

July 23, 1920

# **MONEY TAKEN FROM SAFE OF LEE COUNTY PRODUCE CO.**

## **JOHN MILTON NOW IN JAIL.**

Tuesday at noon brought to an end the way of securing money easy, by John Milton, when he entered the office of the Lee County Produce Co., opened the safe door, which the day lock had only been turned, and helped himself to the cash after opening the cash drawer. A couple of \$5.00 bills had been marked, the numbers taken and Monroe Seelke put on watch being only a few inches from the safe down behind a stack of cotton seed meal and a stack of empty sacks stacked up for the purpose of making an ideal hiding place for Monroe and where he had been spending his noon hour for more than a week while all the other force went to lunch. Monroe said it was awful hot down in the close place and the mosquitoes were awful bad at times but he was loyal to the cause and stood to his post and Tuesday John Milton was seen to open the safe by Monroe when he was in a few inches of him. Two other parties were on watch at other points and seen him enter the office also. After taking the two \$5.00 bills which had been marked, leaving another bill and a good bit of silver in the drawer, he pushed the drawer in and closed the safe and walked out. Monroe came from his hiding place and told the story. Constable Robinson called in a few minutes at Milton's house telling him he was wanted. Milton of course said he was not guilty and that he worked hard for his money. He was told to come on as the proof was against him. Again saying he did not have the money, Constable Robinson told Fred Krauss who accompanied him to Milton's house to come back to town, get Judge Story and get a search warrant. Mr. Krauss did so and Mr. Robinson remained to keep Milton company. While Judge Story was making out the search warrant, Constable Robinson and Milton came walking in the office. Milton had in the meanwhile confessed to the taking of the money and told where it was. He was told to get it and he reached up in the ceiling of the house and pulled out the two \$5.00 bills which were marked. Enough said. The bills which were numbered, corresponded with the numbers which

had been taken at the office of the Lee County Produce Co., so did the marks. Milton is now getting his board on the County in the new jail. Those around the Produce Co. say they have been missing money all along and could not locate how the cash was always coming up short. Milton had worked for them last fall while killing turkeys as time keeper and in that way became familiar around the office and of course spied the cash drawer, which usually has money in it, sometimes a good bit and again not so much. Milton had been seen a few times around when it was known he had no business and suspicion was aroused. A trap was set for him once before but Milton discovered it and his plans for that day fell through. However, he waited for awhile and again the cash began to check up short. One time \$40.00 was missing, another \$20.00 and at various times smaller amounts. Milton or who ever it was before, would not take all the money in the drawer but being a good burglar would split it, take about half and leave half. While Constable Robinson, Fred Krauss and Monroe Seelke were at Milton's house at first, of course there was some argument when he so strongly said he had not gotten the money, and Monroe Seelke was there and told him he was looking right at him, Milton's brother told John that the boy must have gotten the money and tried to lay it off on him. He was told on short notice where to head in or he would be in it worse than John. The talk is that John has not been doing much work since the turkey killing plan failed down last winter. The Produce Co. have been missing money all along at times. Of course no one but John knows whether he has been getting all the missing money, but nevertheless he admits getting that Tuesday and handed over the marked money.