

Declares Ritchie Is Sitting On Political Dynamite As Result Of Shore Lynching

Chicago Tribune Writer Finds Governor Frankly Worried Over Situation—Says Executive Be- lieves Probe Will Turn Up Real Story

[Chicago Bureau of The Sun]

Chicago, Dec. 27—The Tribune tomorrow will publish the second article from its correspondent, who went to Maryland to investigate the lynching of the Negro, Matthew Williams, at Salisbury. The Tribune story follows:

By TOM PETTEY
Chicago Tribune Press Service

Baltimore, Dec. 27—Maryland is packed with dynamite and the spark to set it off may be found in the hearts of some of its citizens and in the court calendars. Gov. Albert C. Ritchie is sitting directly on top of a political munitions heap—and sitting quietly, too—for fear that any sudden move or loud noise might set his entire Eastern Shore to pistol popping and rope swinging. Another Free State lynching right now would seriously handicap the Maryland Governor's Democratic Presidential aspirations. The other may "blow over."

Talks with Governor Ritchie, William Preston Lane, Jr., the Attorney-General, and other State officials have been singularly unproductive of statements that might be printed between quotation marks. To disclose the results of their investigations into the mob spirit of the Eastern Shore right now, they believe, would "do more harm than good."

Says Ritchie Is Worried

The real reason they have nothing to say is that their investigators have made little headway in pinning the Salisbury lynching on individuals. Justice is frequently referred to as being

blind, but justice in a small town after a lynching is deaf and dumb as well. Governor Ritchie has done all that the law calls for him to do in the present case, but that has not been enough.

Governor Ritchie received the Tribune reporter in his office here in the Union Trust Building yesterday. He was frankly worried for Maryland and for the effect that this State's internal upheavals would have on his national reputation, but he had no statement to make—yet.

"I want to wait and see how Mr. Lane's work turns out," he said, "before I discuss this matter any more. I believe we are getting the real story."

Birds Spoil Interview

The Governor might have been persuaded to talk about the lynching and I might have got the "real story" if a flock of the largest and best fed sparrows in Maryland had not flown into the Executive office through an open window. For the next five minutes the Governor, his secretary and this reporter were busy chasing birds. Once the sparrows were out, towels were