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## EAST ST. LOUIS RIOTERS WREAK DEATH AND DE- STRUCTION ON NEGROES

**An Ineffaceable Blot on Our  
Great American De-  
mocracy**

**Hundreds of Negroes Shot, Lynched, Burned and Families Homeless  
Through Fires Started by the Mob. White Girls and  
Women Join in Butchery. Better Class of White  
Citizens Hang Their Heads in Shame and  
Call for Immediate Action From  
the Federal Authorities.**

**A** GAIN the blood-thirstiness of the white people of East St. Louis, Illinois, shows no sign of being satiated as by the terrible happenings of murder and incendiarism from Sunday evening, July 1st, estimates of the dead and wounded number as high as 250 and thousands of Negro families are left homeless. It is said that this action of the mob eclipsed anything prior to it and reduced the riots of last May to the mere semblance of a street brawl.

**Appalling Incidents in U. S. Civil-  
ization.**

The following gives an account of some of the many atrocities and losses from fire that took place between Sunday to Tuesday evening of this week.

Fires started at noon in three Negro sections of the city by the rioters and fanned by a high wind soon got beyond control. As the Negroes rushed from their houses panic-stricken into the streets they were shot down like rabbits. Many bodies were dragged to a creek and thrown into the water.

"I killed seventeen tonight," said a big white man, grinning as he shifted a bloody axe he was carrying from one hand to the other, "and I'm going to get a few more if I get a chance."

The mob divided into groups of from 200 to 1,000, scattered over all parts of the city got their supply of .32 and .38 caliber shells from automobiles that dashed through the streets stopping at the various points where they congregated and added to the scenes of destruction and slaughter by emptying the contents of their guns into the bodies of Negro men, women and children, fleeing for safety.

As the mobs went from section to section, setting more blazes to Negro homes, the unfortunates ran from their cottages, the rioters firing at them and many falling back into the flames.

White women and girls took a prominent part (as was done at the Eli Persons lynching in Georgia recently) in this, one of the most disgraceful chapters of the history of the beauty of American Democracy, when they beat Negro women as they fled from their

burning homes and also tore off the clothes from their bodies. Well dressed girls and women, hair flying and clothing covered with the blood of their victims led units of the mob. Two girls, not more than 19 years old, dragged an old Negro woman off a street car and beat her into insensibility with their shoes. A white woman, dressed in a blood-spattered frock, hit one of a group of Negro children over the head with an iron bar as they were about to be rescued, while a Negro man, who had been hanged to a telephone pole and shot, was afterward cut down and a number of women and children tore his body literally to pieces and roasted it in a fire they had made. Two Negroes were lynched at a point in the city and four were killed by snipers.

**Police and Militia Powerless to  
Act.**

Policemen and guardsmen of the militia were said to be overpowered by the mob and were practically useless. Only here and there did they accomplish a little rescue work. Three or four soldiers, disarmed and cowed by the mob were forced to join the rioters. One was forced to kill a Negro at the approach to the bridge leading to the Missouri side. Col. S. O. Tripp succeeded in rescuing an aged Negro who was being dragged at the end of a rope by more than a hundred men. The Colonel jumped from his automobile, and forcing his way through the mob was allowed to take charge of the man without further molestation. A lad of 18 from Effingham was injured while rescuing a dozen Negro women and children. Very commendable for these two instances of hearts that pulsate with the feelings of humanity. Did other authorities adopt such fearlessness, the success of the mob would be frustrated.

**Expressions and Opinions.**  
"It is the most terrible sight I have ever witnessed," said Adjutant General Dickson. In the opinion of the Chamber of Commerce, had the militia acted vigorously, much bloodshed might have been averted. They also demanded to know of the Adjutant General why the troopers had not dis-

played more energetic activity in the whole affair. Members of the Chamber were not slow to charge the soldiers with inefficiency bordering on cowardice. The police force was also charged with negligence in attempting to quell violence.

**Cause of Riot.**

Honest Negro citizens in their search for improving their condition obtain employment in large firms. Dissatisfaction arises with the Central Trades and Labor Council who, though they refuse to admit Negroes in their union, complain that these Negro workmen would not unionize and would not strike and are therefore taking the places of white men. Managers of the plants say that not a white man had been deprived of work because of the Negroes. The Colorado Statesman specially requests its readers to read between the lines and make their deductions. We have never and will never stop to denounce this internal lawlessness and barbarous display and in our editorial in this issue bearing on this subject we will champion the cause with the same fearlessness and express ourselves in the same bold and naked manner as before. In the midst of all these sufferings we have members of the white race who will place Citizenship, National Honor and Human Liberty above Race Hate, as is proven by the following editorial of Wednesday, July 4, of the Rocky Mountain News, that we have often highly commended for its stand for right regardless of the species of human color. This journal, realizing the essence of the National Independence Day, which gives to all its citizens the right to move to and fro in this country in the grand and great privilege given to the exercise of a free people does not hesitate to remind a blind, color prejudice race in this country of the quintessence of a Democracy and warns the government of the support offered to enemy nations by the act of such undemocratic and criminal actions of the members of the white race:

**The Stigma of East St. Louis.**

What has taken place in the past week at East St. Louis, Illinois, U. S. A., indicates that much of the common world talk about "no nationalism" or internationalism and the immediate abolition of race prejudices, all leading, of course, to a world confederacy, is foolish talk and fails to take into account present day and world old history and the mob psychology.

Before we go too far along the will-o'-the-wisp road we ought to remove the beam from our own eye, and not say overmuch about the mote in other nation's eyes.

The reign of terror, the mob outbreak, the brutalities committed on women and children as well as men in the American city cannot be condoned. It is a blot upon the nation. There was very little, if any, excuse for the orgy of bloodshed and incendiarism. It could not be alleged, as had often been done further south, that the Negro population was dangerously in the majority. Neither was it a matter of a moment's thought over an assault that made the blood boil. The attack upon the Negro quarter of the town was premeditated and inspired by selfishness. For days and nights there had been threats and minor

outbreaks tending to terrorize the Negroes and compel them to go away. When these failed, the mob spirit gained control and things were done by white people that cannot be excused.

Unquestionably the blood lust that is upon the world today was responsible for the severity of the outbreak against the colored race in a city where they cut no great figure. We are creatures of environment and we are at present surrounded by millions who see red and who have no other thought but to kill or be killed. It would be impossible for this section of the globe, so intimately wired with the European abattoir, to escape the contagion. The blood thirstiness, exhibited for so long a period, against the colored population must be traced back to what has been taking place in three years in a large part of the earth. Even then the excuse is a thin whitewash.

The outbreak against the colored race was economic, when it was not due to rank race hatred, dislike of a colored skin. Negroes were brought into the town by corporations to work. The whites took umbrage. White labor was supposed to be in jeopardy. The Negro must be taught a terrible lesson!

We hope it may be possible for the federal authorities to take a part in the punishment of the ringleaders. Otherwise nothing of consequence is likely to be done.

Much will be heard from foreign quarters regarding this "race outbreak." It came at a most inopportune moment. Let the nation bow its head in sorrow for a moment today for the crimes committed by the relatively few.

**NEGROES TOLD TO ARM—WILSON  
DENOUNCED BY CHICAGO  
SPEAKERS.**

Chicago, July 4.—"Arm yourselves now with guns and pistols," said Ferdinand L. Barnett, a former assistant state's attorney in speaking to 100 Negro men at a mass meeting held this afternoon to protest against the riots and bloodshed in East St. Louis. "Don't buy an arsenal, but get enough guns to protect yourselves. You may be victims in Chicago within a fortnight of such murders and outrages as have taken place in East St. Louis. As when trouble starts let us not hesitate to call upon our Negro militiamen to defend us."

Barnett and A. R. Roberts, another speaker, sponsored resolutions condemning Governor Lowden and other public officials "laxness of duty" because the riots took place, and demanding punishment of the participants in the riots.

"The fact that the governor let this mob run its course is forever a black spot on the executive record of the state," said Barnett. "The officer who told the militia not to shoot should be court-martialed and branded a traitor and murderer. I don't know who is to blame, but a mob is a mob, and ought to be dispersed or killed."

We are going to rectify this in some way. The 10,000,000 of our race will not stand for massacre.

"Behind an army go the guerrillas—looters, cowards and thieves. Behind this riot is the public defense council, whose fulminations are written without consulting a single Negro. They breathe the same spirit as the mob of East St. Louis did."

"Get guns and put them in your homes. Protect yourselves. And let no black man permit a policeman to come in and get those guns."

"I love my race better than my country. God would demand 100,000 white lives in the war for each Negro slaughtered in East St. Louis."

I love my race better than my country," he shouted. "This country, under Woodrow Wilson, is asking us to carry the flag of democracy to Europe. God forbid that he take

## RACE NEWS

GATHERED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES

Washington, D. C., According to official figures just given out, 9,659,382 Americans registered for selective army draft, between the ages of 21 and 31, of whom 7,347,749 were white and 953,899 were colored. The Indians who registered numbered 6,001. The claim is made in some quarters that hundreds of Negroes who have no difficulty passing for white registered as white, some taking offence at the unnecessary reference to African descent printed on the corner of the registration paper, and others because they are known in their respective communities as Caucasians.

Fort Des Moines, Ia.—Several of the local restaurants and picture houses in the city of Des Moines have refused to accommodate members of the Reserve Officers' Training Camp, have been notified by Lieut. Bell, provost guard commander of the City of Des Moines, that the men in training at the Fort are here because the United States Government has ordered them to come and any discrimination whatever shown toward them in restaurant, church rooms or theaters would not be tolerated by the military authorities. Consequently all owners and proprietors who have been known to have discriminated against one or two of the cadets have been notified that at the first unfavorable report against them their license will be revoked. Discrimination in the city has not been widespread. It was only shown here and there by some narrow-minded proprietor. The city as a whole has been frank and open in its welcome of the cadets.

Baltimore, Md.—When Comptroller Thrift, who represented Mayor Preston, started to present the diplomas to the members of this year's graduating class of the Colored High School, he sharply dissented from the views just expressed by Mrs. Mary Church Terrell, of Washington, that the European war would aid the Negro's progress in the United States. The Comptroller evidently "lost his head," for his remarks were such as to arouse the ire of many in the audience, who hissed him. Mr. Thrift was born in Virginia and of course has some peculiar notions about the Negro of to-

day and his future. In an interview, published next day in the Baltimore Evening Sun, Comptroller Thrift admitted that the utterances of Mrs. Terrell had riled him and that he had told the audience he did not think the time would ever come in this country when there could be a general breaking down of the barrier of races, such as Mrs. Terrell had in mind. The Comptroller seems to be imbued with the absurd notion that "Jim Crow" cars, segregation, disfranchisement and other indignities resented by the race should be looked upon in a matter-of-fact way and without protest, Negroes in Baltimore assert.

Memphis, Tenn., June 29.—An automobile killed a white man right on the spot where Eli Pearsons was burned. Another white man, his wife and child were killed by lighting a few days ago in a storm. The man had one of the fingers of Pearson on the day of the burning. Is the hand of God at work.

**PLUCKY RACE WOMAN  
DEFEATS SCHOOL BOARD**  
West Chester, Pa., June 26.—Judge Butler sitting here in the County Court, handed down a decision in favor of Mrs. Rebecca Simms, who refused to send her children to a basement school room in Downingtown, Pa. The decision ends a bitter battle between Mrs. Simms and the board. The school board hopelessly beaten, was not represented at the time of the trial. They decided to accept the judgment of the court.

The fight against the School Board was begun last August, when the colored children were separated from the whites, and sent to the basement of the school building. A number of indignation meetings were held, and plans laid to carry the fight to the courts. It was agreed not to send the children to school. Some were of the opinion that this would be carrying the matter too far. But not Mrs. Simms. She not only refused to send her children to the segregated class room, but refused to pay fines levied by the police authorities. Public spirited citizens offered to pay the fines on several occasions but she refused to accept their offers of assistance. Mrs. Simms was released, but ordered to appear at Court, with the before mentioned result.

across the Atlantic any of the democracy of East St. Louis."

L. W. Washington, another speaker, told the Negroes to organize.

"Tell the governor that every Negro in Chicago and Illinois is behind these resolutions," he said, "and if we don't get justice from him, then send them to the president of the nation."