

Preacher Whipped by Council of Defense

The Soper Democrat June 13, 1918 - transcribed by Ron Henson

Tuesday afternoon a committee of the Choctaw Council of Defense sent to Caddo where they got Rev. Chas. F. Reese, a minister of the Christian Church, and brought him back to Soper about 11 o'clock, where the local council of defense, assisted by the Hugo bunch with their tried leather strap, gave him a hearing, followed by a whipping he will remember the rest of his days.

It came to the council of defense that the preacher had been writing letters detrimental to the Red Cross and to the war generally. The council had the letters in its possession as evidence [sic] and read them to him and he acknowledged writing them. In a letter written the latter part of last December he made remarks against the Red Cross, and when faced with the accusation, said that he wrote the letter before the espionage act went into effect.

In another letter he stated that he would die before he would go to war, which he did not deny.

There was evidence produced showing that he had wrecked the home of one of our best families, and after the hearing he was stretched across a barrel and given a good whipping with the leather strap, and given a coat of yellow paint and ordered to leave Choctaw County and to quit preaching. He started out afoot with his suit cases and the crowd decided to get his clean clothes out of the suit cases so that he would have to wear the yellow clothes, and upon opening one of the cases found a .38 calibre [sic] pistol wrapped up in a shirt. The pistol was taken and will be auctioned off for the Red Cross.

Reese is well known here, having preached at the Christian church for a number of years.

The council of defense is determined to stop disloyalty in Choctaw County. If a man will not support his government they have a very effective way of converting him.