

"A REGRETTABLE INCIDENT."

After what the Georgia Prison Commission goes so far as to call "a regrettable incident," the crowd was looking at the body of LEO FRANK, dangling from the tree, the blood of the not quite successful effort to murder him a month ago streaming from his throat. In that wild assemblage one man was wild to the edge of madness. You see him "bare-headed, coatless, his eyes blazing like those of a maniac." He shakes his fists at the dead man. His hands and body twitch convulsively. He screams and shrieks. As the crowd yells his ferocity grows, he bawls his hate louder and shriller at the corpse. When it is taken down he stamps his heels upon the face in a climax of arch-savagery.

That madman was a symbol of the madness that has obsessed Georgia. FRANK was doomed. A fixed idea, a terrible hallucination, raged. From his first arraignment to his expected end a hysterical passion, spread by deliberate and cruel incitements, prevailed. In two years it became more virulent instead of abating. It was largely artificial in its origin.

As for legal punishment of the men who actually carried into effect the death sentence pronounced upon an innocent man by the mob demon, it is rather to be hoped for than expected. Jack Ketch has given warning. Are there twelve jurymen in Georgia strong and brave enough to vote "Guilty" if FRANK's executioners were brought before them and fastened to their crime by proof irrefragable?

There is much vain talk among apologists of this assassination about "outside interference." If somebody in Maine or Oregon ventures to doubt the justice of a verdict in Georgia, let Georgia vindicate State rights by lynching the man whose guilt has been doubted by the presumptuous outlander. That sort of stuff could influence no man with reason enough to vote. Georgia, or some Georgians, have spat on their own Constitution and defiled their own land. For daring to use on the side of mercy his clear constitutional and legal right, Governor SLATON was threatened and, in exile from his State, is still threatened, with FRANK's fate. The madness is not cooled yet. Even in the presence of an incredible brutality the chins of the preachers of the lynching bee are wagging.

"Such a thing can never happen again in Georgia," says The Macon Telegraph, which seems to find comfort in the fact that "the men who did the work were firmly convinced FRANK was guilty." What an unbounded harvest of "justifiable" lynchings may be reaped from that theory enforced with hemp!