

NEGRO DESCRIBES KILLING OF BLAINE

Wholesale Murder Story Is Told in Court.

SIX DROWNED IN RIVER

Others Declared Knocked in Head or Shot and Buried on Farm in Georgia.

COVINGTON, Ga., April 6.—Fear for his 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 R. Williams, he told the jury today in the trial of Williams. Manning asserted on cross-examination that he did not want to kill Williams, who, he declared, was trying to do away with the negroes for fear they might testify regarding alleged peonage conditions on the Williams farm.

"They wasn't a-bothering me," he said, "and I didn't want to get 'em out of the way, but Mr. Johnny said 'If they don't work for me, I'll kill 'em or shoot 'em or bury 'em.'"

The negroes met death shortly after federal agents started investigating 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 Linsey Peterson, one of the negroes alleged to have been drowned.

Throughout an hour of cross-examination Manning, who was indicted with Williams, declared he had been brought to bear on him to make him tell the story.

Negroes Were "Stubborn."

Besides Manning, two federal agents, Clyde Freeman, a negro farm hand, and a negro woman cook, testified for the state, which was expected to conclude tomorrow. The defense indicated it would close its testimony in about a day.

Manning seemed little affected by his recital. He is unable to read or write, he said, and is about 29 years old.

During direct examination the negro told of the alleged murder of the 11 negroes. He said they were thrown off bridges by himself and Charlie Chisholm, another farmhand, who, he said, he later helped Williams drown.

"They was stubborn and a-begging," he said, "and Mr. Charlie rolled 'em over the bridge."

The men, as were the others killed, he said, had been lured from the farm by Williams, Peterson and Freeman, were bound together by a chain around their necks to which was fastened the sack containing about 100 pounds of rocks and their hands were bound together by wire, he said. Williams drove the automobile in which the negroes were carried, Manning testified.

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

Manning went into details of the alleged murder of other negroes, declaring one known as "Little Bear" was induced to jump from a bridge over the bridge railing on the pretext that Williams merely wanted to "scare" this negro. The latter, already weighted down by a chain around his neck, was thrown into the river, Manning said, and then he said he helped send "Little Bear" to the same fate.

Another negro known as "Big John" was induced to help dig his own grave on the pretense that he was digging a well. When the hole was about 10 feet deep, Manning testified, Chisholm knocked the negro in the head and he and Chisholm filled the hole.

Manning declared Williams was present at the drownings and had ordered the killings when defense counsel sought to make him admit that he was the master in the drownings. He said that on one occasion he tried to "break away" from the Williams place where he has worked 15 years, but said "Mr. Johnny jumped on me."

TETRAZZINI GETS OVATION

Transcontinental Tour of Great Soprano Is Success.

"Madame Tetrazzini is receiving the greatest ovation this year on her transcontinental tour. In a letter since she sprang into popularity as one of the world's greatest coloratura sopranos," reports W. H. Leahy, who is managing the tour. In a letter to W. T. Pangle, who is handling the concert of Tetrazzini and her company at the auditorium next Monday night, Mr. Leahy says her season has been by far the biggest, and the press comment after each concert has been unqualified in its praise.

"Madame Tetrazzini is looking forward to her Portland concert," says Mr. Leahy. "She has a vivid recollection of her last visit here in 1919 when every seat was filled and when she fell in love with Portland and with the auditorium and the musical people of your great city."

On her present tour Tetrazzini is accompanied by Francesco Longo, pianist; Max Gogna, cellist, and J. Henri Bove, flutist.

HIGHWAY IS LOCATED

(Continued From First Page.)

Oregon in the forest reserve in Josephine county has been made by the commission and yesterday the caves were put on the state programme. The commission still has a vast amount of work to dispose of before it concludes its present session. It will require at least today and tomorrow before clearing the deck and in making decisions on a number of matters which are in suspense.

Forestry to Help.

Highway business, by counties, yesterday follows:

Josephine county—Offer made that county will build standard road in connection with the Grants Pass-Escorted City highway to the forest boundary. Forest department offers to pay half cost from the boundary to the marble caves. State agrees to pay remaining half. To start this work this year the forest department will have to divert funds from the McKenzie road project and the state will do the same. This will delay completion of the McKenzie one year and will result in the McKenzie and Oregon caves road being finished at the same time.

Malheur county—Commission offers \$100,000 to the county. From this sum the commission wants the county to grade and rock the section from Vale to Vale on a 50-50 basis, and the unexpended balance of the \$100,000 the county can place on the Hogan-Jamison section of the John Day highway or on the Vale-Burrell

CITY COUNCIL VOTES FOR FASTER SEWER

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Mayor Baker and City Commissioners Barbur and Pier voted for the report, which in reality was the first step taken by the city council toward settling one of the bitterest improvement controversies which has raged in Portland in years.

City Commissioners Mann and Bigelow voted against the adoption of the report, although both held that there were not against the granting of needed improvements to the affected district, but did oppose launching into a project of this type without knowing first the final outcome.

APPLAUSE GREETED ACTION.

While the adoption of Mr. Barbur's report was greeted with prolonged applause from the members of the council, the fact that certain huge obstacles to the completion of the project were discussed during the afternoon brought some to the opposition.

The meeting had few serious tilts such as have marked previous hearings on the same subject. The defense set approach to a conflict came when Commissioner Bigelow demanded that George Rae, representing some of the opposition to the sewer, be sworn in, then inform the council whether he represented the Portland Railway, Light & Power company.

Some Time Was Lost While Mayor Baker Consulted With City Attorney Grant to Determine If the Council Had Legal Power to Swear Mr. Rae, and the Outcome Was a Decision to Swear Him.

At the Outset a Lengthy Opinion Written by City Attorney Grant Covering the question of the sewer project was read. This opinion, in substance, held that the city was legally empowered to assess the cost of a drainage system sewer which could not be used for sanitary sewage purposes for a number of years. The city charter, according to Mr. Grant, made no distinction between a drainage and a sanitary sewage system.

The city attorney also held that the city possessed legal power to empty the sewer into the Columbia river.

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