

### WHAT OF OMAHA'S MAYOR

Much has already been said commendatory of the actions of the Mayor of Omaha, who almost suffered the humiliating misfortune of dying an ignominious death—lynched for endeavoring to prevent a colored man from being lynched—and, perhaps, he is deserving of a much greater amount of favorable comment than he has already gotten, and, while we heartily commend him for what he did in that gruesome affair, yet we do so with a most decided reservation.

After having carefully studied over the whole ugly situation we have no hesitancy in taking the stand that, the mayor was a political coward, as was also the sheriff of the county, in not asking for government troops, which were already in the corporate limits, long before the mob reached the frenzied state of mind to attempt the lynching of the chief executive of that city. He was, in our opinion, a political coward and a lynching apologist for not moving against that mob, backed by the strong arm of the law, when it gave evidence of becoming unruly, and not only prevented the lynching of a human being but likewise the wanton destruction of private and public property. Yea, we are not too sure but that a fearless grand jury would indict, not only the mayor, but the sheriff also, for criminal negligence, on the grounds that they did not use due precaution to prevent murder and incendiarism.

Trying to cajole an angry mob of human beings, with hell in their hearts and Bolshevism in their brains, to convert it from its determined purpose, is as utterly impossible as it would be to dissuade a pack of howling hyenas from the trail of a flock of innocent lambs by sprinkling sugar on the trail, over which they would distractedly gallop in quest of their victims. No one knew this better than did that Omaha mayor, but he hesitated to take the bull by the horns in its incipiency lest he jeopardize his future political opportunities. However, when it was too late he attempted the impossible and now realizes his mistake.

Had the mayor of Omaha been a student of present-day conditions, in every city in the North, where colored folks in large numbers from the Southern states have rendezvoused since the outbreak of the recent world war, he would have observed the strained relations between the white and black citizens of such cities and communities, and he would have called for such help in the very outset as would have enabled him to have stemmed the tide and thereby allowed the law to take its course.

That mob did not wreak vengeance on that colored man because the members thereof were so keen to safeguard womanly virtue or to avenge the wrongs suffered by that particular young woman, but it took advantage of the opportunity to administer a rebuke to the colored folks for taking white men's jobs. It was another instance of that evil genius, which left Washington City a few months ago, and has since only hit in high places, getting in another well-directed blow on the black man.

In the face of all that has been said to the contrary, the colored man is not a rapist, not only not a rapist, but not a criminally inclined creature, save only in isolated instances, and this is said advisedly, because meeting as many private and public insults as he does from time to time and observing the wholesale bestiality his women are subjected to by the white man, the wonder is, that the whole damn family are not confirmed criminals of the most dangerous type.

This reign of terror that is running riot all over this Christian land and country at present is a well directed propaganda with no higher aim and object than to intimidate the colored soldier, returning from "over there", back into his former crouching condition, and while it may result in the murdering of multiplied thousands of them and their friends, yet, be it understood, the remaining ones will continue to lift high their heads and shout aloud, "and yet we are men for a' that. And if the officials of the law refuse to protect us, because we are black, then we will endeavor to protect ourselves as long as we can, and when we fail we will fall with our faces to the enemy and die like men."

Color in the human family is but a variegation and by no means a designation and the black man of this country has as many and as varied rights to protect as the white man and in the future he will exhibit a much more decided strength of character in the protection of those rights, than he has as yet ever done.

This country is in imminent need of public officials with the strength of character to checkmate riots in their incipiency, at any cost and do so without an eye single to their political future; officials, who stand for law and order, rather than graft and political ascendancy, and such being acquired and installed they will find the hearty co-operation of the great rank and file of this "land of the free and home of the brave." Let the people rule.