

J. T. DAVIDSON, A MEXICO SEWING MACHINE AGENT, ARRESTED IN ST. LOUIS AND BROUGHT HERE.

He Has Made a Full Confession to Sheriff Stephens and the Grand Jury Investigated His Case To-Day.

James T. Davidson, an agent for the Singer Sewing Machine Company, who worked for L. Coil, of this city, and who lives here, was arrested in St. Louis Monday morning on a charge of horse stealing.

For nearly two weeks Sheriff Stephens and Joseph Early, from whom Davidson stole a horse, have been on the alert, looking for the thief. Davidson was suspected and Sheriff Stephens has been following him from one place to another but was never able to catch him. Sheriff Sturgeon, of Montgomery County, was also informed of the matter, and Monday morning about eight o'clock the police in the third district, St. Louis, arrested Davidson and he was brought to this city last night by Deputy Sheriff Johnson, of Montgomery County, and now reposes in jail here.

To the sheriff on Tuesday he made

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To the sheriff on Tuesday he made a full confession of his thefts, and the case was immediately given over to the Grand Jury. He told Sheriff Stephens that on November 29, 1895, he stole a horse from Thomas Helm, who lives north of this city; on January 7, 1896, he stole one from Wm. Hayes, who lives in the same neighborhood, and on January 9, one from Joseph Early. He stated that the one he stole from Joseph Early he had sold to a St. Louis firm, which had shipped it to North Carolina. The horse he took from Wm. Hayes has been secured and is now the possession of the sheriff, while the other one is somewhere in the county.

Davidson's case is a most peculiar one and stamps him as a very slick horse thief. Since last May he has been in the employ of L. Coil, agent for the Singer sewing machine in Audrain county, and has been perfectly honest in all his transactions with Coil. He always appeared like a very poor man, and would often complain of his poverty. He is a large man and is about 55 years old. He has two sons, one grown and one thirteen years old, who live near Perry. He is a common dresser and to all appearances was very poor. A circumstance has come to light, however, since his arrest, that rather blasts the theory of his poverty. One day while

since his arrest, that rather blasts the theory of his poverty. One day while staying with Mr. Coil, he went into his room to change his clothes and was accompanied by Mr. Coil's boy, who said that when Davidson opened his trunk the hat tray was half full of silver coin and there was a roll of bills in it as big around as a man's arm. At the time, the boy's parents paid little attention to what he said, only thinking that perhaps he might have seen a few dollars and with a child's idea of money, have supposed it to be an immense sum. This may have been some profits which he had obtained by earlier thefts, of which nothing is known.

L. Coil was seen by a reporter for the LEDGER last Tuesday, just after he had come in from the country, where he had been looking into some of the business carried on by Davidson. He said that thus far he had found him short \$9 in his collections and one machine, and that before night he expected to find him short one more machine. Mr. Coil was much surprised at late developments, and had never had any trouble about Davidson's accounts before this time.

Davidson was sentenced on Wednesday to six years in the penitentiary.

By H. B. S. Willis Deed

DAVIDSON GETS SIX YEARS.

The Horse Thief Receives His Sentence Just Fifty-Five Hours After His Arrest—Other Prisoners Sentenced.

James T. Davidson, the gentleman who so successfully played the double roll of sewing machine agent and horse thief, will spend the next six years of his life within the grim, solid walls of the penitentiary. Such was the sentence imposed on him Wednesday by Judge Hughes, when he pleaded guilty to the three charges preferred against him by the Grand Jury.

Davidson was arrested in St. Louis at eight o'clock Monday morning, was brought to this city the same night, had made a full confession to Sheriff Stephens by eight o'clock Tuesday morning, his case was given to the Grand Jury Tuesday afternoon, at which time he was indicted on three charges and he was sentenced at three o'clock Wednesday, just about 55 hours after his arrest in St. Louis. So much for the methods of justice in Audrain county.

Ovid Brimer, who was indicted for

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Offender Information	Register Number	13426
	Name	James Davidson - Offender
	Sex	Male
	Race	White
	Age/Approx. Year of Birth	46/1850
	Nativity	Missouri
	Trade	Coal Miner
	Former Imprisonment	None
Offense Information	Offense	Grand larceny
	Location of Court	Audrain
	Sentence	6 Six years from Jan 22, 1896
	Term of Court	Jan 1896
	When Received	1/27/1896
	Full Time Sentence Expiration	Jan 22 1902
	Date of Discharge	7/21/1900
	Discharge Notes	Discharged under 3/4 law.
Location	Reel	S222
	Volume	U
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