GUARD AGAINST KLUX INVASION

Residents of Mer Rouge, La., Fear Retaliation for Informing

FEDERAL AGENTS ARE BUSY

Baton Rouge, La., Nov. 27.—An appeal to Governor John M. Parker and Federal authorities for protection against a threatening invasion by the Ku Klux Klan of the little town of Mer Rouge, in Morehouse parish, in retaliation for information given to Department of Justice investigators relative to the disappearance of five persons and reported murder of two citizens, is contained in a statement signed by a committee of Mer Rouge residents.

Department of Justice operatives have been in Morehouse parish for weeks. They have been there openly and "under cover." The Postoffice Department has also conducted an investigation.

One witness who told the Federal agents he was forced to carry water for the hooded mob, who is reported to have seen several of them with their masks off, was taken from his home and is being hidden for safe keeping. Federal operatives are conducting an investigation of the kidnaping, because of the belief that members of the hooded mob came from across the Arkansas line, with leaders from even more distant States.

It is known also the Federal agents have what they believe is positive information that the bodies of the two missing men are hidden in Lake Lafourche, near Oak Ridge. The bodies are believed to have been dropped into the lake bound to two large iron wheels.

The statement of the citizens declares that the article in a Washington newspaper relative to conditions in Louisiana is true as far as Morehouse Parish is concerned. The statement reads:

"We do not know conditions all over the State, but we, as citizens of Mer Rouge, know that our parish, Morehouse parish, is being dominated by the invisible empire.

"Several of our citizens have been threatened. The safety of any one has been threatened if they even voice criticism of the Klan for kidnaping five of our citizens, beating and whipping two of them and making off with two others, whom we believe now to have been foully murdered.

"The administrative machinery of the local Government is so broken down that it is virtually impossible either to indict or convict members of the Klan for their violations of the law.

"For weeks Mer Rouge has been prepared, rifles and revolvers at hand, for the threatened invasion of our village by the Klan forces. Telephones have been cut and we feared invasion. We appealed for protection, appealed to the State and to the Federal Government. This is in no sense a reflection on Governor Parker, from whom we expect and believe we will get aid and protection."

New York, Nov. 27.—With a daring peculiar to one whose face is masked and his identity hidden under the cloak of anonymity, the Ku Klux Klan is prepaging to launch a membership drive in this city by means of which it hopes to convert the metropolis into the Invisible Empire's greatest stronghold.

Within ten days the leaders of the drive, the few whose names may be mentioned but whose whereabouts while here must be kept secret, will have conferred with each other and local Klansmen and the campaign will be on. Despite the Mayor, the police and more substantial opposition from press and pulpit, the Klan boldly declares its determination yet to ride in hooded triumph through Manhattan's streets.

First to arrive, and clothed with authority to get the campaign under way at once, will be Major E. D. Smith, of Buffalo, King Kleagle of the State of New York, and the Rev. Dr. Samuel H. Campbell, Klokard and lecturer. Mason, Knight Templar, Shriner and formerly pastor of the First Baptist Church of Tyler, Texas. The Rev. Dr. Oscar Haywood, national lecturer for the Klan and general evangelist of Calvary Baptist Church, who has been here since last Monday, will co-operate with Major Smith and Dr. Campbell in the great drive, which is scheduled to begin not later than next week.

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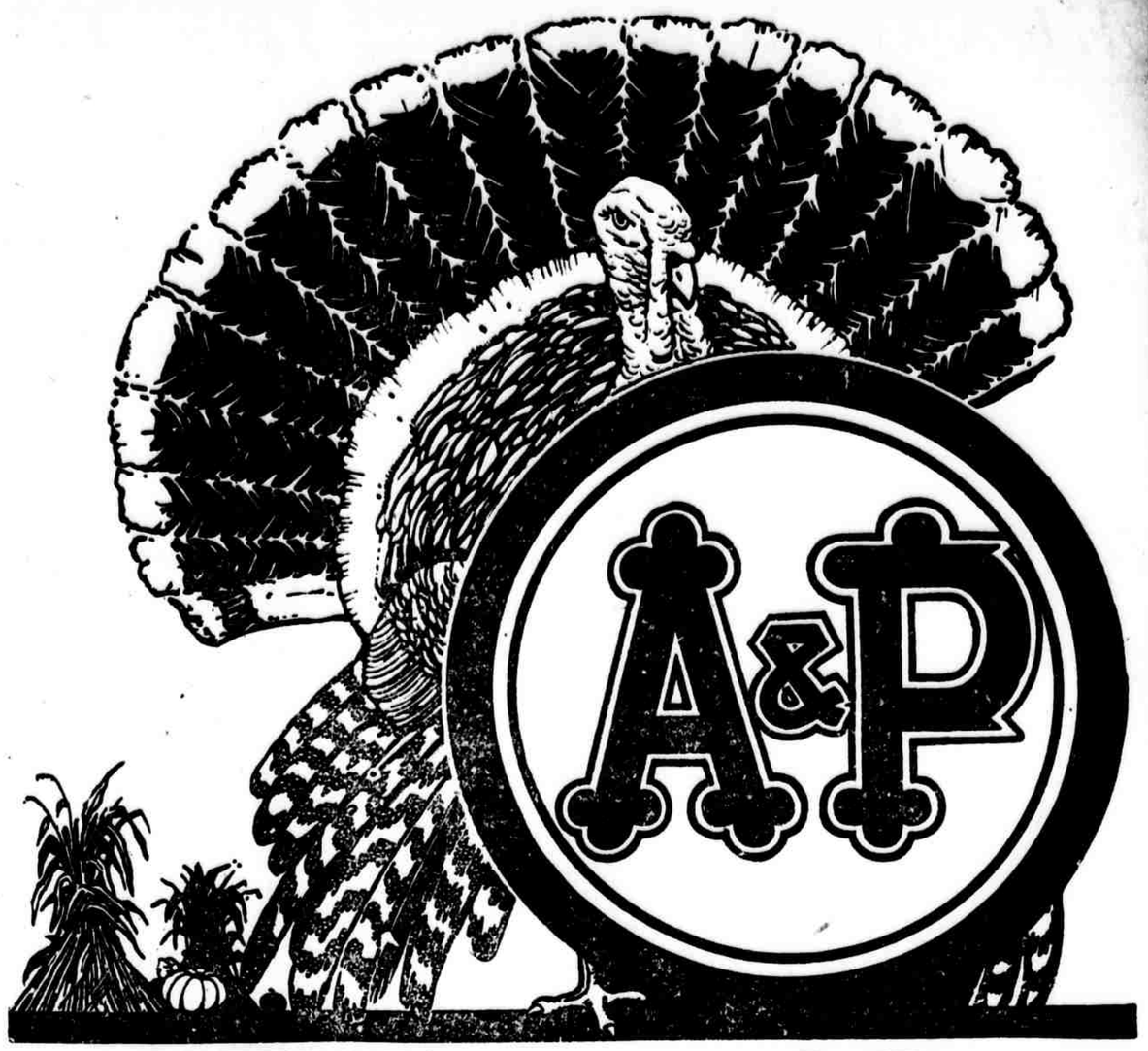

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