

that rule the city," which, on a former occasion, drove the men to strike "because a corporation that had watered its stock to buy the politicians could not afford to pay a decent wage." Reviewing past history and present exigencies in the editorial already quoted, the *New York Tribune* says:

"A few months ago there was a strike similar to the present one. Philadelphia applauded and walked, giving a good imitation of a community in an upheaval of civic virtue. The ring quaked and the traction interests trembled. And then Philadelphia voted to continue the same politicians in power. To-day there is another strike, with somewhat the same manifestations.

"Philadelphia has about the same reasons for not loving its traction companies that every other big city has or has had. The relations between the companies and the political ring that rules the city have not been dissimilar to the relations that have prevailed elsewhere between the traction interests and the bosses, except that they have been longer undisturbed in the Pennsylvania city than elsewhere. To promote peace and amity—so that the traction company could borrow more readily—representation on the directorate of the traction company was given to the public a few years ago. The bosses, of course, select the representatives of the public, so that the plan seems to have been well conceived to make every one happy and to lull the people into a sense of having their interests thoroughly protected.

"But their interests are not well protected, and Philadelphia, altho nothing can persuade it to lift a hand against a hair on the head of its bosses, is stirred to its depths with sympathy whenever the unions come to a clinch with the bosses' allies, the traction men. Strikes, therefore, in Philadelphia are political, and in seasons when the municipal conscience is not working labor leaders run for office on reform tickets and get soundly beaten. Presuming on these sound defeats, perhaps, the politico-traction alliance attempts to follow up its advantage against the labor leaders and encounters the public morality of Philadelphia seeking its usual indirect outlet. It is idle to guess when the city will begin to fight its own enemies itself and not be content merely to applaud some one else for fighting a friend of its enemies."

CAIRO AND ITS SHERIFF

WHEN his deputies fired upon the mob in the Cairo jail-yard, killing its leader, the son of a former mayor, and wounding several others, Sheriff Fred D. Nellis showed that "the beginning of the end" of the "rosewater and chocolate-éclair method of dealing with mobs" has been reached, says the *St. Louis Republic*, which adds that "the public opinion of the nation will back him up soundly." Newspaper criticism of the sheriff's act is largely confined to his refusal to allow members of the mob to approach the jail to carry away their dying leader. Then, too, the *St. Joseph News-Press* is quite convinced that the sheriff did "the right thing in the wrong way" in allowing negro deputies to shoot down white rioters, an act certain to stimulate race hatred. Since he was unable to obtain white deputies, it would have been more dignified, more tactful, and "more indicative of personal bravery" if he had stood forth, single-handed, in the open to defy the mob.

The press in general, however, unite in congratulating Mr. Nellis as "a sheriff who did his duty." "If there were such sheriffs in every county of the United States we should soon see the end of lynching," asserts the *Indianapolis News*. The *New York Times* reminds us that the Cairo lynching party of last November encountered only "a pretense of resistance" when it attacked this same jail; but this time, unlike his predecessor, "Sheriff Nellis did not pretend to resist, nor did he decide that resistance was useless—instead, he resisted." And *The Press* remarks: "It is a good bet that the jail at Cairo never will be stormed again while Sheriff Nellis is on the job." Holding office in a city "demonstrating a curious and sinister quality of lawlessness," he is set down by the *Detroit Journal* as a "remarkably courageous man." This paper briefly states the facts in its editorial columns:

"On Thursday (February 17) two negro boys were arrested for

purse-snatching. That night a mob of 500 men formed in the neighborhood saloons and stormed the jail. Twice Sheriff Nellis warned them back. He ordered his deputies to fire a volley in the air. The mob fired on the officers. Then Sheriff Nellis ordered his men to shoot to kill. One man is dead and four are wounded."

The Journal continues:

"No doubt when Sheriff Nellis gave the order to kill he realized what it would mean. He knew that he was taking the lives of his fellow townsmen, white men, to save the lives of two prisoners, negroes. He knew what hatred that must inevitably engender toward him in his native town. He is very likely to be a marked man. To be sure, he was merely doing his duty as he had sworn to do it, but sheriffs do not always perform their duty when menaced by public sentiment armed with deadly weapons, or even with votes. The sheriff of a Tennessee city, who had permitted the lynching of two negroes, was given a public reception and eulogized by a United States Senator and former Governor.

"Sheriff Nellis, of Cairo, Ill., evidently isn't that sort of a sheriff. His public career in Cairo may be ruined. He may be forced to leave the town. For doing his duty, fully and promptly as he did it, he may be forced to pay a heavy penalty. But the thing which he has done, insisting that the law be observed, that murder be prevented whether attempted by friends or foes, will establish a precedent most salutary and potent. It will go far to discourage mob law and mob violence, not only in Cairo, Ill., but throughout the South. It will serve, perhaps, to put backbone into other sheriffs in similar positions, and it will serve to take the courage from cowards and thugs who hunt in packs."

This attempted lynching, following the outrage of last November, leads the *New York World* to remark that Cairo has "acquired the lynching habit." What this town needs to be made to understand, according to the *Indianapolis Star*, is that "law is law and that mob rule can not and shall not take its place." Present conditions at Cairo "are the legitimate and logical outcome of that community's failure properly to punish the lynchers of last November," says the *Pittsburg Gazette-Times*. Another paper, the *Columbus Dispatch*, fixes the responsibility upon the long laxity of administration. The crooks have had their way so long that "some persons who have suffered and grown indignant at the reign of crime have felt called upon to take the punishment into their own hands." This seems to accord with the views of several Cairo clergymen, one of whom was quoted as saying after the savage lynching of November 11, that repeated defiance of law and order "made the lynchings necessary for the infliction of justice." But "mob violence does not atone for the lax rule of law," insists *The Dispatch*; the remedy for both lies "with the people of Cairo themselves." The *Detroit Free Press* records a significant manifestation of the spirit behind the Cairo mob:

"That the mob spirit has gone outside of the element generally supposed to be most subject to such outbreaks is further shown by the fact that former Sheriff Davis, who was removed from office by Governor Deneen for gross neglect of duty in not protecting prisoners and permitting a mob to seize and lynch them, was presented by admirers with a diamond stud costing somewhere from \$1,200 to \$1,500. The money for the purchase was raised by subscription and contributed to by people of means and standing in the community. And when it was presented, the ex-sheriff was promised the support of the subscribers for a reelection to the position of chief peace officer of the county, should he desire to again make the race."

In the South we find the *Memphis Commercial Appeal* noting with "some satisfaction" that Cairo is in a Northern State. To the *Atlanta Georgian* and the *Houston Chronicle* the news from Cairo is simply another demonstration of the fact that lynching, mob law, and race hatred are not sectional but national problems. Says *The Georgian*:

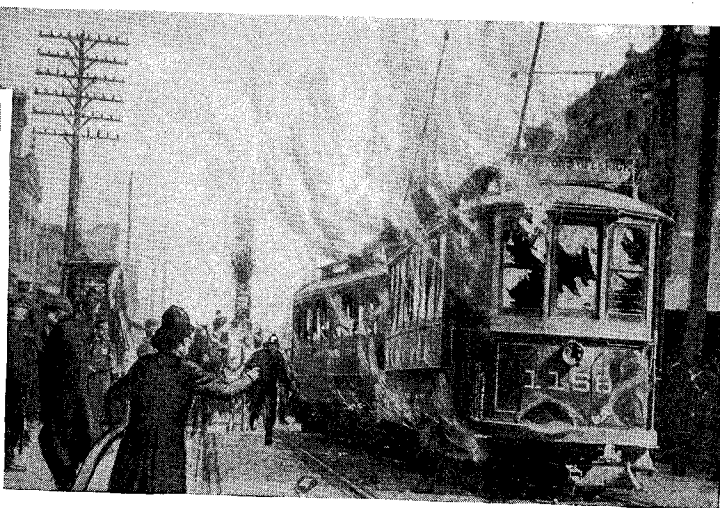
"Whenever the finger of scorn is pointed toward the South by Northern critics who may venture to berate us hereafter for sentiments which are supposed to be peculiarly and typically Southern, the soft answer to be returned in one brief cabalistic word is—'Cairo!'"



A MOTORMAN STRUCK BY A BRICK.



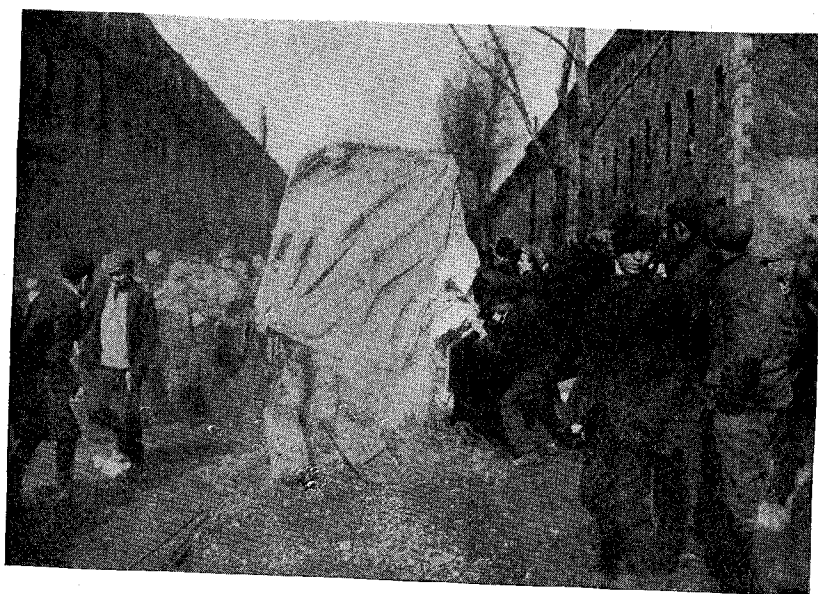
A STRIKER SELLING PAPERS.



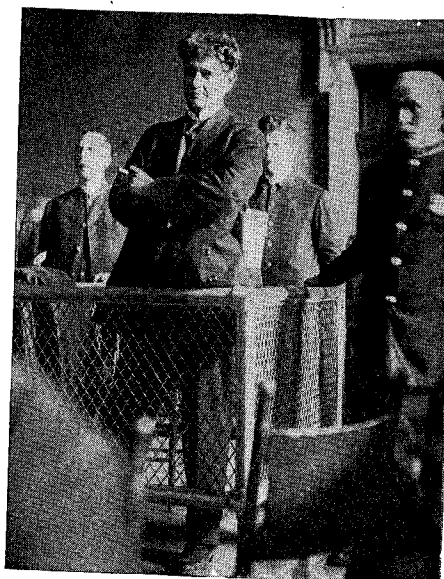
CARS BURNED BY RIOTERS.



POLICE RIDING DOWN AND CLUBBING A CROWD.



SYMPATHIZERS DUMPING AN ASH-CART ON THE CAR TRACK.



PRATT, THE STRIKE LEADER, IN COURT.

SCENES IN THE PHILADELPHIA STRIKE.