

for that matter any other, was in the process of court adjudication to discount outside criticism which might often have been based upon inadequate or distorted knowledge of the facts; but where is the answer to the indisputable charge that Georgia has permitted a handful of men to prostrate her sovereignty in the dust? We may ignore those who tell untruths about us, knowing that a wanton falsehood harms its perpetrator most; but in the face of the merited finger of accusation we can only hang our heads in shame.

Georgia cannot retrieve the act for which, by the world she is held responsible; for which, through failure of her officials, responsibility rests upon her. There is but one even approximately adequate answer she can make, and that is punishment of the offenders—punishment of the slayers of a state's prisoner, of the assailants of the sovereignty of a state.

It matters not how the decrees of a court or courts may be modified through legal process, it is the duty, the sworn duty, of those officers charged by law with their execution to uphold them. For the first time, perhaps, since the murder of Mary Phagan, those convinced of the innocence of Leo Frank as well as those who believe in his guilt share a common view: That Georgia herself has been tied by the neck and dragged through the mud. The record of Monday night's mob delivery and execution writes a page in Georgia's history which every Georgian will read with shame.

Georgia has suffered too often and too much through the ordinary lynching where the passions of men, inflamed by outrageous crime, have prompted them to take a prisoner still wet from the blood of his victim, and hang him to a tree. Even there palliative excuse is lacking. But the act of the mob which went into the state penitentiary where the legally modified decree of the courts was in process of execution, is suggestive of approach to anarchy.

We may regret and deplore, but the stain is there. In it the name and the identity of Leo Frank are but an atom. The great question others will ask is, "What surety can Georgia offer of the enforcement of constitutional rights and the protection of the laws?" We at home know, but what shall we answer to those who cite specific cases to the contrary?

Georgia owes it to herself and to her future, to go to the bottom of this tragedy and not to rest until she has erased that stain insofar as it is possible for official effort to wipe it out.

GEORGIA'S SHAME!

Leo M. Frank, a life prisoner in the state penitentiary, where he was sent by conjoint decree of the courts and the executive clemency power, has been taken from the state prison farm, carried more than 150 miles through the country and lynched by a mob, which left his body hanging to a tree near Marietta.

In that act the sovereignty of the state of Georgia has been assaulted, desecrated, raped. No word in the language is too strong, to apply to the deliberate and carefully conspired deed of the mob. The assault of the lowest criminal upon the life, person or property of another affects directly but two persons, the assailant and his victim; that act of the mob which lynched Leo Frank has put a stain upon the escutcheon of a state which more than 2,500,000 people are trying to preserve untarnished.

Every man, woman and child in Georgia will feel the ultimate effect of that act of the law-defying mob which went to Milledgeville and lynched not Leo Frank, who is only a detail in the awful story, but the state itself. It is Georgia, Georgia law and justice, that was hanged upon that Cobb county tree.

The strangest part about it all is that it occurred at all. There is not a man, woman or child of reasonable age in Georgia but could have predicted the possibility of this wantonly unlawful tragedy. Most of all, those state authorities responsible for prison safety should have known the attempt would probably be made. In the well-known state of public feeling, emphasized by repeated threats and rumors of violence to the prisoner, and further incited by a murderous assault upon the particular prisoner by an inmate of the same penitentiary camp, it was the duty of those state authorities, their sworn duty, to go to every necessary extent to prevent that act of violence in which Georgia's shame is now indelibly written.

They owed it not only to the prisoner, but to the state; they owed it to Georgia, the sanctity of whose law has been the one real issue, and now the thing most wantonly violated. And yet that mob of twenty-five men secured a prisoner whom the state was obligated to protect, carried him away and lynched him; took him without the necessity of breaking a lock or firing a shot.

If a similar handful of the prisoner's friends had eluded the vigilance of the prison board and its deputies, gone to the state farm, handcuffed farm officials, silenced the inadequate guard and rescued the prisoner without the firing of a defensive gun or other effort to prevent his carrying off, the people of Georgia would have demanded prompt and vigorous investigation to fix the responsibility for the escape.

It is equally the duty of the constituted state authorities now, first to find and place the responsibility for the carrying off and lynching of this prisoner, and the wanton assault upon the law; second, to search out and locate each and every member of that lawless mob and administer merited punishment for a deed that has hanged a millstone around the neck of Georgia.

It was all very well when this case, or,