

Dawn of Tomorrow

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Editorial

THE SOUTH AND LYNCHING.

We have rarely mentioned, editorially or otherwise, the frequent lynching of Negroes which occur in many sections of the southern part of the United States. There are several reasons why we have not done so. First, we are loath to soil our pages with crimes committed by semi-barbarians. Second, the Negro press throughout that country is fully capable and does give due publicity to all lynching. However, the lynching of Winston Pounds at Wilmot, Ark., last week illustrates just how far the mob spirit had gone in the Southland. Pounds and his father had worked on the McGuire farm for years. They were considered hard-working, respectable citizens, never having been in any kind of trouble during their whole lives. Some time during the night Mrs. Birdie McGuire awakened and screamed. She reported that she saw the form of a Negro in the bedroom in which she and her husband were sleeping. Next day the sheriff came and arrested the younger Pounds. He was started off to prison. On their way the sheriff and his deputy took occasion to leave the prisoner unguarded, although knowing there was a threatening mob present. Of course the prisoner was taken by the mob, carried out a short distance and murdered in a most cruel manner. Mrs. McGuire, on being questioned after the lynching, admitted that she was not sure she saw a Negro or even anyone in her room.

The lynching of Pounds illustrates clearly two or three things. First, it shows on what flimsy charges Negroes are lynched. It also shows that there is co-operation between the officials and the mob. It shows that there need not be even a suspicion of guilt on the part of the accused whenever his accuser is white.

If the federal government can see the necessity of attempting to curb the crime of lynching, we fail to see why it cannot find a reason to uphold the Monroe Doctrine or even the constitution.

AMERICAN OPPORTUNITY.

A Georgia Negro, who had been a slave in his youth, died at Atlanta recently, leaving an estate of a million dollars, and what is still better, the

esteem of all who had known him regardless of race.

He started as a barber in his early twenties and his industry and courteous manners won him the respect of his white customers who steadily grew in number. When he died he had many outside interests but retained his original shop which had grown from a one-man affair to one requiring the services of 42 men. And this colored capitalist had more than 700 Negroes working for him in one capacity or another at the time of his death.

There ought to be a lesson for all of us in this man's career. He did not have the priceless heritage of American liberty at the time of his birth. But, by using industry and sound judgment coupled with courtesy and attendance to business, he was able to make a success of his life under what to most of us would appear to be insurmountable difficulties.

The life of this Negro is only another evidence of what can be done in America. Even the humblest child may later in life win some sort of success by proper attention to business. The qualities most required are honesty, industry, a reasonable amount of intelligence, and by staying on a job.

Opportunities are greater in America now than ever before. The country is expanding and developing in a way that was undreamed of a few years ago. All of this expansion and progress means new opportunities for American youth.

Surely, if a man born in slavery, with the handicap of color, can win his way to success, there is no reason why the average American youth should feel afraid.—Snowflake, Ariz., Herald.

Topics of the Hour

"Without Controversy Great is the mystery."

The Universal Press naturally expected that our "Topics of the Hour" would excite a storm of debate, that is just what we need as a people. We must learn to see the large questions of the hour from more than our own angle. Our little opinion without investigation consultation and experience does not amount to much. In fact no man ever had the sole truth. It is from the sum total that we get the whole. For this reason we desire this space to become an open forum in which will appear the truth on great questions from our different types of mind.

We hold that Booker T. Washington gave us a great measure of truth, in fact so much, that the most popular schools of today in America are junior high schools, miniature types of Tuskegee. He had not the following of the entire race because we have not yet learned to recognize the need of following and respecting our great characters with a special mission. Dr. Du Bois fulfilled as great and special a mission as did Washington, no doubt greater, for when we were sleeping, in large numbers changing in abject imitation of other types and races, he fought for manhood.

Booker T. Washington, perhaps one day to be rated the greatest educator of his time, died years earlier than destiny designed because his spirit was broken by the apathy in the race to his great mission. He was giving of

his very heart blood, all his energy but for lack of esteem and for calumny from some sources he left us in his prime. Du Bois who should be loved for the scholarship that he devoted to digging up the great past of the Negro, blazing out a train that other scholarship might follow, is still in our midst. In the fight for Negro manhood he should have the following of us all.

If we differ from him, tell him so from the ranks of co-operation. Don't look for what he has not done. He has done much, we nothing as yet. We are using these two characters to prove the assertion that we need the full truth as to Negro nature. Negro needs and their solution then perhaps when the characters come along to fulfill these needs we will be better able to recognize and co-operate with them. We are asking you in writing to speak tersely, forcefully and constructively for we will not devote this precious space to mere criticism, any man can do that—the race needs solutions.

Benjamin Brawley gives us in "Opportunity" a telling illustration of the thing we wish to say. He tells us the story of the life of Edmund T. Jenkins, who in the Royal Academy, London, won so many prizes and became an assistant teacher. He came back to America with dreams about a great American school of music of a publishing house, and an orchestra that would tour the country. How needed an enterprise by a race as full of musical genius now prostrate to lower outlets. In Washington, Baltimore and New York he was met with dubious smiles. Deciding that all was of no avail he returned to Paris. How much he promised for budding genius. Now he is dead no more.

What is the lesson? That we can never be anything as a race until we recognize and co-operate with true genius. How many times have you noticed that the finest things within you were met by that same dubious smile of envy indifference, laziness or the opposition of ignorance. We must learn to cheer on other talent than our own. When the white race finds genius within itself, so often the family will sacrifice, the city will applaud and the entire nation sometimes concerns itself that this bud of genius shall flower for the good of all.

IN SEPTEMBER THE HIGHLANDS OF ONTARIO ARE AT THEIR BEST FOR A HOLIDAY.

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