A WEARYED COUNCILLOR’S PROTEST

Sir,—If Solomon were living now he would say
"Overmuch philanthropy is a wearring of the flesh." This morning I got a packet of literature relating to the prevalence of Lynch law in the United States of America, and announcing meetings to be held in Birmingham next week on the subject. They appear to be called on the initiative of "an American negro lady who, herself the victim of a Tennessee mob, and an English lady who edits a newspaper. A list is attached of Birmingham men who have expressed their cordial sympathy with the object of the meetings," and I am invited to attend. My time is valuable, and I feel justified in asking what possible practical wish can be attained by such meetings? I have no question which could be dealt with effectually only by the people of Birmingham to dictate on questions of detail in the arrangements of certain towns in the United States. As a public man, I cannot find time to do all I should wish for my own city; I protest against being detailed in a civilised country at a great distance, my imperious people would be an Englishman's people. Birmingham, May 12.

A CIVILIZED COUNTRY

On the 16th, two days before our meetings, the following appeared

LYNCH LAW IN THE UNITED STATES.

Sir,—"A City Councillor" asks in Saturday's Post, "What possible practical wish can be attained by such meetings?" He refers to the meetings to be held Wednesday, in which an exposition of Lynch law in the United States of America will be given by the writer. It was a matter of the public interest to answer this question, and that the freedom of and citizenship of the negro race has been continuously shut out by southern whites. The ten year period preceding the war saw thousands of negroes murdered, and those who have not been murdered are being lynched in the South. Their property is seized, and they are denied the protection of law. The state's laws make it a crime for whites and negroes to intermarry, or even ride in the same railway carriage. Both crimes are punishable by fine and imprisonment. The doors of the churches, hotels, concert-halls, and reading-rooms are alike closed against the negro as a man, and no place is open to him as a servant.

The latest condemnation of this war against negro progress is the substitution of mob rule for courts of justice throughout the South. The negroes who are charged with crimes are taken to the gaols in broad daylight, and hung, shot, or burned alive in the most disgraceful manner. In the last ten years, over one thousand black men, women, and children have met this violent death at the hands of mobs. And the rest of America is silent; not even when three men were burned alive in the last twelve months, has she opened her mouth to protest against this barbarism. One religious body which met in Philadelphia last June refused to pass a resolution condemning lynching because it feared to offend the Southern delegations present.

The pulpits and press of our own country remain silent on these continued outrages; the voice of my race, thus tortured and outraged, wherefore is held in America in a demand for justice is stifled or ignored. It is to the religious and moral sentiment of Great Britain we turn. These can arouse the public sentiment of America and for the enforcement of law. The moral agencies at work in Great Britain did much for the final overthrow of chattel slavery. They can, in like manner, pray and write and preach and talk and act against civil and industrial slavery; against the hanging, shooting, and burning alive of a powerless race. America cannot and will not ignore the voice of a nation that is her superior in civilisation, which makes this demand in the name of justice and humanity. If the moral reforms of the age have been brought about by Christianity, here is one which calls loudly for the Christian and moral effort. I am in Great Britain today because I believe that the silent indifference with which she has received the intelligence that human beings are being burned alive in a Christian country and by civilized Anglo-Saxon communities is born of ignorance of the truth; and that if she really wanted to she could make the protest long and loud. The horror and amazement with which my story has been received in Scotland and England, the prompt and vigorous resolutions of protest and condemnation of Lynch law have convinced me of the truth of my supposition. And I believe the people of Birmingham, when they hear the story, will not be one whit less willing nor too busy to lend their moral influence to check what is fast becoming a national evil.

IDA B. WELLS,
Of Memphis, Tennessee, U.S.A.
55, Gough Road, Birmingham, May 11.
West Side Civic Republican League

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 rousing general Ward meeting of the West Side Republican Civic League at 1504 W. 14th Street Friday night, March 19th, 1936 at 8 o'clock, and we will greatly appreciate your presence and cooperation 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 cooperation in party management has not been solicited nor permitted.

Desiring to help our party, our League offered its services to our Ward Committeeman, Thomas Curran, 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 Dr. Braden, 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 Curran. 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 36th and 39th, on the Registration Books next Tuesday, March 23rd. Seats reserved for ladies.

The West Side Civic Republican League,
William W. Taylor, Pres.
R. A. Armstrong, Secy.
Walter E. Rogers, Chairman, Exec. Com.