

## NEGRO STILL A SLAVE

### Two Forms of Peonage Existing in the Cotton Belt.

### LASH TO ENFORCE DISCIPLINE

Under the Contract Labor Law, Just Declared Unconstitutional, and the System of Hiring Out Negroes Convicted of Offenses to Men Who Pay Their Fines, Incredible Abuses Spring Up.

BY RAYMOND PATTERSON.  
Special Correspondence of The Washington Post.  
Opelika, Ala., June 25.—"Peonage" is a new term here in the Chattahoochee Valley. Most of the planters and all of the negroes fail to recognize its meaning, although the thing itself exists all about them. Peonage, or involuntary servitude, always of black men to white masters, is actually common, not only in Southwestern Georgia and Southeastern Alabama, but in almost every strictly agricultural county throughout the real cotton belt. The planters and the negroes themselves call it by much different names, but the involuntary servitude exists, none the less, and it is accompanied in many painful instances not only by restraint of the liberty of the individual, but by personal violence and by the degradation of the lash.

Ignorance of the negro, have resulted in transferring many of the black men into actual, and as they believe, perfectly legal slavery, which they have chosen in preference to the admitted misery of a convict's life. This kind of peonage is chiefly built upon fraud, violence, and misrepresentation. It nevertheless exists, and to a large extent, but in justice to the better class of planters it should be explained that they are not parties to it, although their own system is only a shade better, so far as the negro is concerned. It is this peonage, based upon original criminal or civil charges in open court that Judges Jones and Speer have bravely started to uproot. That it was time no honest man can deny.

What started Judge Speer to stir up the grand jury was the arrest, ten days ago, of three young men in Jasper County, Ga., Will Shy, Arthur Glawson, and Frank Turner. They were yesterday fined \$1,000 for violation of the contract labor law, the court setting the fine aside under certain conditions. The prosecutor was Will Waters, a negro, who alleges that he was held in actual slavery. He had made a contract to work for Shy from January until August, and, like all negroes, obtained one advance of money and rations after another. All of a sudden he found himself in debt for \$35 beyond the full amount of his contract, and thereupon, according to the usual negro custom, skipped out of the plantation during the night and went to work for another planter a dozen miles or so away. He was, of course, traced there, and Shy and Turner drove after him in a buggy, tied him to the back axle, and carried him back to his old plantation at full speed, the negro being dragged a part of the way, and whipped incessantly both en route and on arrival at the old plantation. The negro's wife managed to get down to Macon, where she swore out the necessary warrants to secure his release and the arrest of his captors.

Under Contract Labor Law

## FIRED FROM AMBUSH

### Two Soldiers and Motorman Wounded by Mob.

### RICHMOND'S NIGHT OUTBREAK

Col. Anderson Issues Orders Not to Temporarily with Rioters—Mayor Taylor Announces that He Will Call for Federal Troops if Necessary to Prevent Destruction of Property and Bloodshed.

Special to The Washington Post.  
Richmond, Va., June 25.—Sharpshooting between strike sympathizers and soldiers, in which the former were the aggressors, and who enjoyed the great advantage of being concealed in the dark, furnished the exciting close to a day that had been marked by great military and police activity, but no serious disorder. A motorman and two soldiers were victims of the concealed highwaymen, but none of the three was seriously injured. The motorman, who seems to have been spotted, and had been fired upon before, was wounded in the hand. One of the soldiers received the ball in his thigh and the other in the lower part of the leg.

The shooting occurred just before midnight in an open field bordering on the city limits and within a stone's throw of the scene of last night's trouble, in which

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### ELECTRIC

### Council Decides

Special to The Washington Post.  
Rockville, Md., June 25.—The meeting of the municipal council was held last night and decided to install electric-lighting for the city. Undecided to install the wires electric-light by fire sever price for the \$1,500 per year. The cost of the operation the same to Schreiber, for per year for over this an rate of 7 1 gallons.

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Special to The Washington Post.