

The Week

Africa's Flag What's the Answer? Let Us Weep!

IT'S funny how seriously your white folks take themselves. From one ridiculous escapade to another, they move with startling rapidity. One time they are trying to prove that they are the chosen of the earth because they are conspicuous for their lack of pigmentation; next time you hear of them they are trying to find a way to separate an Indian from other dark people because the Indian happens to have something they desire—the next time they are trying to prove that a Nordic is better than a Slav and that the Scandinavian is superior to a Latin.

They promenade about the earth crowing of their achievements and their virtues—and condemning others for their frailties. They have been so successful with their ventures that they never hesitate to take that which they decide they want.

Witness, in proof of this statement, the activities of white people in Africa. Already they have decided that South Africa should be a "white man's country," and they are moving every obstacle to bring about that situation. Not content with passing unfavorable legislation and taking complete charge of the natives, the intruders have now decided that they want a flag of their own, representing the white man in a "dark country." And the Nation, commenting on this, exclaims:

But some day the majority race of South Africa may demand a great black square in the flag—and if the Negroes are civilized into becoming as big fools as white men, that will be another pretty row. And that, so to speak, is that.



THE New York Evening Graphic, a daily newspaper, publishes an editorial in which it compares lynchings to capital punishment. It pictures both cases as bad as they can be pictured. Says the editorial:

NORTH AND SOUTH

Two items in yesterday's news appearing side by side show that there is still a difference between our North and our South.

Down South a group of citizens captured a Negro, shot him, soaked his body with gasoline and cheered as the odor of his roasting flesh filled the air.

Up North such things are impossible.

It is the practice here to capture persons, try them and sentence them to die.

Then a machine known as the electric chair is primed for use, with its high tension wires and its metallic cap and leg electrodes.

At a stated time a group of witnesses is admitted to the chamber where this implement stands; the victim is brought in, strapped fast and the current is turned on.

The flesh turns purple, as death agonies begin. Smoke curls up from under the ghastly hood. The odor of burning flesh sickens the spectators.

They call the terrible thing that happened in Tennessee "lynching."

They call the terrible thing that happens in Sing Sing "execution."

You ask and we ask, "What's the answer?" Is there really any comparison between the orderly carrying out of laws provided for the protection of society, and the action of a mob? Should not the proper application of one remove the excuse for the other? You know that there is no justification for lynchings—can you declare that legal executions also are unnecessary? Some one, one of these days, will answer all this for you, and for the rest of us.



NOW that the United States supreme court, through Chief Justice William Howard Taft, has decided that Martha Lum, an American of Chinese extraction, must attend the Mississippi "Jim Crow" school. It is interesting to wait to see who is next on Mississippi's Americanization program. But even that fact, as interesting as it is, does not interest you as does the sudden contrition shown by southern white editors for the fate of Martha Lum. Listen to this broadside from the Birmingham News:

However, that's neither here nor there. What matters it that Martha Lum may have blood in her veins of the Kubla Khan, or of some Chinese artist worker in exquisite tapestry dead a thousand years, or of those prophets and seers that have molded the religious thought of the Asiatic world! If Bolivar county people decided she is a "Chink" and "Colored," the whole vexed question is disposed of. Since the legality of the Bolivar education board's decision has been approved by the supreme court of the United States, the groundlings may rejoice, but the judicious will grieve.

Now doesn't the fate of Martha Lum make you weep? Think of the tragedy! Isn't this a cruel world?