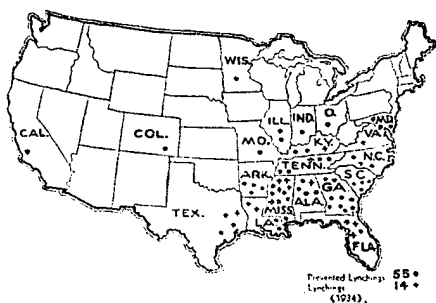


EDITORIALS

Preventing Lynching

THERE is a need, crying louder today than ever before, for a Federal anti-lynching law. The JOURNAL AND GUIDE has urged passage of such a bill for years and will continue to do so until proper remedial measures for the punishment of mob murderers in every part of the United States have been adopted. The object, of course, is to afford every man charged with crime the benefits of due processes of law and an orderly trial.

But if lynchings can be prevented, there will be no need of an anti-lynching law. And so we turn with satisfaction and commendation to the work of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching. Printed herewith is a map of the United States showing the places where fourteen lynchings in 1934 took place—X marks the spot. It shows also the places where alert and honest law enforcement officials prevented 55 potential or threatened lynchings.



This blight on American civilization can be removed, if the causes underlying it are removed. The hackneyed excuse of lynching sympathizers that the mob acted in defense of womanhood has been proved itself defenseless. "In the light of facts, this claim can no longer be used as a protection to those who lynch," declares this enlightened group of Southern white women. They have recognized also that lynching is an outgrowth of economic repression and have set themselves to a course which eventually will lead to eradication of its causes. In a resolution adopted January 9, 1934, in Atlanta, Georgia, the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching proclaims:

"We declare as our deliberate conclusion that the crime of lynching is a logical result in every community that pursues the policy of humiliation and degradation of a part of its citizenship because of accident of birth; that exploits and intimidates a weaker element in its population for economic gain; that refuses equal educational opportunity to one portion of its children; that segregates arbitrarily a whole race in unsanitary, ugly sections; that permits the lawless element of both races to congregate in these segregated areas with little fear of molestation by the law; and finally denies a voice in the control of government to any fit and proper citizen because of race."

If southern white people generally should grasp fully the broad vision out of which that resolution grew, and right the wrongs it enumerates, lynching would become one of the phenomena of our past history. We dare not even hope for its early acceptance, but we know that after a long period of years it may become one of the shining truths acknowledged by all Americans.

A Federal anti-lynching law undoubtedly will serve to retard the lynching evil, but it will not be extinguished until the economic repression of which it is an outgrowth shall have been abated.