

# Race Man Enters Suit For Rich Oil Lands

## EXTRADITION TO MISSOURI STATE DENIED BY COURT

Ohio Governor Refuses to Return Man Charged with Committing Murder 14 Years Ago in Sister State

### IDENTIFICATION INCOMPLETE

National Advancement Association Attorneys Active in Thwarting Attempt to Imprison Native of Ohio

New York, March 9—Extradition of a Negro, Will Brown, known as "Cornbread," from Columbus, Ohio, to Missouri, where it was feared he would be lynched on charge of a murder committed 14 years ago, has been defeated by Attorney W. S. Lyman, with the co-operation of the legal aid committee of the Columbus branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The committee, composed of Attorneys B. F. Hughes, A. J. Worsham, L. A. Ransom and I. D. Ross, began an investigation as soon as the arrest of Will Brown was reported.

"Immediately after his arrest there were numerous reports in circulation in the city of Columbus to the effect that citizens in New Madrid, Missouri, would lynch Brown as soon as he was returned to Missouri," says a report from Columbus to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People national office. "It was reported that the Elks' lodge and the Ku Klux Klan of New Madrid had raised a sum of money estimated at \$1,000 to bring Brown back to Missouri.

"The attitude and conversation of Lewis Hackett, deputy sheriff of New Madrid county, sent here to receive the custody of Brown, did much to enhance this apprehension. Throughout the hearing on a writ of habeas corpus he referred to Brown as 'this here nigger' and 'darky.'

"Upon investigation by the association attorneys, in co-operation with Mr. Lyman, personal counsel for Brown, it was found that the murderer of Henry Johnson was about 24 or 25 years of age at the time of the killing. Therefore the murderer would be approximately 40 years old now.

"Brown stated that he was only 26 years of age now; that he was born in Willard, Ohio, and that he had never been in Missouri."

The attorneys found several people who had known Brown in his youth in Columbus, Ohio, and the testimony of these people at the hearing before the Ohio governor's secretary established Brown's age as he had given it. This would have made Brown only 12 years old at the time the murder was committed. The report to the N. A. A. C. P. continues:

"The claim of the state of Missouri was founded upon personal identification by the deputy sheriff of New Madrid county. He claimed to have been able to remember Brown and identify him after a lapse of 14 years. This appeared doubtful in the light of the fact that he could have seen him only two or three times a week, over a period of three months, among two or three hundred other Negroes at work on a levee camp where the alleged killing took place.

"He further claimed that he had been able to pick Brown out of 40 other prisoners in the morning 'line-up' at the city prison on the day after his arrival. But this statement was negated on his cross-examination when defense attorneys forced him to admit that he had arrived in Columbus about midnight and had gone directly to the prison, where an attendant had allowed him to go back to 'Cornbread's' cell and take a good look at the defendant. Identification the following morning was, of course, a simple matter.

"Upon conclusion of the evidence, the assistant prosecutor for Franklin county, Ohio, refused to make any plea for extradition. Mr. Lyman then spoke briefly of the evidence and called attention to the failure of the demanding state to establish identity

## KEEN KENTUCKIAN BEGINS LEGAL FIGHT FOR MULTI MILLIONS

Tom Johnson Institutes Suit Against Corporations for Valuable Oil Lands in Oklahoma Which Promise Princely Wealth

### OF CREEK AND NEGRO DESCENT

Mayfield, Ky.—(Special)—A legal battle for oil land worth millions of dollars has been instituted by Tom Johnson, who lives on a small farm near this city with his wife and his 24-year-old son, John. The suit follows the revealing of Johnson's claim to one of the largest oil producing tracts in Oklahoma by Ben C. Axley (white) title expert. The land will make Johnson worth somewhere between \$10,000,000 and \$20,000,000 and the wealthiest man of the race.

Johnson was born in Beggs, Oklahoma 54 years ago, the son of a Creek Indian and a colored mother. His father was allotted a quarter section of Oklahoma land by the government in what was then Indian territory. Now the section is being developed by several big corporations and is rich in petroleum producing. Johnson, who came here many years ago following the death of his father, was ignorant of his vast wealth until located last month by Attorney Axley. Johnson had been living on his small farm supporting himself and family through his small earnings from truck gardening and doing odd jobs. Half a dozen attorneys from this city and Tulsa, Oklahoma, are looking after his interests now.

## \$25,000 PRIZE OFFERED BEST WAR NOVELIST

All Races Are Invited to Enter Contest Backed by American Legion and Publishing Concern

Boston, Mass.—The members of every race are asked to participate in a war novel competition for a prize of \$25,000. The contest was announced Saturday by the American Legion monthly and the Houghton Mifflin company.

Five judges will consider the manuscripts which will be received at the Houghton Mifflin company's office here until May 1, when the contest closes.

The judges will be Alice Duer Miller, novelist; Major-General James G. Harbord, U. S. A. (retired); Richard Henry Little, Chicago columnist; John T. Winterich, editor of the American Legion monthly, and Ferris Greenslet of the Houghton Mifflin company.

A recent announcement says that the competition is open to any author, regardless of nationality, but the manuscripts must be submitted in the English language. They must not be less than 70,000 words in length.

## COLORED GIRL ELECTED BY SOUTHERN WHITES

Greensboro, N. C.—Miss Maggie Simpson, a sophomore at Bennett college, was elected to the executive committee of the State Y. W. C. A. Volunteer Conference which was held at Duke university recently. This is the first time that a colored student has been elected to any office of the convention which is controlled wholly by white students.

and also commented on the various names under which Missouri had attempted to extradite the defendant, their warrants having been changed from Jesse Jones to Jesse Smith, and then to Jesse Brown. The only consistent name was the alias, 'Cornbread.'

"Mr. Hughes for the N. A. A. C. P. reviewed all the evidence offered and concluded with a plea for justice to the defendant. Mr. Dunkle, secretary to the governor, announced that he would report to the governor and that the chief executive would render his decision on the following Monday at 10 o'clock, at which time Columbus received the joyful news that extradition to Missouri had been denied."

## EDITORIAL

February 12, 1926, over two years ago, The Monitor placed under its masthead and carried it there for many months the following declaration:

Our Choice for President in 1928 is  
**WALTER W. HEAD**  
of Nebraska  
An Astute, Able, Clear-headed Business Man

This was followed, in subsequent issues, by editorials in which we stated that Calvin Coolidge had no lead pipe cinch on the nomination in 1928, the probability being that he would not be nominated; that the West would of necessity claim marked attention in the next presidential campaign, and that Nebraska had an ideal candidate for the presidency in the person of Walter W. Head, of Omaha, who was not a politician, but a shrewd, far-sighted, level-headed business man, of the type, temperament and strength of character which the nation needs. We claimed that his contact with the strong financial East and his close touch with the agricultural West would make him acceptable to the people of both sections. We urged the leading republicans of Nebraska to get busy in pushing the candidacy of Walter W. Head for the republican nomination for the presidency and contended that if they would do so Nebraska stood an excellent chance of having as the next republican president of these United States our distinguished and useful fellow citizen, Walter W. Head.

The Monitor claims the honor and distinction of being the first newspaper in the country to suggest the candidacy of Walter W. Head for president.

He is still our choice as he was two years ago. We still believe that he can be, and will be, the next republican nominee. Hoover provokes no enthusiasm, even in his own state of California. Lowden is a possibility, but not a probability. Willis and Longworth have small chance of making the grade. Borah is a dead duck. Dawes has the best chance of any of those in the limelight. We hazard the prophecy that the contest lies between Dawes and Head, and that Head will be the winner.

Part of our prophecy made two years ago has been fulfilled. It has been proven that we were right when we said in our issue of February 19, 1926, "Calvin Coolidge has no lead pipe cinch on the nomination in 1928, and there is a strong probability that he will not be nominated." If part of our prophecy came true why not all of it? We shall see.

Germantown to The Monitor's advocacy of the candidacy of Mr. Head, is the following editorial which was published in The World-Herald, Monday, under the caption, "Speaking of Walter Head":

"Walter W. Head, of Omaha, nationally known banker and president of the Boy Scout Council," says a press report, addressed the state Y. M. C. A. convention in Minneapolis recently.

And that reminds us. A shrewd and experienced newspaper man, scouting about in the political field, stopped in Omaha the other day. Naturally he was talking politics.

"Hoover isn't going to be nominated," he said in his breezy way; "he lacks sex appeal. It would be too much trouble to elect him and the leaders have turned thumbs down on him. Lowden hasn't a chance, nor Dawes; Coolidge and Mellon would never consent to either. The members of the senatorial combine—Watson, Willis and Curtis—are impossibilities. Coolidge won't accept, although the leaders may engineer a convention stampede to him, for tactical reasons. If that is done he will decline the nomination, and the leaders will then be in position to bring their candidate forward. It won't be Hughes, either. It will be an honest-to-goodness dark horse, some man we aren't thinking of, whose name has not yet been mentioned.

"Who? I wish I could find out. I've tried, but the real insiders are mum as oysters.

"But I've stopped in Omaha to get some dope on Walter Head.

"Did you read his article in the Review of Reviews this month? It struck me as almost an ideal personal platform for the next republican nominee. And, in one connection or another, I've been noticing his name in the papers a good deal lately. I'm wondering if Walter Head is to be the dark horse. But I don't suppose I can find that out here."

Just a roving newspaper man, thinking out loud. Perhaps his thoughts are only the stuff that dreams are made of. But then again—possibly it is a keen nose on the trail of big game.

Anyhow, we may say of Walter Head, as General Dawes is reported to have said of himself the other day: "They could go further and do a lot worse than nominate me—and the damned convention probably will."

## GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL HERE FIFTEEN MINUTES ON WAY TO WASHINGTON

The Hon. William C. Matthews of Boston, Mass., special assistant to the attorney general of the United States, recently assigned to government cases in Los Angeles, passed through Omaha en route to Washington, D. C., last Friday afternoon, spending only 15 minutes here at the Burlington station.

In response to a wire from Mr. Matthews, the editor of The Monitor met the train and had a brief but pleasant interview with him. Mr. Matthews, who headed the Negro national campaign committee, which functioned so efficiently during the last presidential

campaign, will occupy a like strategical position this year with western headquarters in Chicago, where it is proposed to hold a meeting of western race leaders at an early date.

Mr. Matthews regretted that he could not stop over in Omaha, but hopes to visit the city at some subsequent time. He was looking well, feeling fine and likes the west.

Philadelphia, Pa.—Prejudice was held responsible for the defeat of Dr. John P. Turner, prominent physician, in his campaign for selection to fill the vacancy on the board of education caused by the resignation of Thomas S. Boyle to become city treasurer.

## WHAT AFRICANS AT HOME AND ABROAD ARE LOSING IN GOD'S GOOD COUNTRY

Unparalleled Diamond Eldorado Discovered in South Africa—\$2,500 Worth of Diamond Picked Up from Surface in One Hour

### TO BE EXPLOITED BY WHITES

Capetown, South Africa—A diamond field in South Africa, which was described in the Assembly recently by Minister of Mines F. W. Beyers, as an "Eldorado unparalleled in the history of South Africa," and by Sir David Harris, director of the De Beers Consolidated Mines, Ltd., as the "richest ever discovered in this or any other country," is to be exploited to a limited extent by the South African government.

This wonderful discovery near Alexander Bay at the mouth of the Orange River was first reported last April. Subsequent reports confirmed the fabulous wealth of the diamond field, and last December the government received offers of £1,000,000 for the right to develop them.

### Brought Up by Casual Question

On December 13, however, Mr. Beyers announced that the field would be worked in the interests of the State. The debate in the Assembly arose over an item of £2,500 in addition to the estimates under the heading of "District Mining Developments."

This might have passed unnoticed but for an almost casual inquiry from one member, who elicited from Mr. Beyers that it was for the establishment of state diamond diggings at Alexander Bay.

This information brought strong objections from the opposition headed by General J. C. Smuts, on the ground that it was a dangerous example of state socialism, while Sir David Harris expressed fears of its effect on the diamond output and demanded that the government should exercise strict control.

### Picked Up £600 in Stones in Hour

Mr. Beyers, in replying, pointed out that the diamond field was on Crown lands and that the diamonds could be picked up on the surface. During a visit of one hour he himself picked up stones worth £600.

Dr. Merensky, who, with Dr. Hauning, discovered the fields, working with eighteen men, had found in six weeks diamonds valued at £160,000. The area has now been placed under guard.

The government plans to employ sixty Namaqualand residents as diggers to work the field on behalf of the government, and the profits will be applied to the capital expenditure of the South African Union.

The debate eventually petered out, but the opposition remained skeptical regarding the wisdom of the government's action.

General Smuts declared that the policy was unprecedented and that the government would find itself bombarded with demands to open other state diggings.

## MRS. LAURENCE JONES, NATIONALLY KNOWN FIGURE, PASSES AWAY

Piney Woods, Miss.—One of the foremost women of the state, Mrs. Laurence Jones, succumbed at her home here recently. Mrs. Jones was president of the State Negro Women's Federated clubs and was nationally known in the work of women's clubs.

Mrs. Jones was born 52 years ago in Burlington, Ia. She was the wife of Laurence Jones, principal and founder of the Piney Woods school here.

Messages of condolence flooded the home of the deceased.

### SUES JIM CROW THEATER

Cincinnati, Ohio—Dr. L. R. Breedlove, prominent physician of this city, has filed a suit against the Cino Theater company for violating the Ohio civil rights bill for ejecting him from a theater on the grounds of color. Attorney W. L. Ricks is representing Dr. Breedlove in the case.

## ALERT ARKANSAS ACCOMPLISH DEFEAT OF JUDGE TOWNSEND

Scipio Jones, Nationally Known Negro Attorney, Successfully Opposes Appointment of United State Judge

### SOLAR PLEXUS TO LILY WHITES

Little Rock, Ark.—Alert Negro republicans of Arkansas threw a "monkey wrench" into the machinery of the "lily white" faction here last week. The defeat of Wallace Townsend, "lily white," as Judge Tribler's successor as federal judge was attributed directly to the colored voters.

### Colored G. O. P.'s Get Busy

Scipio Jones, widely known race leader, led the movement to prevent the success of the "lily white" republican. Mr. Jones and other Negro leaders of Little Rock secured the co-operation and help of colored republicans in Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois to fight Townsend immediately after he had received the endorsement of the Republican State Central committee for the position as federal judge. Several delegations went to Washington and filed protest against his appointment with Attorney General Sargent and President Coolidge.

### Prove Their Strength

The position of the colored republicans to Townsend's appointment was caused by his activities with the "lily white" movement in this state six years ago, which resulted in almost a total elimination of the Negro from the councils of the republican organization in Arkansas.

A prominent federal office holder, whose name was not disclosed, stated that when they heard some time ago that the colored voters were fighting Townsend's appointment they felt that the organization's endorsement would not secure the place for him.

Coolidge overrode the recommendations of the "lily white" republicans and chose a democrat as U. S. judge for the eastern district of Arkansas, John E. Martineau. The senate confirmed the nomination in quick order.

## BROTHERHOOD SLEEPING CAR PORTERS LOSES

Interstate Commerce Commission Rules It Has No Jurisdiction in the Case as Presented by Randolph

Washington, D. C.—The Interstate Commerce Commission recently announced its decision for want of jurisdiction on complaint filed by the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters asking for an investigation of tipping practice and orders requiring Pullman company to cease from permitting or encouraging tips. "We are referred to no law which prohibits tipping of Pullman porters," the commission's report says, "moreover a consideration of the complaint in all its aspects leads only to the conclusion that the real obligations sought are increased wages. We have no power to regulate wages and consequently no authority to inquire into the justice of the complaints, however meritorious they might prove to be." Commissioner Atkinson wrote the dissenting opinion in which Commissioners Eastman and Lewis joined.

A. Phillip Randolph, organizer of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters had the case presented to the Interstate Commerce Commission.

## JESSE STONE'S ORCHESTRA FAILS TO APPEAR

Jesse Stone's Blue Serenaders, who were to play a battle at Dreamland hall, March 5th, failed to appear because of financial reverses which bankrupted the orchestra, causing it to temporarily disband. It is understood that plans are on foot to reorganize the orchestra again and Omaha will no doubt be able to enjoy this popular jazz band in the near future.