

Exhibit A.

INWARD FACTS ABOUT NEGRO INSURRECTION.

PRESIDENT E. M. ALLEN OF BUSINESS
MEN'S LEAGUE ISSUES STATEMENT
TO PRESS.

H I L L I ' S I N F L U E N C E .

Winchester Negro Adroitly Misled Trustful Negroes
and Robbed Them of Cash, Liberty Bonds and Savings
Stamps--His Activities.

THE COMMITTEE OF SEVEN.

The Committee of Seven, chosen to direct operations in putting down the insurrection and to conduct investigations with the view to discovering and punishing the guilty, is composed of the following citizens.

SEBASTIAN STRAUB,
Chairman,

H. D. MOORE,
County Judge.

F. F. Kitchens, Sheriff,
J. G. Knight, Mayor,
E. M. Allen
E. C. Horner
T. W. Keesee.

All persons, white or black, in possession of information which might assist in discovering and running down those responsible for the insurrection are urgently requested to confer with the Committee as a whole or with some individual member thereof, it being understood that such action will be for the public safety and that the informant's identity will be carefully safeguarded.

IT IS THE DUTY OF EVERY CITIZEN IN POSSESSION OF SUCH INFORMATION TO PRESENT IT TO THE COMMITTEE.

The following statement was given to the press here late yesterday afternoon by President E. M. Allen of the Business Men's League and the Committee of Seven, but for some reason not explained editors of various papers to which the statement was sent saw fit to substitute a different "lead", in most cases failing completely to identify Mr. Allen.

Now the "ignorance and superstition of a race of children" was played upon for momentary gain and for the banding together of Negroes to sally whites, was authoritatively revealed in a statement issued here yesterday by E. M. Allen, a member of the Committee of Seven, who has heard virtually all the prisoners' confessions following last week's uprising in this section of Arkansas.

The Committee of Seven is composed of leading Helena Business men. It has been authorized to carry on the investigation both by the municipal and county authorities and by Governor Charles H. Brough of Arkansas. It is co-operating with the military authorities. Among its members is Sheriff F. F. Kitchens.

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the men who originally plotted and created Elaine, center of the recent disorders.

Aside from being locally prominent as president of the Helena Business Men's League, and as the owner of considerable property, Mr. Allen is president of the National Association of Insurance Agents, the headquarters of which are in New York City. His name was on the list of those the negroes plotted to kill yesterday as the signal for a general slaughter of the whites, according to papers confiscated and confessions of leaders captured.

Mr. Allen's Statement follows:-

"The present trouble with the Negroes in Phillips County is not a race riot. It is a deliberately planned insurrection of the Negroes against the whites, directed by an organization known as the 'Progressive Farmers' and Household Union of America,' established for the purpose of banding Negroes together for the killing of white people. This 'union' was started by Robert L. Hill, a negro 26 years old, of Winchester, Arkansas, who saw in it an opportunity of making easy money. He had been a farmer all his life but lately had been posing as a 'private detective doing work in this and all foreign countries.'"

"He started his first 'union' work in April of this year. He organized the Ratio Lodge in May of this year. He chose Ratio because his mother happened to be living there. He told the darkies that he was an agent of the government and because the senators and representatives at Washington were white men and in sympathy with the white men of the south, it was impossible for the Negroes to get the rights that had been promised them for service in the army, and so the government had called into existence this organization which would be supported by the government in defense of the Negroes against the white people. He told them it was necessary for all members of the Union to arm themselves in preparation for the day when they should be called upon to attack their white oppressors.

"The slogan of the organization is 'We battle for our rights.' The password of all the lodges was 'We have just begun.'"

"He told them that those members who were unable to buy munitions would be supplied by the union from the government storehouse at Winchester.

"The purely mercenary side of all develops as follows: Negro men were charged \$1.50 entrance fees and Negro women 50 cents. at the second ~~and~~ or third meeting he would bring Dr. V. E. Powell of Winchester with him, who purported to be the examining physician for the government in its work of registering the Negroes in defense of their rights. A certificate was filed out and signed Negro upon payment of fifty cents. This certificate was supposed to be the registration document. These Negroes who were possessed of funds in amounts from \$5.00 to \$25.00 were enrolled in an advanced section of the union and upon payment of whatever sum he (Hill) could procure in excess of \$5.00, a certificate was given entitling the holder to attend the congresses of the 'union' at Winchester and speak on the floor of the meeting regarding any questions brought up, and to assist in keeping the Constitution of the united States from being questioned.

"Another form of extortion was to sell shares of \$10.00 each to the Negroes in a proposed building to be erected by the 'union' at Winchester. Hill would find out what Negroes possessed Thrift Stamps and Liberty Bonds and would issue a certificate stating that so many shares had been purchased at \$10.00 per share, and all Negroes buying shares in the amount of fifty dollars or more were told that their names would be engraved in the building. In other words, he has so planned his campaign that any Negro possessing from fifty cents to fifty dollars was given an opportunity to invest in

represent all the Negroes in their settlements with landlords during the ginning season. He went to several of the meetings with type-written powers of attorney which he had signed by the Negroes, collecting amounts from twenty-five dollars to fifty dollars each with the crop as security. He was very adroit in making use of certain circulars issued by the government and in distorting the purpose of the Arkansas Warehouse and Ginners' Law to convince the Negroes that the United States Government was endeavoring to correct evils which he alleged existed among the farmers.

"He further told the Negroes that the plan for Secretary Lane to provide homesteads for the soldiers had been carried out where the white soldiers were concerned, but the Negroes had been refused participation in it. We found where Negro soldiers at Elaine had sold their discharge papers for sums ranging from Fifty to one hundred dollars on the theory that such discharge entitled the holder to forty acres of government land. He produced government maps of state lands in Elaine country (1600 acres) which he said could be bought for \$200. This amount was raised at one meeting and paid to him in cash. The land was all described and certain Negroes had designated which parts of the various farms (all in cultivation), they desired, to take over for themselves after the white people had been driven off.

"He urged all lodges to decide upon a plan of campaign when the day came to strike and designate the part to be played by every man. He told them that the government was erecting at Winchester three huge storehouses where arms, ammunition and trained soldiers would be ready for instant use. On Wednesday morning after the first fight at Hoop Spur the Negroes crossed the track and lay in the weeds all day waiting for Hill's army to materialize. They were within easy range of automobiles going to and from Hoop Spur all day and could easily have fired into them but they wished to wait for Hill's army in order to clean up in one fell swoop.

"The fight at Hoop Spur was unpremeditated as far as the Negroes were concerned as they were organizing their forces Wednesday morning to attack and capture Elaine but when runners informed the leaders that white men were entering the woods at Hoop Spur they decided to go up and wipe out the little gang that was reported to be there, before entering upon the more serious task of capturing Elaine. They underestimated the size of the force from Helena and the battle resulted.

"Every Negro who joined these lodges was given to kill white people. Unquestionably the time for attack had been set but plans had not been entirely perfected and the shooting of the officers brought on the insurrection ahead of schedule.

"Another scheme used by Hill to obtain money was to appoint as private and foreign detectives'--furnishing them large nickelplated stars and a pair of nickel-plated handcuffs, for which they paid him \$50.00 each.

"His meeting at Winchester in August was attended and addressed by white men. He simply played upon the ignorance and superstition of a race of children,--most of whom neither read nor write.

"I have cross-examined and talked to at least one hundred prisoners at Elaine. They belong to different lodges in that section. The stories they tell are almost identical as to the promises and representations made by Hill. He even told them that probably some of the Negroes would be called upon to die before 'Equal rights' would be assured, but they must look upon themselves as crusaders and die if necessary to secure the freedom of the other members of their race.

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which had to be carried out regardless of the consequences.

"All lodge meetings were required to maintain an armed outer guard of six sentinels. Hill's usual expression was, 'Get your racks filled for the day to come.'

"As for an oppression is concerned many of the negroes involved own mules, horses, cattle and automobiles and clear money every year on their crops, after expenses are paid.

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