

TRAGEDY AT BARNEY LAID TO HUN AGENTS

Valdosta, Ga., May 20.—Information that has all appearance of being reliable has come in that the negroes who participated in the killing of Hampton Smith, a farmer, at Barney last week and the wounding of his wife, were either directly or indirectly urged to crime by German agents who have been working secretly among the negroes in this section, and that the crime was the first result of a German south-wide plot to stir up the negroes and cause a race war.

Johnson, the main perpetrator of the crime, is now dodging a large posse in the swamp along Knights creek, his feet tied in rags which are saturated in turpentine to prevent the dogs from following his tracks. He eluded his pursuers last night and came into Valdosta for food, later returning to the swamp.

Sheriffs of six counties and the chief of police of Valdosta, with a large pack of bloodhounds, are on his trail.

Armed men began to assemble in Valdosta tonight at 10 o'clock when reports were circulated that Sidney Johnson had been located three miles from town.

It also was observed at that time that several county officials had disappeared from the city, presumably gone to investigate the report.