

Colorful News "Movies"

BY THE CAMERAMAN

Mississippi and the Mob

A PAMPHLET entitled "Mississippi and the Mob" has been distributed throughout the United States and especially in Mississippi by State officials, members of the Bar Association and various citizens. It contains strong arguments urging law officers to use armed force and to risk their own lives, if need be, to suppress lynching and mob violence, which has brought the State into public scorn frequently. In the foreword, J. N. Flowers, former Assistant Attorney General and now president of the Mississippi Bar Association, declares a sheriff should prevent lynching and mob violence or forfeit his office.

The fact that a mob of unmasked men in Mississippi recently staged one of the most barbarous lynchings ever heard of, and the additional disgusting fact that no one of the lynchers has ever been arrested or put to the slightest inconvenience because of his participation in that diabolical and ghastly festival has awakened the finer feeling of the better thinking citizens of Mississippi who have caused the issuance of the pamphlet for the purpose of awakening a public conscience with this strong appeal to common sense. The pamphlet should arouse the people of the State to a point where they will give some thought to this inhuman, uncivilized and barbarous "pastime" so frequently engaged in by a gang of unthinking, unreasoning and uncivilized ignoramuses that brings the State in disrepute as well as blackens the fair name of the whole United States.

This disgraceful business of lynching has become a matter of economics as well as morals. Those states that fail to suppress mobs naturally suffer from the consequences—retarded economic, educational, civil, moral and religious development.

At the present time the general trend of business and industrial development is toward the South. Persons who keep their eyes singled on the general pulse of economic waves are fully aware that the industrial development of the South will grow by leaps and bounds within the next few years. But in states where lynchers and law-breakers go unpunished and general outlawry is winked at or connived with the development will be slow, if at all. These states will not share in the fruits of the general progress.

Progressional development is made by serious minded, industrious and law-abiding citizens, and not by mobbists, lynchers and ignoramuses. No country, state or community can hope to keep the good citizens it has, and least of all attract desirable ones to come in and settle there if diabolical orgies of mob violence are frequently engaged in and the participants go scot free and unpunished.

The pamphlet cannot help but prove of great value toward the educational development of the people of Mississippi as well as those of the entire country. It is a hopeful sign. It bespeaks a bright era in the affairs of the country and especially in Mississippi. The effects of it are bound to prove a great blessing. The

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Building Memorials

DESPITE the myriads of monuments already erected in the South in memory of General Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, Jeff Davis and a host of other heroes, whose names are dear to Dixie, there's a veritable frenzy "down home" just now to memorialize — and then memorialize some more — in honor of departed celebrities and erstwhile sacred spots. Committee after committee is now in formation, and, aside from Stone Mountain, the Merrimac, Governor Oglethorpe and Ben Tillman, everything and everybody of historical worth in preserving the traditions and customs of Dixieland are to be done over in bronze or marble.

In this connection it occurred to us the other night "while listening in" to a burst of music radioed from Little Old New York, that the South might not be unwilling to accept an humble suggestion from us, concerning the noble patriotism which prompts the building of memorials. The occasion was the singing by a pupil of Jean de Reske of that scintillating southern melody, "Carry Me Back to Ole Virginia." As the last burst of song subsided and the echo of the golden tenor's voice, filled with sweet pathos, was followed first by a lull and then by vibrant applause over the fond memories of "Ole Virginia," we could not help but silently pray, since the South is so ardently engaged in embalming in bronze and marble those things so dear to its heart, that it might also erect a monument to the memory of James Bland, the Negro composer who wrote dear "Ole Virginia"; for he, too, was a patriotic preserver of the sacred memories of the Southland, even if he couldn't get very much additional freedom in the Old Dominion State and its sovereign sisters of the South.

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campaign shows that the better thinking whites of Mississippi are determined and have set their minds and souls to the task of ridding the State of one of its greatest manacles. Mississippians are now on the right track toward full social, economic and religious development. They are urged to keep up the good work until the State is entirely rid of lynching and mob violence.

Envy

RECENT increased activity among various groups and clubs composed of American whites to foster, nurture and spread the seed of RACE HATRED — resulting frequently in race clashes — is doubtless based on the spirit of innate ENVY.

When one observes the economic and educational progress Negroes in this country have made since emancipation, it is easy to see why certain groups of ignorant and shiftless whites, whose opportunities (based on color) are practically unlimited in comparison with those of Negroes, would become envious when they see Negroes — circumscribed as they are — outstrip most of these whites along educational and economic lines.

It is then that these whites are impelled to advocate Nordic "supremacy," "racial purity," pass miscegenation laws, grandfather clauses, deny the Negro the right of suffrage and resort to all sorts of subtleties to further intimidate the American Negro and hold him in subjection. In the face of all these obstacles the Negro is making progress. Thus, the renewed efforts to repel the onward march in progressional development could grow out of nothing else save wild-eyed envy.

Vanquished white "supremacy" manifests itself frequently in the

form of mob violence in various communities whenever an ambitious Negro endeavors to better his living conditions and home-life surroundings. Whenever a Negro possesses sufficient manhood and courage and moves into better developed so-called white neighborhoods of any city to avoid rearing his children in sections where he is compelled to live alongside vice dens, and where untoward influences abound, where the denizens of the underworld are his neighbors, he is looked upon by the whites of the new neighborhood as an "uppish" nigger who wants to be white and get away from his people.

Immediately efforts are made to restrain him from moving into the so-called white neighborhood. When he is brave enough to move in, then the gang of whites form mobs, attack his home, destroy his property and often take his life in their effort to force him to move back among the denizens of the underworld.

These acts of violence against ambitious Negroes are unquestionably based upon the innate spirit of envy, so manifestly prevalent in the large class of ignorant and shiftless whites. Their ignorance, bigotry and intolerance constantly gnaw at their very heart strings. It is this class of envious whites that constantly endeavors to place obstacles in the path of the American Negro.

The black man's salvation lies in a renewed determination to make of himself the ideal American citizen. Own and maintain the best home he can possibly afford; give his children the best education he can; let no man be more thrifty than he; more courageous, more religious, better qualified, more industrious, more patriotic or more law abiding than he. As sure as there is a God in Heaven the obstacles that ignorant, lazy, shiftless, envious whites place in his pathway will vanish as the morning dew before the bright sun on a clear day.

The Virgin Islands

THERE is much ado about the Virgin Islands, formerly known as the Danish West Indies, purchased by the United States from Denmark in 1917. Legislation is necessary, it is said, to give the islanders the full advantages of American citi-

zenship. Rumors of legislation have brought forth "pros" and "cons" as to a number of plans, running from annexation to Porto Rico to a distinctly sole and separate government to be run by zealous statesmen, both native and American. Members of the Colonial Council, the native Virgin Islands legislative body, are already here, pressing for a national plan to promote legislation by Congress, following the death of the McLean bill last year. In the meantime, a currency bill has been introduced by Senator Cummins of Iowa, which would change to U. S. standards the Danish monetary system now in effect on the islands.

Economically, the islands are in bad shape. Nothing has been evolved to take the place of the bay rum industry, now dead under the National Prohibition Act. For this reason employment is at a low ebb, with low wages and much surplus labor. It appears that unrest has pervaded the islands over alleged misfeasance on the part of some of the administrators of Government, and that protest after protest is being sent forward to official Washington, with concurrent requests for relief, by legislation or otherwise.

Precedents for self government are, of course, much varied, due to the peculiar circumstances which have surrounded each particular case. The fact remains, however, that the Virgin Islands, having become an integral part of the U. S. A., are entitled to the advantages, along with the disadvantages, if any, which go with the new order of things. They are entitled to develop under American Government, and they are entitled to all the considerations which America preaches and practices within her own native borders. Under present circumstances, the Virgin Islands are being denied or neglected, in an iota, as to any of those things evolving from the spirit of 1776 then it is the manifest duty of the U. S. Government to exhaust its remedies, if necessary, to see that civil and legislative justice be done to its wards across the sea. Surely President Coolidge meant