

**GRAND JURY BLAMES NEGROES FOR INCITING RACE RIOTING;
WHITES CLEARLY EXONERATED**

The complete text of the grand jury's report follows: "Final report of the grand jury, Tulsa, June, 1921.

"To the Honorable Judge Valjean Biddison, of the District Court, Tulsa County:

"We, the grand jurors summoned by you to make an investigation of the cause of the recent riot, and other violations of the law in Tulsa and Tulsa county, beg leave to submit to you the following report, in addition to indictments and accusations which are already in your hands.

"We first desire to state that we have examined a great many witnesses in our effort to arrive at the facts; we have advertised that we desired the full information of every citizen who knew facts: We have heard every one who requested to be heard in addition to the many who were summoned to appear; we have weighed the evidence impartially; we have sought to do justice to every individual and to carry out the instructions of the honorable court.

"We find that the recent race riot was the direct result of an effort on the part of a certain group of colored men who appeared at the courthouse on the night of May 31, 1921, for the purpose of protecting one Dick Rowland then and now in the custody of the sheriff of Tulsa county for an alleged assault upon a young white woman. We have not been able to find any evidence either from white or colored citizens that any organized attempt was made or planned to take from the sheriff's custody any prisoner; the crowd assembled about the courthouse being purely spectators and curiosity seekers resulting from rumors circulated about the city. There was no mob spirit among the whites, no talk of lynching and no arms. The assembly was quiet until the arrival of armed negroes, which precipitated and was the direct cause of the entire affair.

"While we find the presence of the armed negroes was the direct cause of the riot, we further find that there existed indirect causes more vital to the public interest than the direct cause. Among these were agitation among the negroes of social equality, and the laxity of law enforcement on the part of the officers of the city and county.

"We find that certain propaganda and more or less agitation had been going on among the colored population for some time. This agitation resulted in the accumulation of firearms among the people and the storage of quantities of ammunition, all of which was accumulative in the minds of the negro which led them as a people to believe in equal rights, social equality and their ability to demand the same. We are glad to exonerate the great majority of the colored people who neither had knowledge of or part in either the agitation or the accumulation of arms or ammunition, and recognize the possibility of such a fact as even in as public a place as a church without the rank and file of the people having knowledge of the same. We have sought to a certain the names of the particular parties who took part and the indictments returned show our findings.

Condone Law Violations.

“We find that police protection with negro policemen as officers has been inefficient; that violations of law have been condoned and while raids have been made and also some arrests, the same offense by the same offenders was repeated almost immediately. We therefore recommend that “colored town” be policed by white officers, that indiscriminate mingling of white and colored people in dance halls and other places of amusements be positively prohibited and every law be rigidly enforced to the end that a proper relationship may be maintained between the two races, and that every safeguard that may be had for the positive protection of life and property everywhere.

“We believe, however, that law violations have not been confined to the colored district, but that the ‘choc’ joints and ‘houses of prostitution’ are more or less common in the city of Tulsa as well as in the country, and that ‘bootlegging’ is the business of a number of individuals and that numerous rooming houses and hotels sell or allow to be sold various kinds of intoxicants on their premises; but we deplore the fact that we have been unable to find sufficient evidence to indict each and every individual against whom general charges have been made; that auto thieves are numerous but few are apprehended.

“We find that these violations have been allowed, and in some cases condoned and the offenders protected by the officers; our investigations shows that a reasonable attention to duty on the part of officers of the state, county and city should protect the citizen’s against such infractions of the law as are all too common in this county.

Ask Greater Penalties.

“We find that a small fine assessed against an offender is not sufficient penalty but that when the same offense is repeated by the same offender, the penalty should be doubled each time as to fine and jail sentence. We feel sure that reasonable activity on the part of police officers as well as all other law enforcement officers backed by the support of the citizens, will in a very large measure suppress the law violations.

“It is the observance of the public as well as members of the grand jury that the appearance of traffic policemen at street crossings dressed in ‘shirt sleeves’ with a gun on his ‘hip’ tends to give impression to the outside world of a spirit of lawlessness which does not exist. It is the conviction of the grand jury that if the safety of the public demands a traffic policeman to carry a gun on his hip, courtesy to the public should also require that any policeman carrying a gun should in every case be required to wear a coat to the end that no false impression may be given to the general public or to the outside world.

Favor New City Jail.

“We have examined into the jail delivered referred to in your instructions; we made a personal inspection of the county jail, examining carefully the place of exit of the prisoners; and examined as a witness the only inmate of the jail who made his escape in the jail delivery. We regret, however, to report that we are unable to place the responsibility upon any individual officer, or upon any existing condition. We also examined personally the city jail. We do not

feel that the conditions there are what they should be, but we are unable to suggest improvements that would be practical in the present quarters open to use for a jail. We think that steps should be taken at an early date to remedy the undesirable conditions, though unavoidable, by acquiring larger quarters, for housing and caring for the prisoners.

“We condemn the exaggerated and untrue reports of the press, purporting to give the facts, both as to the cause and results of the riot, the information on which came from excited minds, for the time unreliable. We feel that judgment based on such reports is not only unfair to Tulsa and Tulsa county, but to the entire state as well as the nation. While we recognize the apparent necessity of giving reports of happenings while it is news, we further feel that the findings of the court of inquiry should be given equal publicity in correcting misstatements of the press and wrong impressions created.

Find Lax law Enforcement.

“The findings of this grand jury is sufficient to indicate the laxity of law enforcement in Tulsa county, though we are sure it is not confined to Tulsa county. It is the conviction of this grand jury that under their official oaths the findings have been justified by the evidence we have heard.

“When the laws of the state and nation are openly violated in many ways, by and with the consent, if not even the assistance, of the officers, it is surely a clarion call to every liberty loving citizen to lay aside personal, petty and political preferment and look to the needs of our government; select and elect only men or women who have character, tried, tested and proven. Unless we do, our days are numbered when we can pose as a free people.

“We deplore the conditions that have made our findings necessary, conditions which if allowed to continue cannot but effect the city in any way but to its disadvantage conditions which will make it impossible to attract capital for investment because of the hazard of such investment resulting from law violations. We see Tulsa and Tulsa county, if not the entire state of Oklahoma penalized by automobile insurance companies; soon must we expect similar penalties by every business organization unless we at once show ourselves, not only able to protect life, property and investment, but also manifest an active interest in selecting and electing men and women of ability and character who desire to make Tulsa and Tulsa county a community fit for a home of the most respectable home loving and law abiding citizens in America.

“C.A. CLOUD, Foreman.”

FREELING AFTER MORE OUSTINGS?

among the whites who gathered at the courthouse an hour before the negroes appeared and that these whites were not armed and were drawn to the courthouse by rumors of a lynching and were for the most part unarmed spectators.

The accusation against Chief Gustafson containing five counts charges this officer with failing to enforce the city ordinance against the sale of liquor and maintenance of houses of prostitution, and state laws against stealing of automobiles, extortion and rioting. In the three latter counts,

the accusation sets out that the chief has connived with Day Ward and Roy Meacham to protect and release from jail men known to the officers to be automobile thieves and to secrets and harbor stolen cares; has used his office to further business of his private detective agency, accepting money for investigations which should have been carried out by the city without cost to the complainant has failed to protect life and property during the race disturbances of May 31 and June 1 and refused to disarm both whites and negroes who were responsible for the rioting here on those days.

LIQUOR FREE IN SAND SPRINGS

Meacham and Ward, the former until his removal Saturday a city detective, and Ward, who went to Mexico sometime ago it is reported, are accused of conniving with men known to be auto thieves in the theft and secreting of stolen cars. Other counts also charge these defendants with failure to enforce city ordinances against the sale of liquor and the maintenance of houses of prostitution.

Chief Waddell of Sand Springs and F.P. Williams, a patrolman of that city, are charged with allowing the sale of liquor to be openly carried on in that city without making attempts to prevent such law violation. They are also accused of knowingly permitting the operation of questionable hotels and rooming houses in Sand Springs.

Freeling, after the report and findings including seven additional indictments as the result of the rioting were delivered to the court, stated while he believed the jurors had sufficient evidence placed before them to return additional accusations against other city and county officials, he appreciated their honesty in making the investigation and had not fault to find with the report. He indicted strongly, however, that the number of accusations for the ousting of city and county officials did meet with his approval.