

The Hideous Mob Spirit.

From The Augusta Chronicle.

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The Chronicle prints elsewhere today a few extracts from the Georgia and South Carolina press dealing with the murderous assault upon Leo M. Frank at the State prison farm by another life convict.

The majority of them seem to agree with The Chronicle that the act itself sinks into insignificance by comparison with the underlying causes of it. It seems to be agreed that the "atmosphere" created by those who have been either advocating or defending mob violence in Georgia has penetrated the very walls of the penitentiary, with the result that a half-crazy life-term murderer became obsessed with the idea that "the right thing to do" was to take the law into his own hands and mete out punishment to Leo Frank against whom such a furor had been raised throughout the State.

As we see it, it is not the crime of William Creen or the suffering and possible death of Leo Frank that so seriously concerns the State at this time, but the fearfully solemn thought that the spirit of mob violence has so taken possession of the people of Georgia that even one of the State's life-term convicts could feel called upon to make a victim of a man who had previously escaped the mob, and for whose blood almost the entire State has been crying for months.

More horrible still was that telegram to the Governor from Harris County citizens asking him to grant a full pardon to William Creen, obviously on the idea that his murderous assault upon Leo Frank fully atoned for his two previous murders.

But those were, no doubt, either ignorant or vicious people who sent this telegram; yet what must we say of those men of admitted intellect and influence who make a business of inciting such passions in the people? Verily, Georgia has fallen on hard days when incendiary publications can find a reader sale on the streets of her capital city and elsewhere than the sanest message ever penned by editors of more conscience and patriotism. We fully agree with The Albany Herald when it says: "There may have been no plot to murder Leo Frank, but there are those in the full enjoyment of liberty who share the guilt of the convict who attempted to take his life."