

Dawn of Tomorrow

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EDITORIAL**BRUTAL MOB LAWLESSNESS**

Kirbyville, Texas, has had a brutal lynching. In that town a young Negro charged with associating with a white woman was taken from officers of the law by a mob of 150 men and women and put to death in the most savage manner. The Negro was hanged to a tree, seventeen shots were fired into the dangling body, and the body then was cut down and tied to the rear of an automobile and dragged about over the county until nude and mangled it was cast aside.

This mob gave a demonstration of maniacal frenzy which constitutes another challenge to civilization. It was not satisfied with hanging the Negro and riddling his body with bullets. It needs must drag the dead

and unfeeling body around until it was fit spectacle for barbarians to gaze upon and perhaps to dance around. And the Negro had committed no crime deserving of death under the law. He was not guilty of a graver offense against the law or against society than was his white paramour. Indeed, the white woman was the worse offender of the two.

The Sheriff of the county in which this outrage was committed is quoted as saying he has not learned the identity of the mob but that he plans to start a thorough investigation at once, assisted by officers from nearby cities. And this may be about the last the public will hear of the affair. Always when there is a lynching the officers who should have prevented it or failing to prevent it should hunt down the lynchers, announce their purpose to make a thorough investigation. And that usually is where the incident closes. The investigations, if and when made, are without results. One of the rarest sights in this country, the only country in which Judge Lynch holds court, is a member of a lynching mob in jail or at the bar of justice.

This explains why there is strong and increasing sentiment in Congress for a Federal anti-lynching bill, and why the pending bill will probably be passed by the next Congress. Some of the States protest that such a law would be an invasion of their rights, but the states have no right to tolerate mob murders by which accused persons are deprived of life without due process of law and in violation of the American Constitution.

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