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MORE GEORGIA LYNCHINGS

The evil prestige of Georgia as the State where most lynchings are reported from year to year is emphasized by the news from Brooks County of the lawless mob-killing of four negroes, one of them a woman, and the hunt still going on for two other colored persons, with a view to keeping up the slaughter. A white man had been killed, whether in self-defense or not is a matter that should have had judicial consideration. Not one of the four mob victims was even accused of firing the shot that did murder. The negro who fired this shot seems to have escaped for a time at least.

It is fair to Georgia to say that Brooks County, on the Florida border, far from Atlanta civilization, and sparsely populated. There are about 20,000 persons on its 263 square miles of wild or half-tillable country. But unluckily for the State, lynchings in the past have been pretty evenly distributed geographically.

What is clear to thinkers is that every one of these mob crimes is a blow at the industrial idealism of the South. The labor of Georgia is needed on Georgia farms. It is negro labor. A tremendous emigration to the North from cotton States is not desired by the North, but such an emigration has been going on for the past three years, largely owing to the lack of protection of the negro race from just such outbreaks of violence.

One hanging of a white man for participation in negro lynching would mean more for Georgia than almost anything that could happen. Such a hanging has never taken place, despite the scores of events to justify it. The lack of protection is evident. We cannot blame the negroes for wanting to move away. They are human beings. Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness are dear to them. What happens in one county today may happen in another county tomorrow. High intelligence is not needed to understand the situation.