

MURDER AND LYNCHING

When the Lee trial location controversy and its attending delays were at its height, another colored man cruelly shot in the back and murdered an aged and defenseless white man in Salisbury. A son of the victim soon arrived and shot and seriously wounded his father's assailant, who was removed to a local hospital. Thereafter an enraged and infuriated white "mob" publicly dragged, hung and burned the negro.

PUBLIC RESPONSIBILITY

The responsible public leaders and authorities of a civilized and organized community are bound to condemn and prosecute such frenzied and unlawful conduct, without regard to the aggravating causes. The aggravating circumstances can be considered in the sentence of the Court.

But a noted section of the Eastern Shore press and public justly stressed the aggravating circumstances that incited the "mob" attack, and unjustly failed to condemn the wrongs of the "mob."

BALANCED CRITICISM

This attitude further aroused public opinion throughout the nation and brought about both balanced and unbalanced expressions about our Eastern Shore residents.

The balanced statements are those that condemn any lynching as an inexcusable crime against our Courts, our administration of public justice and civilization itself.

UNBALANCED CRITICISM

The unbalanced statements are to be found among the expressions and insinuations which charged that the people of the Eastern Shore are generally less law abiding, or less intelligent, or less kind than those of other sections of our state or nation.

EASTERN SHORE RESIDENTS

We have visited the Eastern Shore on hundreds of occasions and have spent many days and even weeks in close association with every element of its population. A number of the members of our family have for many years resided and still reside on the Eastern Shore.

Our broad experience convinces us that the general intelligence and sense of kindness of the people of the Eastern Shore are readily equal to that of the people of any other section of our State.

WRONG ON RIGHT

Those who charge or insinuate otherwise, because of the reviewed occurrences, are heaping a wrong upon a wrong to sustain a right—the right to insist that lynching is a gross public wrong that should be condemned and punished.