

120 LYNCHED

DOES LYNCHING THRIVE UNDER THE DEMOCRACY?
A SCATHING ARRAIGNMENT OF THE PARTY OF MOB
VIOLENCE AND OUTLAWRY BY RALPH W. TYLER.

One Hundred and Twenty-two Negroes Murdered in Cold Blood
by American Savages — Decent Southerners Stay Not the
Hand of Their Criminal Neighbors.

Excuse of Rape Seldom Alleged—Lynchings for Trivial Offenses,
and Little Attempt to Sustain Charges — An Insatiable Appete
for Blood of Negroes the Controlling Impulse — Democracy
Responsible for Red Record — Of One Hundred and Twenty-
two Lynchings Not One Was Committed in a State Under Re-
publican Rule.

BURNING OF INNOCENT OR UNTRIED BLACK MEN A
DEMOCRATIC ASSET.

CAN NEGROES OF INTELLIGENCE SUFFER SUCH A
PARTY TO RETURN TO POWER IN THE NATIONAL
GOVERNMENT?

RECORD YOUR ANSWER AT THE POLLS ON NOVEM-
BER THIRD. IT WILL BE "NO."

BY RALPH W. TYLER.

During the past two years—1906—1907—one hundred and twenty-two Negroes were lynched—murdered in cold blood, and many of them in the most fiendishly, uncivilized manner. And that, too, without the least semblance of a trial. So unduly was the haste that marked the murdering of these unprotected black citizens that 61 percent of them had not so much as a hearing, 46 percent of them were just suspected — without even circumstantial evidence, and 72 percent of them, had they been given a fair trial, and the guilt for which they were accused been established beyond any question of doubt, they would only have been guilty of crimes the penalty of which is a jail or penitentiary sentence from six months to ten years. And, horrible as it is, five of them had their innocence clearly established after the mob had performed its inhuman work.

Of these 122 Negroes lynched in two years, one was just accused of being the father of a boy who happened unintentionally to jostle a white boy; one was just accused of expressing sympathy for a brother lynched; one just accused of carrying a pistol; one just accused of marrying (with her free consent) a white woman; one just accused of being the wife of an assailant; three just accused of insulting, by word, an able-bodied white man. The qualifying term "just accused" is used for the reason that not one of these had been regularly accused by an authorized officer of law or by a court of law. They were simply "accused" by an irresponsible, in-defiance-of-law, bloodthirsty mob.

Rape is the one crime which boasted Southern chivalry and protection of women holds as justifying lynch law; though the law of not a single State, passed in calm deliberation, and without the spur of violent passion, provides for lynching for even this most heinous of crimes. And yet of all those Negroes—122—that were lynched during the past two years, only 31 were even as much as accused of "attempted rape." Thus it is seen that out of the 122 Negroes lynched there were 79 black victims of race hatred hurried to their Maker without hearing or trial, for alleged crimes other than that particular one some of the white South holds must be punished by death administered by a frenzied, half-civilized, and more than half-brute mob of beings who boast of civilization and of living in civilized communities.

It seems to be well established that race hatred and race discrimination breed crime, and that, too, even among that class which upholds and practices it, as well as among that class which is the victim. Witness these 122 lynchings in two years in boasted civilized Southland.

But there is another side to this question that is at least interesting for study. Of all these 122 Negro lynchings not one was committed in States governed by Republican officials and Republican sentiment. Every one was committed in States where the Negro is denied those rights which the Constitution vouchsafes; every one was committed in States where Democratic control is absolute, from Governor down to the petty township official.

Had the 122 Negroes lynched been accused, tried fairly, and found guilty of the beastly crime of rape, it might have been possible, by smothering respect for law, to have almost justified the taking of the law into mob hands, if the punishment prescribed was not such as to fit the crime. But only 79 bits of humanity with black skin who were accused of crimes the penalty for which varies from a judicial reprimand to a prison sentence, or a sure law-prescribed death.

In considering these lynchings of Negroes by States, Mississippi leads the horrible roll with 25, and Mississippi, the home of Vardaman, rolled up a majority of 50,189 for the Democratic candidate for president, and is represented in Congress by a solidly Democratic delegation.

Alabama is second with a total of 18 Negroes lynched in two years, and Alabama is proud of the fact that she gave the Democratic candidate for president 57,385 majority, and points with pride to her Congressional representation, because it is not marred by a single Republican to dwarf Heflin by contrast.

Louisiana comes a close third, with 17 Negroes lynched, and Louisiana gave the Democratic candidate for president 42,542 majority, and has a solidly Democratic representation in Congress.

Georgia, Democratic by 94,125 at the last election, gives to the historian a record of 15 lynchings of Negroes to chronicle, and Georgia boasts of not a single Republican in Congress, and of a Democratic majority that makes Republican hopes fruitless.

Texas follows fifth, with 9 Negroes lynched, and Texas is so loyally Democratic that she gave that party 201,773 majority at the last election, and preserves an unbroken line of Democrats in Congress.

Arkansas looms up with 7 Negro lynchings, and, as a companion

(Continued to page 4.)

ONE HUNDRED and TWENTY Lynched

Continued from page 1. ~~1871~~

to these 7, she records 61,784 majority for the Democrats at her last election, and boasts of nine Representatives and two Senators in Congress, including Jeff Davis, all of whom are Democrats.

South Carolina, the home of Tillman, follows with 6, and the Palmetto State gave 50,000 majority even for Parker, four years ago, and has a solid Democratic representation in Congress.

Oklahoma and Indian Territories, now the State of Oklahoma, has 5, and Oklahoma signaled her admission into the Union as a State by electing a Democratic Governor and Legislature, and by passing Jim Crow laws to restrict and circumscribe a law-abiding, industrious, progressive black yeomanry.

Florida sent 6 Negroes to an untimely death by the lynch route, and the Peninsular State gave 18,722 majority for the Democratic candidate for president, and takes pride in the fact that she has eight Congressional districts (and two Senators) represented by that many Democrats.

Kentucky, under Democratic Governor Beckham, had 4 Negro lynchings. And Kentucky maintains Democratic supremacy in Congress, and has uniformly voted for a Democrat for president.

Maryland, under Democratic rule, and with her agitation to restrict the Negro's right of suffrage, lynched 3 Negroes.

North Carolina had 5, and in North Carolina Republican representation in State, county or Congress has been but an iridescent dream.

Missouri, under a Democratic Governor, exploited for his enforcement of law, lynched 3.

Tennessee, a State that has consistently cast her electoral vote for any and every candidate the Democrats named, remained in sympathy with her sister Southern States by lynching 3 Negroes in defiance of law.

The question that naturally arises, in the mind of every Negro, is, If all the Negroes lynched, without hearing or trial, and many for but petty crimes, and some for no crime at all, were lynched in States that deny the Negro the right of suffrage, and the privileges native-born American citizens are entitled to, and in States only that are Democratic, if the candidate of the Democratic party is elected, how soon will it be when the same spirit of Democracy, as represented by Bryan's Southern allies, influences the rest of the country into restricting Negro suffrage, and lynching of Negroes, without hearing or trial, at the proportionate rate of 122 every two years?

One hundred and twenty-two Negroes in rock-ribbed, steadfastly Democratic States! What an appalling number of brutal, unjustifiable murders!

And the mob did not stop at lynching men alone, but mere boys, and women too, whose skin was black, were crushed bleeding, lifeless by this bloody, heathenish and accursed juggernaut that Race-Discrimination incites, and Democracy preserves as a tribute to fealty to that party's belief in the nullification of the Negro's rights.