

KU KLUX KLAN RULES ALABAMA

J. V. McAree in Toronto Mail and Empire

When Charles McCall, Attorney-General of Alabama, announced that he had withdrawn 102 indictments against 34 men because the influence of the Ku Klux Klan was more powerful than the Government of the State, he produced a sensation. Newspapermen from all parts of the United States hastened to Alabama to find out the truth which from time to time had received brief notice in the papers. For the most part they arrived at a highly inopportune time. People were afraid to talk. The clouds that had lifted when McCall announced that every flogger in the state would be brought to justice, lowered again. Today nobody knows just how the thing is going to work out, though few people doubt that in the end the forces of law will be re-established and the Ku Klux Klan destroyed. But it is a long time since in any American state a secret organization has been powerful enough to openly defy the law and make the spokesman of the Government admit his helplessness. It seems likely that the admission of McCall may rouse the people themselves. Only a minority belongs to the Klan. If it is fought it can be beaten.

Seven Hundred Floggings

One of the reporters who arrived at a time when people were willing to talk was William G. Shepherd, who represented Collier's Magazine. He reports that there have been perhaps 700 floggings in Alabama in the past three years. In this branch of its activities the Klan did not confine itself to correcting the wayward children of Ham. Most of its victims were whites. Most of them white women. Some extremely important white men have been beaten, and at the time that Shepherd made his investigations he encountered some citizens who said, "There were decent men in this town who were planning to follow these whippers to their next flogging party and kill all the floggers with guns." Nobody knew whose turn it might be next for the flogging was no longer confined to victims whose moral conduct displeased the Klansmen. Private grudges were being worked off. Business rivals were being admonished by means of flying whips. The latest development indicated that the Klansmen had become class conscious, for their victims were more and more generally selected from the well-to-do. Some of these floggers, according to Mr. Shepherd, were to all intents and purposes giggling lunatics for they actually laughed over the floggings they had committed.

The Flogging Parson

One of the most prominent of the leaders in these outrages was the Rev. L. A. Nalls, who fled the district when McCall got busy, and who is now probably looking for a pulpit in some other part of the United States. Nalls seems to have established himself as the general censor of public morals over a large part of Alabama. He would travel as far as forty miles to preside over a flogging, and he never failed to assure his victims that he was acting in no spirit of revenge, but was prompted by the kindest motives. He figured prominently in the worst case of flogging investigated by Mr. Shepherd. A farmer's wife, who had been divorced was married by a farmer who had been divorced. The community decided that they were living in sin. One night thirty or forty floggers, concealed in long white robes and white hoods, emblems of purity, drove up to the house where the guilty pair lived, roused the household and dragged the man into the yard. Some of them held him while others whipped him until his back was cut in twenty places and his blood dripped on the ground. When they let him go they entered the house, took the woman away from her children and beat her on the bare flesh.

Fear Ruled the State

Man and wife were then permitted to return to their house, and the Klansmen followed. Rev. Nalls saw an opportunity to point a moral and he did so. He told her that she had been punished to set her feet in the right path and show her children how a good mother should go. He proceeded, "Boys, I want to take up a collection for this woman. This man is going to leave this house forever, and we want her to start off right." So the generous Klansmen inserted their fists in the slits of their robe and produced in all \$3.50, which the preacher handed to the woman. But his benefactions did not end there. And as she sat sobbing in her bloodsoaked nightgown, he said, "Here is salve for your wounds," and he gave her a bottle of vaseline. For a year nothing was known about this flogging. The farmer did not leave his home but he kept his mouth shut, for he knew that without warning the floggers might descend upon him again and beat him more savagely than ever. So it was throughout Alabama. The Klan governed by fear. If complaint was made the chance was that the officer appealed to would be a member of the Klan. So probably would be the judge who presided at the trial if trial there were. So might the jurymen. Consequently there would be no convictions.

Cloud Lifts and Lowers

But when McCall became Attorney-General he determined that he would rip the ghastly shroud off this prowling terror, and he sent out the message that every flogger in Alabama would be dragged into



VISITING CANADA ON EMPIRE-WIDE TRIP

For nearly a month Canada will have as a guest Rt. Hon. L. C. Amery, Secretary of State for the Dominions, who is making a circuit of the Empire in his official capacity. Due at Victoria this week, after sailing from New Zealand on December 15, Colonel Amery and his party will visit Victoria, Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, Winnipeg, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal and St. John, leaving the latter city February 3rd for London. Mrs. Amery is a Canadian, a native of Whitby, Ontario, and a sister of Sir Hamar Greenwood. She is an enthusiastic devotee of outdoor sports and is very fond of skating. The above picture of Mrs. Amery was taken during a winter holiday in Switzerland. Inset is a photograph of her distinguished husband.

court, and that everybody who gave evidence against one of them would be protected. For a period of three weeks it seemed that McCall was going to win. In the Grand Jury rooms where they were summoned, the floggers fell over each other in their anxiety to be the first to tell. They were frightened badly, and indictments were returned right and left. The Government was in possession of information that should have enabled it to fill the county jails, and end once and for all the horror and disgrace. But it was not long before the hidden power of the Klan asserted itself. McCall could not get his convictions. Witnesses would not speak. Those who had confessed recanted. Threatened with prosecution for perjury, they remained dumb. Juries as of old refused to convict. The Klan had won. Whether having had a scare it will withdraw from its flogging activities or, drunk with power, will assert itself more strongly than ever is a question difficult to answer. Of course there can be only one end to the thing. Federal troops before now had to wind up the Ku Klux Klan. They may have to do it again.

Back to the Sea

I shall go back to the sea again,
Something within me cries,
Back to the joy of its emerald plain
Back where the great winds rise,
Though for a time I have lingered here
(Stately, the great oaks grow!)
Ever the call of the sea in my ear
Murmurs of ebb and flow,
Hemmed in by forest, so high, so wide,
Prisoned, I wait release

STENOGRAPHER WANTED

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BOARDERS WANTED

APPLY AT CHRONICLE OFFICE, Durham, for particulars. 1 12 1f

FOR SALE BY AUCTION

RED SHORTHORN COW, DUE IN May; a quantity of No. 1 wood. This will be offered by auction at the sale of Isaac Hooper, S. D. R., Glenelg, next Tuesday, December 17, and was inadvertently omitted from his list which appears on page 7 in this issue.

NOTICE

The annual meeting of the Egremont Agricultural Society will be held in Agricultural Hall, Holstein, Saturday, January 21, 1928 at 2 o'clock for election of officers and other business.

ROBERT SIM, President.

HOUSE FOR RENT

FIVE ROOMS AND BATH. ALL conveniences; immediate possession. Apply at Chronicle Office. 1 12 3pd

COMING EVENTS

A SPECIAL MEETING OF C. O. F. will be held in their lodge room on Friday evening, the 13th, at 8 o'clock; installation of officers and other business; refreshments served at close. All brethren are requested to be present. William Hewitt, Chief Ranger.

L. O. L. 689 ARE HOLDING A PROGRESSIVE EVENING in the hall at Varnney on Friday evening, January 20. Prizes given and lunch served. Admission 25c.

UNDERWENT OPERATION

Robert Wilson, the 18-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Wilson of Egremont, was admitted to Durham Hospital on Tuesday and underwent an operation, performed by Dr. Howey of Owen Sound in the absence of Dr. D. B. Jamieson in Chicago. The young man's trouble

arose from some complications from a previous operation performed some time ago for appendicitis. We are pleased to know that he is doing well and recovering nicely at time of writing.

"Now" said the teacher, impressively, "Why should we endeavor to rise by our own efforts?" "Because," said Tommy, "there's no knowing when the alarm clock will be wrong."

CARD OF THANKS

Mr. Leslie Woodcock and Mr. and Mrs. John C. McDonald and family desire to express their sincere thanks to friends in Durham and vicinity for the many expressions of sympathy and kindness extended in the recent death of wife and daughter, the late Mrs. Leslie Woodcock (nee Lily McDonald).

CARD OF THANKS

I wish to extend thanks to many friends and neighbors for kindness extended during the long illness and subsequent death of my late wife, Mrs. Alfred Sharpe. I also wish to express my thankfulness for the numerous acts of sympathy and kindness, and for the beautiful floral offerings placed on her casket, marks of esteem and affection that I feel should not pass unnoticed. ALFRED SHARPE

EXECUTORS' SALE

In the matter of the estate of John Lawrence late of the Township of Egremont in the County of Grey, Farmer, deceased.

Notice is hereby given that All and singular that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate, lying and being in the Township of Egremont in the County of Grey, and being Lot Number Seven (7) in the Twenty-first Concession of the said Township, containing by admeasurement One Hundred Acres, more or less, will be sold by sealed tender, subject to a reserved bid, accompanied by marked cheque for ten per cent of the amount tendered.

Tenders received up to two o'clock Tuesday, the 7th day of February, 1928, addressed to MIDDLEBRO' & McQUARRIE, Durham, Ont. Solicitors Philip J. H. Lawrence and William J. Lawrence, Executors. 1 12 3



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