

Weaver On Trial for Arson---First Riot Case in Court

Southern Roman Catholic Bishop Declares Georgia Must Stop Lynching

The Rt. Rev. Benjamin J. Kelly States That Unless State Amends Ways Federal Bayonets Will Give Negro Protection Too Long Denied Him.

"Fair and Impartial Justice Is Not Meted Out to White and Colored Men Alike," Declares Savannah Prelate.

SAVANNAH, Ga., December 3.—The recent demand made for justice for the Negro by Rt. Rev. Benjamin J. Kelly, the influential Roman Catholic bishop of Savannah, in an able address is attracting wide-spread attention. The fact that he is a southerner, and holds rather tenaciously to the favorite doctrine of state rights makes his statement the more significant. He claims that unless Georgia accords the Negro justice federal bayonets will grant him protection. The Savannah prelate says:

"To those who know it is hardly necessary to state that I am a southerner. I have no word of apology to offer to any one for the views I hold and the stand I took in the war between the states.

"I had no doubt then, and I have none now, of the justice and right of the action of the southern states. I believe that their cause should have met success, and that then the South should have restored the Union on the basis of the constitution as understood and intended by the fathers.

"I warmly love the South and her story, her traditions and her ideals are very dear to me. I resent the unjust criticism to which she has been subjected, and none has been more unjust and untrue than that which represents the South as not being in heart and soul loyal to our great Union.

"But I fully recognize the absolute justice of one charge which is made against her, and I look with grave apprehension to the future, for no people that disregards justice can ever have the blessings of God, and we are guilty of great injustices to the Negro. The Negro was brought here against his will; he is here and he will remain here, and he is not treated with justice by us; nay, I will say that he is often not treated with ordinary humanity.

Georgia Stands First

"Look at the statistics in our own state. Georgia stands first in the list of states in the matter of lynching. Has there ever been a man punished in this state for lynching a Negro?"

"Lynching is murder, nothing else. Besides, is it not the fact that fair and impartial justice is not meted out to white and colored men alike? The courts of this state either set the example, or follow the example set them, and they make a great distinction between the white and black criminal brought before them. The latter, as a rule, gets the full limit of the law. Do you ever hear of a street difficulty in which a Negro and a white man were involved which was brought before a judge, in which, no matter what were the real facts of the case, the Negro did not get the worst of it?"

"Georgians boast of being a Christian people, and this year they are putting their hands into their pockets to raise millions to bring the light of Christianity as understood by them, to some less favored peoples in Europe.

"I would like to know if it is entirely compatible with Christian morality to treat the Negro as he is treated here? My belief is that the Negro and the white man were redeemed by the blood of Christ shed on the cross of Calvary, and that the Christian religion, absolutely condemns injustice to anyone, and forbids the taking of life.

"To me the murder of a Negro is as much murder as the killing of a white man, and in each case Christian civilization demands the punishment of the crime should rest in the hands of the lawfully constituted authorities.

No Lyncher Punished

"I have lived to see in Georgia an appeal made to the highest authority in the state for protection of the lives of colored men, women and children answered by the statement that the Negro should not commit crimes! The people of Georgia vest in certain officials the execution of justice. Yet no lyncher has ever been punished here, and I regret to state that public sentiment seems to justify the conduct of the officials.

"As I am writing these lines I find myself eagerly scanning the papers to

find the latest news from the strike districts. What is to be the result? Only a short time ago I was reading the strange news of the race riots in the northern and western cities. Thank God we have had none of those riots in the south. Do you know the reason? The only reason is the forbearance of the Negro. He has been treated with gross injustice; he has not retaliated. In all these cases gross disregard for law and order are either the cause or the direct consequence of those disturbances.

Ask Court Aid

"Are there not numbers of honest, law-abiding citizens of Georgia, who know that I am telling God's truth, and who will protest against this injustice to the Negro? Is there not a just and fearless man who will have the courage to announce that there shall be no difference in his court between the white man and the colored man?"

"Injustice and disregard of law and the lawful conduct of affairs are the sure forerunners of anarchy and the loss of our liberty, and we are drifting in that direction. I have pleaded for justice to the Negro because it is his due and is right.

"Both divine and human law are flouted when such injustice is done. The Negro will not stand asking for justice from Georgia laws or Georgia courts. He has been patient, and I hope he will remain so, but he well knows where the remedy lies, and he will very soon be found knocking at the door of the federal congress asking protection. He will merely ask the pittance of the life of himself, his wife and children. And congress will hear him.

"We waged successful warfare against federal interference with our elections because our friends of the north and west came to our aid, but we cannot expect any one to help when an appeal is made against us on account of our treatment of the Negro.

"If appeal to right, to justice, to Christian morality, do not avail to put a stop to this injustice to the Negro and protect him against the murderous lynchers, then Georgia will see federal bayonets giving him protection.

"All good Georgians should unite to stamp out this foul blot on our state."

PETITION WILSON FOR CLEMENCY

Boston Churches Request Stay of Execution of Sentence Imposed Upon Negroes by Railroad Methods at Elaine, Arkansas—Convicted Men Defending Legal Rights.

Boston, Dec. 3.—A resolution adopted at a union thanksgiving service of Negro churches and telegraphed to President Wilson, Attorney General Palmer and Governor Brough of Arkansas implores clemency for "the 11 members of our race sentenced to death for the Elaine riots, to be executed Friday, according to press reports."

President Wilson was petitioned to request Governor Brough to grant reprieves "pending impartial investigation" and Attorney General Palmer was urged to grant the petition so as "to afford time to inquire into the claim that the convicted men were defending property and legal rights."

Another resolution requested the United States senate to amend the railroad bill by inserting a clause "to abolish the greatest violation of democracy, the segregation of passengers for race, as applied to interstate travel."

DESERTER FROM U. S. ARMY LEADS YAQUI INDIANS

Douglas, Ariz., Nov. 29.—An American Negro, who deserted recently from the Tenth United States cavalry, is reported to be the leader of a band of approximately 300 Yaqui Indians, who raided the eastern part of the Montezuma district early this month.

PRESIDENT PRESENTS PERPLEXING PROBLEMS

Message to Congress Analyzes Grave Issues Facing Country and Makes General Recommendations of Legislation to Meet Same.

RADICAL AGITATORS ENEMIES OF COUNTRY

Great Reforms Can Be Accomplished Only Through the Orderly Process of Representative Government, Declares President.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 2.—General recommendations on legislation to combat the cost of living, labor unrest, radicalism and a readjustment of the nation to peace time basis were the features of President Wilson's annual message to congress.

The peace treaty, the president told congress, will be discussed in a separate message later, as will the railroad question.

A long portion of the message was devoted to a discussion of the condition and rights of labor. "A definite program to bring about an improvement in the conditions of labor" and "bring about a genuine democratization of industry" was recommended.

"The only way to keep men from agitating against grievances is to remove the grievances," said the president's message. At another point it declared "the seed of revolution is repression."

"The establishment of the principles regarding labor, laid down in the covenant of the league of nations," said the message, "offers us the way to industrial peace and conciliation. No other road lies open to us. * * * Governments must recognize the right of men to bargain collectively for humane objects. * * * Labor no longer must be treated as a commodity."

Two Sides to Right of Strike

"The right of individuals to strike is inviolate," continues the message, "and ought not to be interfered with by any process of government, but there is a predominant right, and that is the right of the government to protect all of its people and to assert its power and majesty against the challenge of any class."

The president was referring to the government's recent injunction against the coal strike.

The message closed with a pointed reference to radicalism and red doctrines and referred to "Russia today with its blood and terror" as a "painful object lesson of the power of minorities."

Radicals Enemies of Country

"There are those in this country," said the message, "who threaten direct action to force their will upon a majority. * * * It makes little difference what minority it is, whether capitalist or labor or any other class, no sort of privilege will ever be permitted to dominate this country.

Orderly processes, the message declared, were the only ones by which relief and reform could be obtained. "Those who would propose any other methods of reform are enemies of this country," the message said. "Let those beware who take the shorter road of disorder and revolution."

Failure of Treaty a Cause of Unrest

The president made his most extensive reference to the peace treaty by saying the causes for the unrest "are superficial rather than deep-seated" and that they "arise from or are connected with the failure on the part of our government to arrive speedily at a just and permanent peace, permitting return to normal conditions."

Would Modernize Coast Defenses

Major General Black, Chief of Engineers, Would Have United States Strongly Fortify Strategic Points Along Sea Board.

DARDANELLES POINTS AMERICA LESSON

Increased Range of Naval Guns, Throwing Projectiles Nearly Thirty Miles, Shows Necessity for Emplacement of Heavier Coast Ordnance.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3.—Necessity for the maintenance of defensive works along the coasts of the United States is no less patent today than before the war with Germany, in the opinion of Maj. Gen. William M. Black, chief of engineers. In his annual report General Black declared that "seacoast defense had lost nothing in importance from the lessons of the war," adding:

"Rather than the extreme value of such works demonstrated. The Turkish forts at the Dardanelles served to prevent the taking of Constantinople and the opening of a line of supply for Russia. This instance alone, in its far-reaching consequences, proved the worth of sea-coast defenses."

Black presented the opinion that heavy ordnance on railway mounts "must be considered simply as auxiliary defenses," to the fixed and permanent works. He recommended the emplacement of heavier guns to offset the greatly increased range of naval guns, some of which now can throw a projectile 28½ miles. The work of modernizing the coast defenses is being continued, the report showed, many recent innovations in the science of warfare having been adopted. Not the least important of these was a disappearing searchlight tower, the fixed type having proven of great value to the enemy as a "ranging point" for their fire.

The report included a detailed summary of the work done during the fiscal year under the rivers and harbors project. The commission now has under preparation a report on "water terminal and transfer facilities of the United States," which is to be the most complete document of its kind ever published.

MACON LYNCHES ANOTHER NEGRO

Infamous Georgia Town Adds Another Victim to Its Blood Red Record—State Has Nearly One-third of Total Lynchings of Year in Whole Country to Its Disgrace.

(Special to The Monitor.)

MACON, Ga., Dec. 2.—This city, which is notorious even in the annals of Georgia for the number of its lynchings, today added another victim to its blood-red record. An unidentified Negro was lynched here after he had shot and seriously wounded Hansel Rosier, Jr., a farmer's son, with whom he had quarreled. The mob worked so quietly that the neighborhood knew nothing of the lynching, although it was expected, until the man's body was found hanging from a tree near a church. Physicians say Rosier will recover.

This is the nineteenth Negro to be lynched in Georgia during the year, being nearly one-third of the total lynchings in the entire country.

LINCOLN LEAGUE WILL MEET IN WINDY CITY

(By The Associated Negro Press)

Chicago, Ill., Dec. 3.—It is announced that the Lincoln League will hold its annual convention in Chicago February 12th, Lincoln's birthday. The league is expected to bring many important race men to the city and great interest is being manifested in the meeting. Alderman Anderson is state chairman for Illinois, Edward H. Wright, Oscar Depriest, Maj. Jackson, Col. William R. Cowan, Editor R. S. Abbott and other leading Chicagoans will join in making the Lincoln league a success. The officers of the league are Roscoe C. Simmons, president; R. R. Church, director of organization; Walter L. Cohen, treasurer; Lincoln Johnson, secretary.

Buy a home.

PROMINENT MAN ANSWERS LAST CALL

The Hon. George Washington Ellis, Well Known Author and Ex-Secretary of American Legation, Dies at Chicago Home After Long Illness.

(Special to The Monitor)

Chicago, Ill., Dec. 3.—George Washington Ellis, noted author and one of the most scholarly men of the race, died at his residence here, 3662 Vernon avenue, November 28, after a long illness. For eight years he was secretary of the American legation at Liberia. Returning to the United States he was made assistant corporation counsel for the city of Chicago, which position he filled with distinction until his illness compelled him to relinquish it. Mr. Ellis was born in Kansas 44 years ago.

COLORED "Y" WORKERS CITED FOR BRAVERY

Brilliant Record Made by Young Men and Women Who Were Sent Overseas During Great World War—Eighty-four Persons Rendered Good Service.

BULLOCK, DARTMOUTH FOOTBALL STAR

Among Men Winning Special Distinction—Edward Terrell Banks of Ohio and Hugh Oliver Cook of Missouri Also Cited.

NEW YORK, Dec. 3.—The record of the colored men and women who who sent overseas by the Young Men's Christian Association, who served as secretaries during the world war, is marked with brilliant achievements. The total number sent was eighty-four, sixty-one men and twenty-three women. Of this number two died in active service overseas and two died in this country.

Frederick D. Ballou, of Richmond, Ky., and the Rev. R. A. Pritchett, of Philadelphia, who served with the forces in Africa, were drowned at Dar-es-Salaam, in East Africa. Those who died in home service were the Rev. H. E. Levi, of Camp Talladega, Ala., who died at Camp Wheeler, and Hiram H. Wheeler, of Urbana, Ill., who died while on furlough.

Those cited for bravery were Edward Terrell Banks, of Dayton, O.; Hugh Oliver Cook, of Kansas City, Mo., and M. W. Bullock, former Dartmouth football star.

Mr. Banks won his citation for bravery while serving in the 368th Infantry of the Ninety-second Division. The division received word that a scout had been wounded and was lying helpless between the lines. Banks immediately set out to rescue the wounded man, but in the attempt was caught by a barrage and could not get back. With a determination to save his man, Secretary Banks stayed with him through the night and brought him back the next morning when the firing was less severe and carried him to safety. For this he was recommended for a citation by Captain Smith, commanding Company K, of the 368th Infantry.

For gallant conduct in the Champagne offensive of September 26 to October 6, Hugh Oliver Cook, of Kansas City, was recommended by Col. P. I. Miles, commanding the regiment, "for heroic conduct in volunteering to aid in administering to the wounded on September 26 near Hill 188. He worked tirelessly until he himself was gassed."

M. W. Bullock was cited by Colonel Hayward, of the old Fifteenth New York National Guard regiment, for gallant service with that unit throughout the service.

FOUR GENERATIONS ATTEND FUNERAL

Four generations of direct descendants attended the funeral of Mrs. Lucinda Harris, 106-year-old race woman, who was buried Friday in Forest Lawn cemetery.

"Grandma" Harris was well known among the people of her race. She lived 35 years in Omaha, and during all of those years she was a member of St. John's Methodist Episcopal church.

She lived at the home of her only daughter, Helen Jenkins, 2232 Seward street, where she died of senility. A son, Charles Harris, came from Chicago to attend the funeral. She is also survived by two grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Mrs. Harris was born in Kentucky during 1813. She was a slave for many years and lived in Missouri before she came to Omaha in 1884.

The funeral was attended by many friends and acquaintances who had known this venerable woman and had been impressed by her words of wisdom and advice.

PITTSBURGH DEDICATES SHAFT TO BLACK HEROES

(By The Associated Negro Press)

Pittsburgh, Pa., Dec. 2.—With impressive ceremonies, witnessed by thousands of the race, the shaft in Schenley park commemorating the activities of Pittsburgh Negroes in the war, was recently dedicated. The services were preceded by a parade which marched through the downtown streets to the park.

Indicted by Grand Jury on Trial in District Court for Arson—Rioter is Floater—Convicted by Court Martial for Desertion from United States Army.

POLICEMEN POSITIVE AS TO IDENTIFICATION

LOUIS WEAVER, a cook at the Rome hotel, on trial before Judge Redick in the district court, charged with throwing a can of gasoline into the courthouse on the night of the riot and lynching, admitted being present on side of courthouse building near window with can of gasoline which was handed him by an unknown person who directed at point of gun to dispense it, and that he dashed gasoline alongside of building which stream of thrown gasoline was always five feet from building, and that steam of gasoline caught fire from building and burned him, ending his activities for the evening.

The evidence for the state was straightforward, believable, convincing, and was corroborated by many facts and circumstances which Weaver could not deny, and to this effect: that Weaver was seen dashing the gasoline into the courthouse and in the act was burned about the arms and face; that he told the doctor who dressed the wounds that he was burned at the courthouse; that he was apprehended concealed in a house on South Seventeenth street in a small closet among and under bed clothing; that his written statement was true and was made of his own free will and that he offered no testimony to deny that he said on the street he was going to get gasoline and set fire to the building; that Weaver is a floater going from place to place, having been charged, tried and convicted by a court martial for desertion from the United States army and sentenced to Leavenworth military prison; that his father-in-law, who testified against him, had started proceedings to annul the marriage between his 14-year-old daughter and Weaver whom Weaver had stolen.

He was identified by several policemen as the man who threw gasoline into the county treasurer's office. Policeman Louis Zich pointed at Weaver from the witness stand and declared: "That man jumped on the sill of the north window of the county treasurer's office with a five-gallon can of gasoline painted red and threw the gasoline into the office where the fire was burning."

Boy of 14 Led Way

"A boy of 14 years old poured gasoline on the sill of the window before Weaver got there," continued Zich. "The window was burned and fell in. Then Weaver, wearing a sweater and without any hat, climbed upon the sill and others handed the can of gasoline up to him and he poured it on. The crowd cheered him and he said something."

Admits Being in Crowd

Weaver admitted being in the crowd surrounding the court house when the fire was started, and declared that the burns which he received resulted from the explosion of a can of gasoline within the treasurer's office while he was attempting to enter the room through a window.

A confession, signed by Weaver, was introduced by County Attorney Shotwell, who is prosecuting the case. This was made by Weaver right after his arrest, October 4, witnesses testified, in the office of Chief of Detectives Dunn. In it he states that he threw half a can of gasoline on the fire, but that it flared back on him and burned him. Weaver admitted signing a statement to the officers.

Harry Lightall, a special officer for the Nebraska Power company, who was inside the court house night of the riot, said he saw Weaver and was present at the police station when Weaver made his confession which he dictated to Detective Toland and then signed.

County Attorney Shotwell told the jury that it should not have the slightest sympathy with the accused as the evidence showed beyond the slightest doubt that Weaver was guilty as charged. He emphasized the all importance of the conscientious determination of the issues involved in the case, and that aside from the established guilt of the accused and the issues and principles connected thereto, that the greater principle which the jury would determine was whether we should have and desired the reign

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