

CALLED BLOT ON STATE BY JOSEPHUS DANIELS

Will Be Denounced Most Sincerely in the South, Secretary of Navy Declares.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17.—Secretary of the Navy Daniels tonight issued a formal statement denouncing the lynching of Leo M. Frank as the worst blot on the name of Georgia and declaring that it would be more sincerely condemned in the South than in any other part of the Republic.

The statement follows:

"I am shocked beyond expression at the lawlessness of the Georgia mob. It is the worst blot upon the name of the State. Every good citizen must deplore it. It will be denounced more sincerely in the South than in any other part of the Republic. The great bulk of Southern people know that such instances, perpetrated by the few and indorsed by a small minority, work injury to their section.

"There is never any excuse anywhere for lynch law. In this case there were thousands of the best men in Georgia and elsewhere who doubted the guilt of Frank. There were many in Georgia who believed he was guilty. If guilty, he ought to have paid the penalty of the heinous crime, the worst that man can commit. The Governor, after long deliberation, decided to commute the sentence to life imprisonment. Those who thought the Governor should have let the sentence stand cannot even advance the poor plea that Frank had escaped punishment. The Governor's action changed the sentence from death to imprisonment for life. The punishment of life imprisonment is the most serious sentence that can be imposed, short of execution. If guilty, Frank would be duly punished for his crime, for life imprisonment is a living death.

"No man is safe when a mob takes the law in its own hands. I have no doubt the Governor of Georgia will employ every possible agency to discover the mob murderers and bring them to trial and punishment. The honor and fair name of Georgia demand this. The case has become one of nation-wide interest, and the eyes of all the civilized world, standing aghast at the crime of the mob, will look to Georgia to punish the criminals who, under the cover of night, have committed a crime that cries aloud for severest punishment."

COMMENT OF COUNTRY'S PRESS

Killing of Frank Generally Condemned as a Blot on Georgia.

Here are comments by the newspapers of New York City and of principal newspapers in other cities outside of Georgia on the lynching:

People Will Watch Governor.

From The Sun.

Governor Harris promises to use all his powers to "see to it that the members of the mob receive fitting punishment for their crime." The people of the country will judge him by his performance. There are some features of the case that should make detection no great triumph of police skill. Most of the lynchers who invaded the State farm were not masked, and made no mystery of their purpose. Identifications should not be difficult.

Sees One Gleam of Light.

From The World.

The mob did not "take the law into their own hands." They trampled on the law. They lynched the honor of a State. In the dark prospect that faces the State there is one gleam of light. It is the declaration of the gallant ex-Governor Slaton that every man concerned in "an act contrary to the civilization of Georgia should be hanged, for he is an assassin." It is the pledge of Governor Harris to use all his power to "see to it that the members of this mob receive fitting punishment for their crime." This is the word for future action.

"No Refuge for Butchers."

From The American.

For this outrage there can be no foloration, North or South, East or West. To allow the murderers to go unpunished would be to abandon justice and set anarchy up in its stead. If the offering of a reward for the apprehension of the butchers will facilitate their capture, it should be offered. There can be no condoning any lynching. A lynching of this daring and atrocious character is an insult not only to the people of Georgia, but to the people of the whole United States. There must be no refuge for these butchers. To give them aid or comfort, to offer them opportunity for concealment is a criminal act and should be punished as such.

"What Will Georgia Do About It?"

From The New York Herald.

What is Georgia going to do about it?

Is there manhood enough in the law-respecting citizenry of that great State, is there strength enough in its Government to see that prompt and condign punishment is meted out to the murderers of Leo M. Frank?

Frank was in the custody of the responsible authority of Georgia and should have had, at any cost, every protection that the power of its Government can exercise. His murder is a crime against the State. On the surface it looks very much as if the Government of Georgia cannot be absolved of direct responsibility for the crime.

"The Red Hand of Anarchy."

From The Tribune.

How deeply the poison of this mob spirit extends into the body politic may be gauged by the sincerity of the efforts that are put forth in running down and capturing the lynchers and in ridding the State prison system of men and measures which make a mockery of protection. Let the inhabitants of Georgia understand that the assassination of Leo Frank is a powerful blow at that fabric of laws which guarantees

to the humblest of them the sanctuary of the State. The red hand of anarchy is dangling Frank's noose under every Georgian's nose.

"What Can Be Done About It?"

From The Evening Post.

There is no need to put words to the rack in order to seek to express the full horror and shame of the lynching of Leo Frank in Georgia. The crime was committed, as it were, in full sight of the nation. The victim, whether innocent or guilty of the act with which he was originally charged, had come to be a public figure of tragedy. The awful spectacle speaks for itself. We can only turn away from it with a shudder to ask what it all means and what can be done about it. We fear that the Georgia authorities cannot be acquitted of negligence. Let a society be founded—give it what name you will—State-wide at first, later nation-wide, with the specific aim of stamping out lynching.

Hounded by People of Georgia.

From The Evening Sun.

Frank was hounded from the day of his arrest to the last tragic moment of his life by a massed sentiment of prejudice against which fact, logic, humanity, the temperate counsels of well-approved leaders of public opinion were vain and impotent. Georgia condemned Frank unheard, disregarding the principles of law or the demands of equity. As an organic force the people have been against him at every turn, and their enmity was the inspiration behind the black deed of which only a few were the instrument. Let us now see whether anything like the same heat will be shown in pursuing these criminals that was displayed in the undoing of Frank.

Mob Wanted Only His Death.

From The Evening Globe.

In defiance of a nation-wide public sentiment, in spite of the fact that authorities and Judges who reviewed the case clearly indicated their grave doubt, many Georgians made a shameful spectacle of the State by their fury when the Governor changed Frank's sentence to life imprisonment, so that he might have a chance to prove his innocence. The mob did not want him to have such a chance. With all the fury of a wild beast it wanted only his death. The State of Georgia cannot remove this blot of shame. But it can prove to all that effective government exists in that State by punishing every one of those murderers to the full extent of the law.

A Recrudescence of Race Prejudice.

From The Evening Mail.

America, the melting pot of the nations, in which the blood of all Aryan Europe has been fused during the past two centuries, is witnessing a recrudescence of national and race prejudices in most menacing forms. These racial lines of cleavage threaten to split our people, which had almost been fused into a homogeneous unit inspired by the American ideal, into a mixed conglomerate of nationalities and races upon which no great civilization can be built up.

State, or Nest of Outlaws?

From The Brooklyn Eagle.

Either Georgia is a State in which law is dominant, or she is a nest of outlaws, undeserving the name of civilization. In which category she will rank depends upon her punishment of this crime—a crime not only against a prisoner in her penitentiary, but against her own government and her own civil institutions. There are thousands of upright and law-abiding Georgians who have been proud of their State in the past and to whom the sentence of outlawry upon it by the rest of the country will seem cruel and unjust. But to avert that sentence those law-respecting Georgians must organize and assert their supremacy over the mob of barbarians who have brought their civilization to a standstill.