

THE LYNCHINGS.

The Report Presents the Killing of Italians in a Serious Light.

Second and Third Lynching is Regarded as An Eminent of Particular Atrocity—The Report Sent to the Italian Foreign Office.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 9.—The state department has received from the Italian authorities a copy of the complete report made by the Marquis Romano, secretary of the Italian embassy here, on his personal investigation of the recent lynching of five Italians at Tallulah, La.

The report presents the affair in a serious light. As a whole the Italian authorities view the matter of the lynching as one of unusual atrocity, and without the mitigating circumstances which had been urged in previous affairs of this kind.

In describing the first affray which led to the lynching, Marquis Romano's report states that Dr. Hodges was the first to draw his weapon, and that not until he had fired one shot and was about to fire the second one, Charles Difata, who was at that time prostrate on the ground, did the brother, Joe Difata, fire his shotgun from the store nearby. This last shot, it is pointed out, was in defense of the fallen brother, and was not a wanton attack upon Dr. Hodges. The circumstances leading up to the affray are described in detail. According to this account Charles Difata was alone when Dr. Hodges passed.

There is no effort made in the report to obscure the fact that Charles Difata made the first offensive overtures, but it is contended that this was not accompanied by the use of firearms or even a movement to draw them. It is said, however, that Charles Difata upbraided Dr. Hodges in an offensive way for having killed an animal, and accompanied this by a blow of the fist. Then, it is stated, Dr. Hodges shot at Difata. Whether or not the shot took effect it was not possible for the Italian authorities to learn, as the bodies of the men after being lynched were disfigured and disposed of. But at all events it is stated that Charles Difata was on the ground following the shot from Dr. Hodges weapon.

At this point Joe Difata made his appearance and seeing his brother down and a second shot about to be fired, shot at Dr. Hodges.

Then followed the lynching of these two Italians, Joe Difata and Charles Difata. The mob took them before they had been arrested. Up to this point, according to the Italian report, only these two Italians had figured in the affray. The report goes on to state that throughout the occurrence the three other Italians—Frank Difata, Joseph Feducio and John Cerami were in another street and did not know what was occurring.

It is stated that they did not take part in the attack on Dr. Hodges, and that they did not even know of it until some time after, when the local officers came to arrest them. This arrest was accomplished and the three Italians were actually placed in jail. The report then brings out the mob, having already lynched Charles and Joe Difata, turned their attention to the three Italians under arrest. Two of these men, Joseph Feducio and Frank Difata, were first taken from the officers and lynched. Subsequently, and some little time afterwards, the mob returned and took John Cerami and lynched him. In this circumstantial way the report brings out that the mob made three distinct movements against the Italians, and that there was sufficient time for the blood to cool and for the anger of the lynchers to abate after they had disposed of the first two men.

Particular importance is laid upon this feature, for, while it is said there may have been some extenuating circumstances in visiting such summary punishment on those immediately concerned in the affray with Dr. Hodges, yet the time elapsing between the second and third lynchings is regarded as an element of particular atrocity.

The full report has been forwarded to the Italian foreign office and a copy of it placed in the hands of the state department.

A Box of Poisoned Candy.

St. Louis, Aug. 9.—A box of candy sent by some unknown person to Mrs. Elizabeth Newcomb, of 1525 Carr street, may develop into another case of attempted murder. The package contained an anonymous letter advising her to give up her husband. It was brought by a stranger boy, who left before anyone could question him. Mrs. Newcomb did not partake of any of the candy, which had a suspicious appearance.

Three Skeletons Found.

HUNTERTON, Ind., Aug. 9.—Ernest Duntun, young farmer, plowing in a field, was horror-stricken to see the skulls of three people unearthed by the plow share. He then found other parts of the skeletons. They were in a grave about 16 inches deep and eight feet long. The bones were apparently those of a man, woman and child. The skull of the man has what appears to be a bullet hole in the back of it. It is the general belief in the vicinity that a murder had been committed years ago.

TRIAL OF CAPT. DREYFUS.

Mrs. Emily Crawford Relates Incidents at the Opening of the Great Event—The Prisoner's Appearance.

RENNES, Aug. 8.—The ancient capital of Brittany was never less moved, never more sluggish than on this memorable day. It seemed a hundred thousand miles away from Dreyfus and his exciting case. He, Dreyfus, had been known to be exalted, but he has been keeping a stiff upper lip, and Sunday he refused the last set of photographs of his children brought from Paris by his brother-in-law.

It was expected that the Dreyfusites and anti-Dreyfusites would shun each other and put up at different hotels, but they have tacitly agreed to sink their differences in each others company. They not only lodge at the same hotels, but they take their meals at the same tables and amicably pass to each other the dishes.

We were all up at 5 o'clock Monday morning, and after a hurried meal we rushed to the concert room of the Lycee, where the trial takes place. Military preparations were going forward to prevent a lot of roughs coming from Paris to act riotously. Dreyfus was to cross from the prison to the court house, but nobody was to see him except the military, which barred the street to the right and left of the Lycee door. An officer whispered to me, when I was in the Lycee, to go to the window which he indicated and get a glimpse of Dreyfus.

The prisoner was to cross the street at ten minutes past six and to wait in a private room for the summons to appear before his judges. Precisely at the time named the door of the military prison opened and Dreyfus, guarded by a captain of gendarmerie, appeared. He wore a brand new uniform. The stiff linings had not yet formed into the shape of the figure, and the whole suit seemed an awkward fit. The three rows of gold braid that were torn from his cuffs on the day of his degradation were glinting in the sun. The man was as stiff as his uniform. He held his head high as if on purpose, but his shoulders stooped. The step was that of a man not used to freedom and extremely measured and mechanical. One might think he marked the time as he walked.

His hair is of reddish gray, his neat mustache is frankly red. His face had a drawn and worn expression, the eyes furtively inquiring, as if looking out for traps and pitfalls. His complexion is fresh, the kind of freshness that accompanies auburn hair. The lips are rather thin, and the chin is that of a strong man. Indeed, the chin contradicts the impression of the eyes.

Capt. Dreyfus crossed the hall close to me and entered a room, the door of which closed behind him. I saw also the arrival of the witnesses, who were taken to the rector's room.

At 7 o'clock the coming of the court was announced in military fashion, the soldiers presenting arms. The judges entered from the wings and were in full dress uniform. They proceeded in Indian file to their places behind a long table on a slightly raised platform. Col. Jouaust, the presiding officer, is a man of dignified appearance, not unintellectual, and has an upright, martial air.

Col. Jouaust in a stentorian voice declared that the trial be begun and, as ordered, the accused be brought in. All eyes were turned upon Dreyfus. He entered with measured step. His mode of saluting the court was jerky and very composed but his fingers betrayed nervousness. His voice is not good, but it was out of practice for five years.

The indictment is that of 1894. Dreyfus answered cautiously all questions. The judge was fair, but evidently not friendly. He showed himself, however, sensible and sober-minded and impressed everyone favorably.

The accused is unfortunate in not being able, apart from his sufferings as told by others to command sympathy. His countenance only expressed a wish to hide his feelings. It is a reticent face, but not a bad one. One would like it to be more frank. The voice is not pleasing and the diction is less so.

Dreyfus seems without dramatic feeling and lacks ease in all things. However, he passed Monday through a cruel ordeal. It was trying, after the experience of the last five years, to find himself in the full blaze of publicity, and stared at and scrutinized by 700 observers. EMILY CRAWFORD.

A Distressing Tragedy.

DES MOINES, Ia., Aug. 8.—Fred Hunnell, a carpenter, undertook to commit suicide at his home Monday evening by shooting himself. His son, Archie Hunnell, undertook to wrest his revolver from him. The gun went off and the son fell dead, shot through the heart.

Adm. Dewey Will Visit Montpelier, Vt.

MONTPELIER, Vt., Aug. 8.—Mayor John H. Seator Monday received a letter from Adm. Dewey, dated Trieste, July 21, in reply to the city's invitation to visit his native place. The admiral thanks the mayor and city council for their kind expressions of regard and says it would give him much pleasure to meet his old friends and townsmen. He states that he is unable to fix upon any definite time for his visit to Montpelier, but hopes to come here soon after his arrival in the United States.

THE SIX COMPANIES.

They Constitute the Most Powerful Trust Ever Formed.

Functions of the Chinese Combine Explained by an Educated Mongolian—True Meaning of the Term "Highbinder."

[Special Washington Letter.]

It seldom happens to one of our people to have an opportunity to converse with an educated Chinaman, one who can use the English language with facility. Therefore it was a treat for the writer to recently spend an hour in conversation with a polished and cultured gentleman of that race, who told many new and interesting things about his country and his people.

In reply to an inquiry concerning the Six Companies and the "highbinders" he gave an elaborate description of them, which is herewith reproduced from memory. In a newspaper there appeared a dispatch concerning the threat of one Chinaman against another, the threat of death, unless \$500 should be paid to a "highbinder." The newspaper account gave no particulars, and the average reader would suppose that brigandage was carried on by highbinders, and with the consent of the people in the Chinese quarter.

Whenever any act of violence is committed by a Chinaman it is customary in this country to attribute it to a highbinder, when, as a matter of fact, highbinders are not guilty of any injustice, and certainly are not responsible for brigandage or lawlessness of that character. But first let us understand the Six Companies; then we can understand the highbinders better.

When you read in the newspapers political editorials denouncing "trusts," and when you hear orators of all political parties shouting themselves hoarse and growing red in the face and big in the neck with their patriotic declamations, you may understand that they are denouncing something older than America, as a factor in the affairs of the world. Long before Columbus secured the support which enabled him to cross the ocean and discover this continent; and long before Eric the Red sailed from Iceland to the coast of Massachusetts, "trusts" were in vogue in China. This shows that there is nothing new under the sun.

The Six Companies constitute a "trust," and a powerful combination it is, too. Just how old it is cannot be stated, although, of course, the branch in this country has been in existence but a limited number of years. But "trusts" have existed in China from time immemorial. Long before there was any Fourth of July to celebrate in this country the Chinese were making gunpowder, and making firecrackers, and the goods were disposed of by a "trust."

This Six Companies "trust" was organized by merchants for their own betterment. It became necessary because competition was strong, and ruinous to trade. There was one body of merchants doing business in Hong-Kong, and there were five companies doing business in Canton. They were constantly cutting prices, and undermining each other, until they all realized that ruin was before them; and so, for self-protection and advancement, they pooled their issues and formed the

ties have their highbinders. There are probably not more than 200, certainly not more than 300, highbinders in this country.

Now, to understand what a highbinder really is, you must know that the Chinese colonies in this country have their own methods of government, based on Chinese laws. They obey all of our laws except the laws against gambling. They violate the gambling laws of this country, just as white men do. But, while observing our laws, they elect a mayor and common council for each colony. The mayor presides at banquets, receives distinguished guests, reports to the Chinese consul all matters which may be of interest to the Chinese government, furnishes aid to the distressed, and arbitrates disputes. The mayor of each community must have an officer to execute his orders, to carry official documents, and name trustees of property of deceased Chinamen; also to execute the Chinese laws, even to the extent of taking life. This executive officer is the highbinder.

Now, you see, the popular impression that there is a secret order of highbinders is erroneous. Each highbinder is alone in the performance of his duties, and has no official or social relation with any other highbinder. Referring to the secret societies of Chinamen in this country it must be known that each society maintains three classes of charitable funds—for the sick or wounded, for the care of widows and orphans, and for the burial of the dead, or their transportation to China. These charitable funds are held so inviolable that embezzlement is regarded as an unpardonable crime. The embezzler of charitable trust funds is invariably punished with death. The highbinder performs his sworn duty when he executes such a criminal. And it is a fact that nine out of every ten Chinamen executed by highbinders has been discovered, given fair trial, and been convicted of stealing charitable funds.

Now, with this understanding of the situation, the highbinder is not such a bad fellow after all. The Six Companies are obliged to employ highbinders to enforce contracts, whenever any Chinaman is derelict, but that seldom happens. Besides furnishing coolie labor by the thousand, and making plenty of money out of them, the Six Companies discovered that the laundry business in this country was profitable. They conveyed the word to China, and offered to furnish transportation to every Chinaman who wanted to come to this country, also to furnish the money to set him up in business; each beneficiary to pay back to the Six Companies double the amount thus invested in monthly installments. Double payment having been made, the laundry business was to belong to the individual making the payment.

Now you know how it happens that there are so many Chinamen here in the laundry business. Every moon-faced Mongolian whom you see ironing near the window of his laundry is pushing that hot iron along the pathway to independence. He hopes some day to own his own laundry. After that he may be mayor, councilman or highbinder. He knows that he can never be president of the United States or even a policeman; but he wants to be independent, and he deserves credit for his labor, and his ambition to rise, even to the dignity of being a highbinder. SMITH & ARNSPARGER.

A Falling Market. Miss Petite—If Mr. Makeshift should propose to-night, what shall I do? Fond Mother—I think, my dear, you'd better take him. I see by the Society Chit-chat that short girls are going out of fashion.—N. Y. Weekly.

A Lucky Fellow. Harold—When I was here last year Miss Beachcomber was trying to decide between you and Jack—who was the lucky man? Rupert—Jack! He got his ring back and I didn't.—Puck.

This traffic in human beings is not called slavery or slave trade, because

The Six Companies do not sell their human cattle. They hire them out. They receive a stipulated sum for the work of their hands, and they also receive payment from each coolie for procuring employment for him. The coolies are therefore free; but to all intents and purposes they are slaves. Nevertheless, they look upon the Six Companies as public benefactors. They are provided with employment, and have their transportation paid for them, which, of course, they have to pay back. The coolies are paid about \$25 per month. The Six Companies contract to provide the board and lodging for their coolies; and they charge enough to almost absorb all of their earnings. Consequently this "trust," which deals in human beings, simply permits the coolies to live and make rich their benefactors (?) by their toil.

Now be it understood that the Six Companies employ highbinders, just as American corporations may do. You must understand that a highbinder is simply an executive officer, or chief of police or a sort of sheriff. The Six Companies have no connection with any of the secret societies which exist among Chinamen, but all secret societies



WORKING HIS WAY TO INDEPENDENCE.

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