Williams in Newton county superior court here today. Manning asserted on cross-examination he did not want to help kill them, but was afraid to disobey Williams, who, he declared, was trying to do away with the negroes for fear they might testify regarding peonage conditions on the Williams farm.

"They wasn't bothering me," said Manning, a coal-black, short, stockily-built man of about 150 pounds, "and I didn't want to get 'em out of the way," but, he added, a few moments later, "Mr. Johnny said, 'It's their necks or yours.'"

The negroes met death shortly after federal authorities started an investigation of alleged peonage on the farm, six of them, according to Manning, being chained to rocks and thrown alive into rivers, and five knocked in the head or shot and buried on the farm.

Williams is on trial charged with the murder of Lindsey Peterson, one of three of the negroes alleged to have been brought into Newton county and drowned. The defense sought to confine the witness to his account of Peterson's death and to bar him and two federal agents from testifying to peonage conditions. Judge John B. Hutcheson overruled both motions and Green G. Johnson, chief counsel for Williams, indicated he would appeal on these grounds to higher courts in event of conviction of Williams.

"Well Drilled," Williams Comments. Throughout an hour of cross-examination the negro, who was indicted jointly with Williams, stolidly denied any pressure had been brought to bear on him to make him tell the story. It was only after long questioning by officers, he said, that he first told his story, but he denied he had been beaten, threatened with drowning or promised a light sentence if he would help convict Williams, as the latter's counsel intimated.

"I'm just telling the truth," Manning told the attorney, and added that he had not talked when first arrested "because Mr. Johnny told me not to," "Well drilled," was the only com-

ment that could be obtained from Williams after the trial. He had watched the witness closely throughout the day, and on one occasion smiled broadly when Manning described how, in his attempt to operate his employer's automobile, he had run into a mail box.

Huland, Marvin and Leroy Williams, sons of the defendant, for whom Governor Hugh Dorsey has asked indictments in Jasper county when the grand jury there takes up on April 11 investigation of the deaths of the eight negroes in that county, were not in court again today, but Dr. Gus Williams, the oldest son, flatly denied reports they had left the state. They probably will attend the trial later, he said.

The state put up four other witnesses besides Manning—two federal agents; Clyde Freeman, a negro farm hand, and a negro woman cook, and was expected to conclude its case by tomorrow night. The defense indicated it would conclude its testimony in about one day and that the case should go to the jury Saturday.

Manning Tells About Murders

Manning was the state's chief witness and during his testimony the courthouse was packed to capacity. Judge Hutcheson permitting all who could to stand in aisles and around the bar after all seats had been filled. The court asked for order and again today, as was the case yesterday, there was hardly a murmur from the crowd as men and women leaned forward to catch every word.

Manning seemed little affected by his recital, and rarely changed the inflection of his voice. He is unable to read or write, he said, and gave his age as about 29 years but did not know where he was born.

"When I first remember myself," he said, "I was in Jasper county."

During some three hours of direct examination the negro told in detail of the alleged murder of the 11 negroes, giving his description in simplest words. He was not asked to describe the alleged binding of the negroes who were drowned but told how they were thrown off the bridge by himself and Charlie Chisholm, another farm hand, whom he said he later helped Williams drown.

"They was stubborn and a-begging," Manning said of the death of Peterson and Willie Preston, "and me and Charlie rolled 'em over the bannister of the bridge."

These and the others killed, he said, had been lured away from the farm by Williams on the pretext that they were being taken to trains and would be allowed to return to their homes in Atlanta or Macon, where they had been taken from jail by Williams paying their fines. Peterson and Preston, he said, were bound together by a trace chain around their necks to which was fastened a sack containing about 100 pounds of rocks. Their hands were bound together by wire, he said. Williams was present and drove the automobile in which the negroes were carried, Manning testified.

Harry Price, another negro taken to be drowned, jumped off the bridge himself, Manning said, when he found there was no hope for him.

"Don't throw me over; I'll get over," Manning quoted Price as saying, and added that the negro, with a cry of "Lord have mercy," flung himself into the river.

Manning then went into details of the alleged murder of other negroes, declaring one known on the farm only as "Little Bit," was induced to help lift "Red Brown, another negro, over the river bridge railing on the pretext that Williams merely wanted to "scare" Brown. The latter, already weighted down, was dropped into the river, Manning said, and then he helped send "Little Bit" to the same fate.

Another farm hand known only as "Big John," was induced to help dig his own grave on the pretense that he was digging a well, and when the hole was about shoulder deep, Manning testified, Charlie Chisholm knocked the negro in the head and Chisholm filled the hole. Manning continued his testimony until he had described each alleged murder in detail. Efforts on cross examination to make Manning say he had been told by federal agents he was "guilty as Williams was" were met with denials by the negro, but he admitted he "lied to federal agents when he told them he was not farm boss. He also declared Williams was present at the killings when defense counsel sought to make him admit he was the instigator in the killings. He told defense counsel, too, that on one occasion he tried to "break away" from the Williams place, where he has worked for the last 14 years, but said, "Mr. Johnny jumped on me and I ain't tried it no more."

IMPORTANT NOTES ARE DISPATCHED BY HUGHES

They Are Sent To Britain, Japan, France and Italy

Washington, April 6.—The American government, although not a party to the treaty of Versailles, has surrendered none of its rights in the overseas possessions of Germany secured to the principal allied and associated powers by that treaty, the governments of Japan, Great Britain, France and Italy are informed by Secretary Hughes in similar notes despatched by the state department last Monday.

Specifically, the communications deal with the award to Japan by the supreme council at Paris, May 7, 1919, of a mandate over the island of Yap, an important cable center in the Pacific ocean, and Mr. Hughes says the American government "trusts that this action, which it must assume was taken under a misapprehension, will be reconsidered."

The notes are the first important diplomatic communications penned by the new secretary of state, and they make it plain that the change of administrations in Washington has resulted in no modification of the previous position of the United States that, as one of the principal contributors to the common victory over Germany, it must insist upon the exercise of its full rights in the disposition of the former German possessions.

Only one of the communications—that to Great Britain—was made public. Those to France and Italy are understood to be substantially the same but the state department, in giving out the note to the London foreign office tonight, explained that the note to Japan contained "additional paragraphs referring to previous correspondence between the two governments." It added that the correspondence with Tokio "is not made public at this time," but no official explanation was forthcoming.

Note Deals With Yap.

The note to Japan is in reply to one on the subject of Yap received from that country March 2. This communication and those to the other three allied powers were supplemental to previous notes on this subject from the United States to those governments and also to the council of the league of nations. The series was begun by Secretary Colby November 9, after the international communications conference had convened here to dispose finally of the former German cables seized by the allies at the outbreak of the war.

Asserting that "there could be no valid or effective disposition of the overseas possession of Germany, now under consideration, without the assent of the United States," Secretary Hughes points out that the treaty of Versailles does not "purport to secure to Japan or any other nation any right in the overseas possessions of Germany save as an equal right therein should be secured to the United States."

"On the contrary," he says, "article 119 of the treaty of Versailles provides: 'Germany renounces in favor of the principal allied and associated powers all her rights and titles over her overseas possessions.' It will not be questioned that one of the 'principal allied and associated powers' in whose favor Germany renounces her rights and titles is the United States. Thus not only the position of the government of Japan derives no strength from the treaty of Versailles or from and discussions preliminary thereto, but the terms of the treaty confirm the position of the government of the United States."

Referring to contentions previously raised that the supreme council at Paris, during the drafting of the treaty of Versailles, agreed to a mandate over Yap for Japan, Mr. Hughes calls attention to the fact that President Wilson had already made, in the previous meetings of the supreme council on three separate occasions, reservations regarding the Pacific island.

Quotes Mr. Wilson

The secretary then quotes from a letter from President Wilson to the state department, March 3, in which he declares that he had taken the position that the island of Yap should be internationalized for cable purposes. Mr. Wilson goes on to say that he never abandoned or modified this position and did not agree, May 7, 1919, or at any other time, that the island should be included in the assignment of mandates to Japan.

Mr. Hughes quotes the former President further: "As a matter of fact, all agreements arrived at regarding the assignment of mandates were conditional upon a

subsequent agreement being reached as to the specific terms of the mandates and, further upon their acceptance by each of the principal allied and associated powers."

Declaring that the United States "has never vested either the supreme council or the league of nations with any authority to bind the United States or to act in its behalf," the secretary of state says "this government must insist that it has not lost its right or interest as it existed prior to any action of the supreme council or the league of nations and cannot recognize the allocation of the island or the validity of the mandate to Japan."

Sweeping Reductions in Real Estate Values

Raleigh, April 6.—Sweeping reduction of property values in some of the counties of the state under the authority of the last session of the general assembly were made by county commissioners and appraisers, sitting as county boards of review yesterday, some ranging as high as 60 per cent on farm property. Several counties, including Wake, deferred action.

The Wilson county commissioners authorized a horizontal reduction of sixty per cent in value of farm property and thirty-three and a third in town property; Wayne county, thirty-three and a third per cent reduction in farm values and sixteen and two-thirds per cent in town property; Vance county, thirty three and a third per cent reduction. Duplin county commissioners authorized a revaluation of county real property.

The Wake County Commissioners and the County Board of Commissioners sitting as a board of review yesterday had the appeal of farmers and their representatives for a reduction of fifty per cent in the valuation of farm property in Wake county, considered the matter later in executive session and deferred action until today.

Page Has Plans Ready For 217 Miles Of Roads

When the state highway commission gathers here Monday to organize, Commissioner Frank Page will lay before the body plans for the immediate construction of 217 miles of "hard surfaced and other dependable highways" authorized under the Doughton-Connor-Bowie road law appropriating fifty millions of dollars.

Surveys have been made and plans are ready to let for this beginning on the 5,500-mile program contemplated by the general assembly when it gave its ok to the big bond issue. It is the prevailing opinion that the commission will recommend that three or four million dollars be bonded at once for beginning construction on short term notes in anticipation of the sale of the first ten million bonds.

In the western section of the state, Rutherford county will get fifteen miles of the total now ready for work to begin, this stretch representing the county's unfinished portion of the Wilmington-Charlotte and Asheville highway. Seven and one-half miles are in Jackson and seventeen in McDowell, both on the central highway while five miles in Mitchell is on the crest of the Blue Ridge highway. Macon county gets nine and a half miles of "non-descript" roads and Moore county gets eight miles on the Raleigh and Charlotte highway. Ten miles of the 217 will pass through Henderson and eight through Alleghany, the county of Doughton—"noblest Roman of them all."—R. E. Powell, in Charlotte Observer.

Memorial Trees Planted To Service Men Who Fell

Rocky Mount, April 9.—Memorial trees to Rocky Mount and Nash county service men who gave their lives in the world war have been planted around the Confederate monument at the entrance of Riverside park and will be dedicated with appropriate exercises on Memorial day, May 10, according to plans which are being worked out by Bethel Herbes chapter, U. D. C., which has charge of the project.

Ten trees have already been set out, and additional ones will be planted if the Daughters find out that the number of gold star men in the city and county require it. For this reason, as well as for the reason that the organization wishes to get the full names of the service men who made the supreme sacrifice so the markers may be secured for the trees, the relatives of these war heroes are requested to get in communication with Mrs. H. E. Brewer, acting chairman of the monument committee, and supply her with the desired information.

PROVISIONS OF THE N. C. BLUE SKY LAW

Commissioner Issues Letter To Supreme Court Judges Asking Their Co-operation

The "blue sky" salesman has been seemingly a necessary evil in North Carolina, and we doubt very much whether or not his day has yet passed. However, our general assembly has taken some precautionary measures to guard against his nefarious operations by passing a law regulating his movements. Stacy W. Wade, Insurance Commissioner, has also decided that the public must be made acquainted with the provisions of this law. Max Abernathy, writing from Raleigh the 5th, regarding this law, among other things, says:

"Insurance Commissioner S. W. Wade has written superior court judges in the state asking for their support in enlightening the public as to the Blue Sky law.

"Fearing that the state would again be invaded by salesmen who would seek to peddle stock of questionable value, the commissioner asks the support of the judges and all court officials in suppressing the growing evil. The letter to the judges follows:

"The sale of stocks of questionable value to our citizens, especially farmers, during the year 1920 was so general and the results so disastrous, that I am calling for every possible aid in an effort to curb the unscrupulous work of Blue Sky salesmen and give our people a correct view of these supposed investments.

"Since it is largely a work of education I trust I am not asking too much to request that you will in your charges to the jury take every opportunity to emphasize the need for a thorough investigation before purchasing these stocks.

"The recent legislature very much strengthened our law in reference to the sales of these stocks. The support of the officers of the courts and the court has in the past been gratifying to the department, and I desire to thank you for the part you have taken or may take in the suppression of this growing evil."

200 Bond Measures Passed By General Assembly

Two hundred bond issues, aggregating approximately \$100,000,000, two-thirds of which, or \$66,245,000, were for State purposes and the remainder largely for counties and school districts, were authorized by the 1921 session of the general assembly, according to figures compiled by W. L. Dowell, city clerk of Raleigh, says the News & Observer.

The bonds authorized for State purposes include \$50,000,000 for the construction of a system of hard-surfaced roads; \$6,745,000 for the permanent enlargement of the educational institutions of the State; \$5,000,000 for a "special building fund" to be loaned by the State to county boards of education to aid in the erection of school buildings, and \$4,500,000 of 6 1/2 per cent short term notes.

The authorized bonds for the counties, cities and districts are for a variety of purposes, with schools, roads and indebtedness having their credit 140 of the approximately 200 bond bills.

There were fifty road bills authorizing a total of \$16,775,000, or average per bill of \$335,000; 59 school bills authorizing a total of \$5,706,000, or an average of nearly \$97,000 per bill; 31 bills for indebtedness, either floating funding or refunding, which authorized a total issuance of \$3,837,000, or an average of something better than \$125,000 per bill.

Wilson Commissioners Reduce Valuation

Wilson, April 5.—A number of citizens from all parts of the county appeared before the county commissioners today and asked that the assessments made under the recent revaluation act be reduced.

The commissioners in response to these requests decided to order a reduction in the revaluation of farm property which included the property in town outside the city of Wilson 60 per cent.

JUDGE J. C. PRITCHARD PASSES AWAY AFTER A LINGERING ILLNESS

Death Of Distinguished Jurist Occurred Early Sunday

Asheville, April 10.—Federal Judge Jeter Conley Pritchard, of the United States circuit court for the fourth district, died here this morning at 6 o'clock, following an illness of several months. Death of the famous jurist was due directly to pneumonia, which developed Thursday and served to aggravate his previous physical afflictions. He was in his 64th year.

For more than 48 hours previous to his death he had been unconscious and while medical experts exerted every effort to save his life, the disease continued to fasten its grip. While his death was not unexpected this morning, it was a great shock to members of the family who had kept constant vigil at his bedside.

The funeral services will be held Tuesday afternoon at 3 o'clock from the First Baptist church of this city, of which the distinguished jurist had long been a leading member. The body will lie in state from 11 a. m. to 1 p. m. Tuesday. Rev. Dr. W. F. Powell, pastor of the church, will have charge of the services and he will be assisted by several other well known divines.

It is being planned here today to have all business in this city stopped for 10 minutes as the funeral services begin, in token of loving respect for the dead official.

Messages have been pouring in here today from all sections of the United States expressing sorrow at Judge Pritchard's death.

Judge Pritchard, son of Wm. H. Pritchard, was born in Jonesboro, Tenn., April 12, 1857, his father being of Irish and Welsh ancestry, and his mother, Elizabeth Browne, of Irish parentage.

Facing the problem of obtaining an education during the trying days of reconstruction in the south, and following the death of his father at Mobile, Ala., his mother instilled into his mind and heart those stern precepts of morality by which he has ever been governed. Judge Pritchard, yet in his teens, walked 35 miles across the mountains of east Tennessee and western North Carolina to Bakersville, where he arrived with 10 cents and nothing more save the clothes he wore. Eking out his subsistence through toil in the print shop by day, a desire to achieve fame prompted him to by night search such text books as were obtainable.

It was then that he received the attention of statesmen in North Carolina and identifying himself with the Republican party, began a career, the prominence and limitations of which were only stopped by his calling to a reward for service rendered humanity. Entering politics he was elected to the North Carolina house of representatives from Madison county in 1885 and again in 1887. Pursuing his method of home study until master of Blackstone and legal procedure he obtained law license in 1887.

In 1888 he was nominated as Republican candidate for lieutenant governor of this state. He then became the caucus nominee of his party for the senate of the United States, and was reelected to the legislature in 1891.

He was elected for a two-year term to the United States senate in 1896, which he served, and was elected to the six-year term in 1897 which he also served.

The establishment of the farmers alliance at this time and its coalition with the populist party brought about a change in the political situation and he succeeded in consolidating the faction into a cooperative campaign and the state went Republican.

On April 1, 1903, he was appointed by President Theodore Roosevelt to the Supreme court bench of the District of Columbia. Upon the death of Judge Simonton the President advanced Judge Pritchard to the judgeship of the United States circuit court for the fourth district, April 9, 1904, which position he held until his death.

As national committeeman and as federal judge and jurist received national note and in the campaign last fall was prominently mentioned for vice-president of the United States, and at the Republican national convention was given a complimentary vote.

He is survived by his widow, a daughter, wife of Thomas A. Rollins; three sons, Dr. Arthur T. Solicitor George M., and Attorney McKinley Pritchard, and a sister, Mrs. J. T. Harris, all of Asheville.