LYNCH LAW IN AMERICA.

A meeting was held yesterday, at the Young Men's Christian Association Assembly Room, Needles Abbey, in order to bear witness of the negroes in the Southern States of the American Union. In the absence of the Rev. Dr. Webster through a severe cold, Councillor S. Lloyd presided. Amongst those present were several ministers, members of the Society of Friends, and ladies and gentlemen interested in local philanthropic work. The Rev. Dr. Webster wrote: "I have read with deep sorrow of the flagrant injustice shown to the blacks in the Southern States, and trust that public Christian sentiment will be sufficiently aroused to protest effectually against the inhuman practices which prevail. Alderman White, who was away from the city when this letter was written, said: "I feel the full sympathy with the good work you are doing, and sincerely hope our Birmingham meetings may be very satisfactory."

Mr. R. L. Turner briefly introduced Miss Wells, an American negro lady, and expressed sympathy with her object in going to England. Miss Wells, in a quiet, but effective address, said that was said in all the colored should have come 4,000 miles to tell the people of Bir- "It is a great mistake to deal with very improperly by the local authorities in America. She thought her story would answer that question. Many of those in this country who had interested themselves in the anti-slavery agitation seemed to have thought that the feeling of the slaves gave to the negroes in America all the liberties which others enjoyed. A man and women of themselves. Unfortunately that was not true. The resentment of the southern white people about the taking away of their slaves had never ceased to show itself against the negro at any and every opportunity. For the first ten years after the war it was the crime of the freedmen being the immediate reason for murdering the negroes. Those massacres would have formed the Southern States of the Union a stain that could never be washed away.

Since 1867 the Southern States had been in possession of each of its own State Government, and the privileges had been used to make laws in every way restrictive and oppressive of the negro race. One of the first of these laws was that which made it a State prison offence for black and white to intermarry. That was the statute book of every Southern State. Another of those restrictive laws had within the last half-dozen years been that one which made it crime punishable by fine and imprisonment for black and white to ride in the same carriages. The general tendency of the legislation of those States in regard to the negro was directly retrogressive instead of progressive. Some of these laws were so clear that the retribution of the evil would not be pleaded as an excuse.
Dear Chicagoan:

We are a newly organized firm of old-time experienced real estate specialists and we realize it is necessary for us to offer a money-making proposition to establish ourselves in this highly competitive field. To do this we are offering a most remarkable money-making opportunity to the public.

On Sunday, May 2nd, we are conducting a great one-day sale which no doubt will close out this entire subdivision. We are selling at prices way below wholesale values in this section.

Our property is located on the famous North Shore. Steam and electric transportation. Five minutes ride from skyscrapers and a built up district of stores, theatres, schools and churches. The building record for this district last month - March 1926 - was the greatest in the history of the community.

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HERESY, they say, in the charge of the black men, against whose treason their masters were fishing, and not one black man was accused of betraying his trust. (Applause.) The action of the mob did not take place mainly in out of the way places; it occurred in the thriving cities of the South—in New Orleans, in Nashville, in Memphis, and other populous centres. In Memphis, the city in which she edited her paper, the Free Speech, in place of 75,000 inhabitants, the first case of lynching was that of three men who had simply defended themselves against an attack on their prosperous business. They were the president, the manager, and the clerk of a grocery store, and there was every reason to believe that the authorities had acted in collusion with their business rivals. At midnight when it appeared to be an attack upon the store was made, and the negroes in question fired upon men who turned out afterwards to be deputy sheriffs, and whose excuse was that they were searching for a man, who might have been arrested at any time during the day, and who was not known to be a desperate character. As soon as the negroes knew the facts of the case, they gave up their firearms and disclaimed any intention of resisting the officers of the law. They were put in prison, and, on the day after the announcement appeared that the wounded officers would recover, they were dragged out of prison by the mob and hung. The thing had been arranged as a meeting reported in the papers as consisting of "solid business men," and though the lynching took place at two o'clock in the morning, it was reported with names and the fullest details in a paper that went to press at three, showing that everything had been most carefully planned. And yet the verdict at the inquest was that the deceased met with their deaths in the hands of persons unknown to the jury. Articles on lynching appeared in the Free Speech, with the result that after an announcement in the leading paper of Memphis her office was wrecked, her manager was driven out of the town, and, with herself (she being in New York at the time), forbidden to return on pain of being shot. One prominent citizen had vowed to shoot her if she returned any time within twenty years, and a well-known Christian woman, though she had disapproved of the lynching of the three men, had expressed approval of the course that had been taken with regard to herself. (Shame.) Having given details of other cases of lynching, including those in which the victims had been burned to death, and showing that the authorities could not or would not interfere, Miss Wells argued from the result of the anti-slavery agitation that British public opinion, if properly aroused, would have a good effect upon the people of the United States, and strengthen the hands of those in America who were desirous of putting an end to these cruel proceedings. In conclusion, Miss Wells read the following resolution, which she said had been sent to her unalloyed, and which was passed on Sunday night simply in consequence of what had appeared in the paper:—"Resolved, that this large body of Christian workmen, assembled in Coventry Road Congregational Church, Birmingham—(applause)—records its opinion that the increasingly frequent resort in America to what is known as lynching, particularly in the Southern States, and more especially by the white population against their coloured fellow-citizens, is in danger of lowering the high and deserved esteem in which the government of that country is held by the more cultivated classes, and sends to the glory of some of the splendid traditions of the Republic, the vast multitudes of whose high-minded citizens we believe to be able and willing to redress any practice which is unworthy of a mighty and just people." (Applause.) In reply to a question, Miss Wells said that an attempt had been made, but without success, by representatives of the negroes to approach the Senate and Congress on the subject. Also, as a conference of Southern governors, held a short time ago to consider the best means of preventing immigration and the influx of capital into their States, a deposition of negroes attended, but were refused admission, and told to state their business to the doorkeeper. (Shame.) The Southerners appeared totally unable to realize the common humanity of the negro with themselves, and that was why it was desirable that they should learn the views of Englishmen, whom they regarded as equal, and whose good opinion they valued. (Hear, hear.)—Mr. E. L. Ross propounded a resolution similar to that which Miss Wells had read, and this was carried unanimously, having been supported by Miss C. Impery, an English lady, who testified from personal knowledge to the facts related by the lecture. (Applause.) In the evening a meeting was held in the Central Hall, Corporation Street, when the Rev. J. C. Street, president, and Miss Wells and Miss Impery were among the speakers, and a resolution protesting against the tolerance of mob law in the Southern States was passed.
West Side Civic Republican League

—COLORED VOTERS DENEEEN GROUP—

HEADQUARTERS: 1504 W. 14th STREET

Chicago, Illinois

PHONE CANAL 7496

"REGISTRATION AND REPRESENTATION FOR ALL THE PEOPLE"

Dear Friend:

The West Side Civic Republican League extends a cordial invitation to you and your friends to join with us in a meeting general ward meeting of the West Side Republican Civic League at 1504 W. 14th Street Friday night, March 19th, 1926 at 8 o'clock and we will greatly appreciate your presence and co-operation in our work.

For the first time in the political history of our ward, our men and women voters are made welcome in the practical work of building up the Grand Old Party organization in the 26th Ward. We have loyal and tireless in our devotion to our party leaders, but our active co-operation in party management has not been solicited nor permitted.

Desiring to help our party, our League offered its services to our Ward Committeeman, Thomas Currant, but we were refused recognition as an organization and told to join the Ward Club as individuals. Unless we acted upon plans made without consulting us, and without any regard to our interest in the political welfare of our own race, we could not be recognized. We were even denied the right to invite Ex. Breeden, a world-war veteran, one of our ablest race leaders, now a candidate for County Commissioner, to speak in our ward meetings, unless he agreed to speak for himself only and say nothing for other Republican candidates for nomination, except those selected by the Ward Committeeman.

The West Side Civic Republican League next offered its support to the Deneen group upon exactly the same terms offered to our Ward Committeeman, Thomas Currant. Our services were accepted and our officers and members, men and women, were given representation in ward management, according to our strength and party loyalty. We are given active management of the precincts controlled by colored voters. Serving on the Registration Board, Tuesday, March 23rd, we will have five colored Republican Judges and two colored clerks.

Come to our grand opening next Friday night. Hear our plans. Bring your suggestions. Offer your services and help us put the names of all colored voters in our two wards, the 26th and 20th, on the Registration Books next Tuesday, March 23rd. Seats reserved for ladies.

The West Side Civic Republican League,

William W. Taylor, Pres.

P. A. Armstrong, Secy.

Walter E. Rogers, Chairman, Ex. Com.