

5340
JUN 29 1926

PRESS SERVICE
COMMISSION ON INTERRACIAL COOPERATION
409 Palmer Bldg., Atlanta, Ga.
R. B. Eleazer, Educational Director

BUSINESS BODY
SAYS LYNCHING
MUST CEASE

- - -

Florida Chamber of Commerce Pledges Aid
In Wiping it Out

- - -

St. Petersburg, Fla., June__: Aroused by the recent epidemic of lynchings in Florida, the State Chamber of Commerce has gone on record with a declaration that this condition must not continue and has pledged to the Governor its approval of his vigorous efforts to secure effective prosecution in the recent La Belle lynching case and its willingness to cooperate to the fullest in the maintenance of law and order. The statement, which was adopted without a dissenting vote at the quarterly director's meeting, is as follows:

"The Florida State Chamber of Commerce has heard with concern that already this year there have been four recorded lynchings in this state, and that men and women, white and black, have been taken from the protection of the law and brutally maimed by masked gangs.

"Feeling that this condition must not continue if Florida is to prosper as she deserves, the State Chamber of Commerce hereby respectfully thanks the Governor for his quick and effective action in assuring a thorough prosecution of those persons who recently lynched a man in La Belle. Although there have been 143 recorded lynchings in Florida since 1900, this is the first to be followed by a vigorous prosecution of the offending mob.

"Again expressing its approval of the Governor's action, the State Chamber of Commerce wishes to assure him of its continued willingness to do all in its power to create the proper regard for law and order."

- - - - -

5340
JUN 29 1926

GENERAL LEE AND LYNCH LAW

- By R. B. Eleazer

It is not commonly known that General Robert E. Lee, while President of Washington and Lee University, twice prevented threatened lynchings in Lexington, Va., the seat of the University. The stories are told in Riley's volume, "General Robert E. Lee After Appomattox", the one being a reminiscence by Prof. C. A. Graves of the University faculty, and the other by Judge D. Gardiner Tyler of Holdcroft, Va., an alumnus of the institution. In brief Prof. Grave's story is as follows:

"In the spring of 1866, while I was a student at Washington College, a report reached the campus that an attempt was being made to force the jail in order to lynch a horse thief named Jonathan Hughes, who, in the troublous times after the war, had been plying his vocation in the neighborhood of Lexington When I reached the courthouse yard, within which stood the jail where Hughes was confined, it was filled with a crowd of men who had ridden in from the country to take the law into their own hands. At the top of the jail steps, in front of the locked door, stood the old jailor, Thomas L. Perry, holding the jail keys high above his head, and facing, with grim and resolute aspect, the would-be lynchers who surrounded him.

"I was not at first aware of the presence of General Lee. But there he was (having evidently preceded me), moving quietly about among the crowd, addressing a few words to each group as he passed, begging them to let the law take its course. This scene continued for some time and is indelibly impressed on my memory. The end was there. Those stern Scotch-Irishmen, whose tenacity of purpose is proverbial, abandoned their enterprise, remounted their horses and rode out of town. They could not do a deed of lawless violence in the presence of 'Marse Robert', whose standard they had followed on many a battlefield. It may be of interest to record that Hughes was duly brought to trial for horse-stealing, and on April 20, 1866, was convicted and sentenced to the penitentiary for eighteen years".

Judge Tyler tells as follows of a similar incident which took place during his first year at Washington and Lee:

"A very popular young student, a son of Judge Brockenbrough, professor of law, got into a difficulty with a Negro and was badly shot. His life was despaired of. As soon as the news of the assault reached the college, four hundred students, with a brother of the wounded boy at their head, searched for and captured the trembling wretch, and with a rope round his neck, marched through the streets of the town to the courthouse square, with intent to wreak their vengeance on the man.

"It was in vain that the college and town authorities sought to calm the frenzied mob and induce them to turn over the Negro to the officers of the law. Just then General Lee appeared. Immediately the tumult was hushed, and the General, standing in the midst of the excited throng, simply said: 'Young gentlemen, let the law take its course'. The quiet words had the effect of a military order, and the Negro's life was saved".

HERBERT A. RIDER
ATTORNEY AT LAW
LABELLE, FLORIDA

J U N E
26th,
1 9 2 6.

5373
JUL 1 - 1926

National Association for the
Advancement of Colored People,
69 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Sirs:-

I have just returned from Arcadia, DeSoto County, Florida, where I have been engaged for the past two days collecting evidence to be used in the prosecution of the mob that lynched Henry Patterson on the streets of LaBelle, Florida, May 11th, 1926, and found your letter of the ~~22nd~~ 22nd inst. which I am herewith answering.

On the 21st inst. I wrote your organization somewhat in detail setting out something of our present needs which I believe in a way answers your inquiry of the 22nd.

We are in a very peculiar local situation here which necessitates our calling on the outside world for assistance. Many of our officials of this county are connected or implicated in this lynching. Hurd L. Reeves, Tax Assessor of this (Hendry) county was placed in jail charged with first degree murder in connection with the lynching. Radford E. Edwards, City Marshall, was also placed in jail under the same charge. The Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners has near relatives charged with being members of the mob. In short, the situation is such that it is impossible to secure even the smallest sum from the public funds of the County to aid us in our fight. But on the contrary, every impediment possible is being thrown in our way to stop or "block" the effort we are making in the interest of justice. D. L. McLaughlin, Sheriff of this county, should have been arrested as an accessory before the fact, ~~xxx~~ and would have been, had it not been for the antagonistic Coroner's jury before whom we were compelled to present our testimony. This county is small in population the majority of whom are termed "crackers" being a lawless class of individuals. At our recent primary election on June 8th, 1926, we polled only about four hundred votes in the county. Judge Wesley C. Richards, who acted as Coroner, was defeated for nomination as County Judge by a large per centage of the votes cast because of the impartial discharge of his duty in the investigation of the lynching of Henry Patterson. It is rumored that there is a movement on foot to displace me as County Prosecuting Attorney, because of the part I have played and am playing in the interest of equal law enforcement. But these are small matters. Sometimes it is

HERBERT A. RIDER
ATTORNEY AT LAW
LABELLE, FLORIDA

5-373
JUL 1-1926

2.

necessary to sacrifice the individual that great principals may predominate and survive. On account of the foregoing the few good citizens we have in this county are really afraid that if they should donate any sum for the purpose of carrying out the prosecution of the mob that it might come to the knowledge of the lawless class and work to their detriment.

But, withal, we have a few good law abiding citizens who are doing their part manfully toward bringing about better conditions. Because of the opportunity afforded by the recent deplorable affair at LaBelle, we are endeavoring to turn it to good advantage that we believe will eventually eliminate, stamp out and forever stop lynchings in the South.

We are urgently in need of a good detective. We are in urgent need of a comparatively large fund to pay the numerous expenses such as railroad fare, automobile hire, hotel bills in making trips for the purpose of gathering evidence, extra counsel, photographs of the scenes where the lynching occurred, measurements of the grounds, maps, etc. As I have turned away all other business since this deplorable affair occurred in order that I might give this matter my undivided attention, have done some of the hardest work of my life in ferreting out the guilty parties, have been successful in transferring the investigation before the grand jury of another county, and up to this time have borne all the expenses from my own pocket, I think that I should be compensated for what I have done since my duties as County Prosecuting Attorney, ended, and for the tremendous hard work which is yet to be done. The conviction of the mob is going to depend on local detail work which can be done only by some local individual. The brightest, most brilliant legal light in the country would be helpless in the trial of the mob without the very kind of data and work which I am trying to gather and shape up to be used when needed. I only wish I was financially able to take care of this matter, myself, without being put to the necessity of appealing to others for assistance.

Please give us you financial support just as far as you think our need requires in this matter and as fully as it is possible for you ~~to~~ do so. Your check may be made to John F. Webber, President of Hendry County Chamber of Commerce, LaBelle, Florida, or direct to me as I have been entrusted with directing the entire investigation and those assisting me, insist that all matters connected with said investigation be submitted to me. I assure you that any and all sums donated will be used to the very best purpose possible and that I will render an accounting

HERBERT A. RIDER
ATTORNEY AT LAW
LABELLE, FLORIDA

5973
JUL 1 - 1926

3.

of said funds. Do what you can to assist us and in so doing we are sure that it will be as "bread cast upon the waters".

I am risking my future business prospects and risking life itself in the interest of a great principle - a great cause - in order that conditions in the coming years may be bettered and that a deplorable stigma and shame may forever be removed from our fair land. What will you risk and to what extent will your organization assist in this best opportunity that has ever occurred in the southland to bring about the very thing for which you have been contending and fighting for the past fifteen years. It appears to me that this is the "opportunity that knocks at our door" which should be "taken at its flood-gate".

Owing to your years of experience in matters of this kind, we shall greatly appreciate any suggestion that you may offer.

Hoping to hear from you by return mail, I am,

Yours very truly,

H. A. Rider

H. A. Rider,
County Prosecuting Attorney,
LaBelle, Florida,
Box 23.

*Lynching
LaBelle, Fla.*

July 3, 1926.

Herbert A. Rider, Esq.,
Attorney-at-Law,
LaBelle, Florida.

Dear Sir:

I have just returned to New York from Chicago and find on my desk your letter of June 26th and also a letter from Mr. Webber of June 28th. You may rest assured that this Association will furnish you with some financial aid. Just how much I cannot say because I have not yet had opportunity to go over the matter with our Executive Committee. I shall not have a chance to meet with the Committee before Tuesday, the 5th on account of the intervening holidays, but we shall get together as early as possible on Tuesday and take the matter up. I hope that you will continue the work that you have begun. We shall do all in our power to aid you.

Yours very truly,

JWJ/NOS

Secretary.

HERBERT A. RIDER
ATTORNEY AT LAW
LABELLE, FLORIDA

*Lynching
LaBelle Fla.*

J U L Y
7th,
1 9 2 6

7/12/26
Recd
RM to
Ack

James Weldon Johnson, Secretary,
National Association for the
Advancement of Colored People,
69 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

JUL 11 1926

Dear Sir:-

I have just returned to LaBelle from Tampa and find your letter of the 3rd inst stating that I may rest assured that your Association will furnish me some financial aid and that you would take the matter up with your Executive Committee on Tuesday following the date of your letter.

I beg to assure you that your letter is very encouraging and on your assurance I am going on with the work I have begun and have been continuously at since the day of the lynching - May 11th, 1926.

My trip to Tampa was entirely in the interest of this cause. Last Saturday I appeared before a representative body of leaders of the colored citizens of Tampa. I went to Tampa at the request of Rev. Potter, Editor of the Bulleton. These good citizens gave me every assurance that they were going to liberally assist financially. I advised Rev. Potter to send their contribution to your Association as he told me he was in communication with you in regard to this lynching. If you have not already heard from him, I presume you will, soon.

While in Tampa I took this crime up with the Editors of ~~the~~ the Tampa Tribune and the Tampa Daily Times and these gentlemen assured me that the columns of their papers were at my service toward keeping this matter before the public, educating the public against the awful crime of lynching and molding public sentiment in the interest of convicting those implicated in the lynching of Henry Patterson. In support of this the Tampa Daily Times of July 2, 1926, contained a strong editorial entitled, "Let's Change This". I have several letters and telegrams from John W. Martin, Governor of Florida, commending me for what I have done and assuring me every assistance that he as Governor could give in bringing to justice the perpetrators of this horrible crime. The editors of the local papers of Lee County, the county to which I secured a change

HERBERT A. RIDER
ATTORNEY AT LAW
LABELLE, FLORIDA

5544
JUL 11 1926

2.

of investigation, have assured me that they will assist me, through the columns of their papers, in every way possible.

Since this horrible crime on May 11th I have been on the job continuously and I believe everything right and reasonable has been done, that should have been attempted, towards convicting those implicated. So far I have paid all my expenses in addition to devoting all my time and best skill in getting this matter in shape for investigation by the grand jury and the final trial if true bills are found. The best citizens of this community are encouraging me to proceed with the good work and I am informed that they are raising a small sum with which to present me in token of their appreciation. In the stand I have taken I took my life in my hands. I have been threatened, intimidated and subjected to every annoyance conceivable by the lawless element. But I have at least one consolation - the approval of a conscience of having done my simple duty, as poor and feeble as my efforts were.

At this time we are in urgent need of financial aid to assist us in carrying on the good work. We are in need of ~~an~~ a good reliable detective in the worst way. It is becoming hard for me to get facts as I am closely watched at all times. We need a good photographer to take various photographs of the scenes of the lynching to use in the trial of the cases. We need a good surveyor to take measurements to be used in the trials. We need good additional counsel to assist in preparing the cases for trial and to assist in the actual trials. Up to this time I have borne all the extra expenses myself. I feel that this is not my fight alone but that it is a matter that belongs to the public. I have borne almost the entire brunt of the battle up to this time and as I am holding the enemy in check I believe some one ought to feel patriotic enough in a righteous cause to come to my rescue and assistance. Your letter was a bright ray of hope and I am encouraged to stand firm and fight on. I am depending on you and your organization. We need just such an Association, as you have, to get into this matter and back it up. I am apprehensive that the outside world does not realize the enormity of the ~~task~~ ^{task} or its import on the general welfare of the entire country. I am also apprehensive that they do not realize the enormous task involved in prosecuting this gang. There are between forty and seventy-five members in the mob that lynched Patterson. One witness stated the number, at the place of hanging, to be one hundred.

Another innocent victim has been sacrificed to satisfy

HERBERT A. RIDER
ATTORNEY AT LAW
LABELLE, FLORIDA

53-44
JUL 11 1926

3.

a hateful race predudice. Again our Constitution has been stabbed. Once more the law of the land has been assassinated. Another instance where the good citizens have been outraged. The blood of Henry Patterson cries from the ground for vengeance. Are we going to be deaf to the cry? Are we going to ignore the appeal of justice? Are we going to forget our duty? Are we going to cease to be the good citizens that duty demands of us and betray our country into the hands of outlaws and murders and become parties to anarchy?

This case is far more important in many respects than the Sweet case. There is a far greater principle involved and the final results will be far more reaching.

Hoping to hear from you real soon and again expressing our appreciation of your interest and promise of aid, I am,

Yours very truly,

H. A. Rider

H. A. Rider,
County Prosecuting Attorney,
LaBelle, Florida.

*Lynching
La Belle, Fla.*

July 8, 1926

Mr. John F. Webber,
President, Hendry County Chamber of Commerce,
LaBelle, Florida

My dear Mr. Webber:

The attached voucher should have been enclosed in our letter of yesterday in which we forwarded you draft on the Corn Exchange Bank of New York City for Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00), to aid in the investigation of the lynching at LaBelle, Florida.

Will you kindly sign this voucher and return it to us at your earliest convenience.

Yours very truly,

Secretary

R

July 7, 1926

Mr. John F. Webber,
President, Hendry County Chamber of Commerce,
Labelle, Florida

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your letter of the 28th.

Our Executive Staff had a conference yesterday at which time we considered the situation at Labelle. We had before us at the time a dispatch, received the same day, quoting a resolution which had been adopted by the Florida State Chamber of Commerce deploring the lynchings which have taken place in Florida this year and commending the Governor for his "quick and effective action in assuring a thorough prosecution of those persons who recently lynched a man in Labelle" and pledging to the Governor the cooperation of the State Chamber of Commerce.

Our Committee felt that the action taken by the Governor and by the State Chamber of Commerce places a somewhat different and altogether encouraging aspect on the whole matter. We, however, wished to render some aid in this situation and voted to send Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00).

I am enclosing you a draft on the Corn Exchange Bank of New York City for Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00). We wish that we could do more but this organization is far from being rich. Every dollar is collected only through the greatest effort. We feel, however, that this question will be pushed to the limit on account of the attitude and action taken by the Governor and the cooperation of the law-loving elements of the State. We should like very much to have a report upon the progress of the whole matter.

Yours very truly,

Secretary

A copy of this letter is being sent to Mr. Rider.

LaBelle, Fla. June 28th 1926

National Ass'n for A of C.P.

69 Fifth Avenue

New York, N.Y.

Friends:-

JUL 2 - 1926

Yours of the 21st. inst. received and noted. Replying would say that we do need help, mostly financial.

Our source of funds is entirely cut off owing to the fact that the chairman of our County Commissioners is with the lynchers, advancing funds from his own pocket to defend them. Then our sheriff is also with the lynchers. Now don't understand that they were absolutely in favor of the lynching, but owing to fears, family ties, and easy going methods of them it was easier to side in with what they feel was the strongest factor.

Now we feel that there was a well organized effort to drive the negre out of this locality, and if we had sufficient funds we would ferret out the whole deal, but it will be necessary to get strong financial aid, for the other side are going to fight for all they are worth. When you consider that there were seventeen sent to jail, and if justice is done, when the Grand Jury meets, there are liable to be a number of others that will be sent to trial.

You can see to try that large number it will mean great expense, aside from the ferreting out of the supposed organized ring.

Now if you will correspond with Col. H. A. Rider in future, I think the best results can be obtained, for the fewer that know anything about the workings, aside from yourselves and the Col.

the better. I am handing over to him your letter and copy of this so he will know all. Yours truly, John T. Webber.

*Lynching
La Belle, Fla.*

July 16, 1926.

John F. Webber, Esq.,
President Hendry County Chamber of Commerce,
LaBelle, Florida.

Dear Mr. Webber:

I have your letter of July 12th addressed to Mr. Johnson which I am acknowledging in his absence from the city.

As Mr. Johnson has pointed out to you in previous letters, we are very keenly interested in the situation at LaBelle but, unfortunately our funds to be stretched out as far as possible over important cases which come to us from all over the country, are very limited. I do not mean to imply that the remittance we have made is necessarily all we can do. I can only say that when we learn from Mr. Rider the work which has been done with this sum and we know what remains to be done, we can then take up the matter again with our Legal Committee and Board of Directors.

Yours very truly,

WW/NOS

Assistant Secretary.

LaBelle, Fla. July 12th, 1926

James Weldon Johnson, Secy.

Natl. Assn for The A. of C. P.

69 Fifth Avenue, New York.

Dear Sir:-

Rcd.

Rfd. to

Ack.

D. O.

JUL 15 1926

I received your letters of the seventh and eighth and am inclosing signed voucher. Turned the draft over to Col. Ryder and know that it will be well spent. Thank you.

I am not quite clear in the interpretation of your letter, am I to understand that the remittance covers the help you are giving?

It is true that The State Chamber of Commerce is backing us, in a moral way, but we cannot look to it for financial assistance, nor can we look to the Governor for certain assistance that we need.

He can render assistance to a certain extent, but not to the extent that we need it. Col. Ryder possibly can tell you better in just what ways we can get help from the State, and what help we will need that we must have and must look to outside assistance.

He is going to see the Governor this week to see what can be done. Possibly can tell you more later on.

There is an organized effort against the Negro in this section, and it will need a good Detective to ferret it out and thus bring the real criminals to justice. This part the Governor can do nothing. It needs more legal assistance, and possibly better talent than the state can supply. All takes money. Of course if funds are not available we can go as far as we can and let the whole affair be whitewashed and let it drop. The other side are putting up good hard money to fight and we must do likewise.

Again thanking you for check and assuring you that we want to see justice will remain, Yours truly,

John F. Weldon

La Belle, Fla.

July 29, 1926.

Mr. M. D. Potter,
P. O. Box 1107,
Tampa, Florida.

My dear Mr. Potter:

Thank you very much for your letter of July 24th regarding the LaBelle lynching. The National Office has forwarded a check for \$300.00 to Mr. Webber, receipt of which has been acknowledged by him. We have not yet received a report of the distribution of that amount.

The National Office is deeply interested in this case and in fact we have been exceedingly fearful because our funds were inadequate to handle the case as it needs to be handled. We are most pleased at the news of the conference at Jacksonville, and to know of the plan to raise funds through Bishop Hurst and other interested persons. I do not need to tell you that we will follow up the case as vigorously and effectively as our means will permit.

Again let me thank you for your help.

Yours very truly,

WWH/NOS

Assistant Secretary.

THE TAMPA BULLETIN PUBLISHING COMPANY
General Printers and Publishers

P. O. Box 1107



71-830

Tampa, Florida

July 24, 1926

N.A.A.C. People,
69 Fifth Avenue,
New York City, N.Y.

JUL 28 1926

Gentlemen:

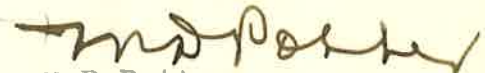
I am writing you in regards to the LaBelle, Hendry County, Florida Lynching, about which I wrote you several weeks ago. I understand that you have rendered some assistance for which you have the thanks of the people of Florida.

Nine of the seventeen men arrested are held under \$10,000 bond. Mr. Webber of the Chamber of Commerce and Col. Rider, County Solicitor, met with the ministers and race leaders of Florida at Edward Waters College ~~this~~ week. After much discussion it was decided to ask your Association to take it in hand furnishing the detective, and lawyer to assist in the prosecution. Bishop Hurst presided in the meeting.

A campaign is to be made throughout the state of Florida for funds. The amount raised is to be sent to Bishop Hurst and he is to forward it to your Association. Bishop has the state pretty thoroughly organized for the drive and he usually gets results. He asked that I write you and acquaint you with what was done as The Bulletin started the fight and is still leading it.

Please let me hear from you directly.

Respectfully,


M.D. Potter

*Lynching
La Belle, Fla*

409 Palmer Building,
Atlanta, Ga.

August 27, 1926

Mr. James Weldon Johnson,
69 Fifth Avenue,
New York City

My dear Mr. Johnson:

Mr. Foreman, of our staff, has made two trips to LaBelle, Florida, in connection with the lynching. On the first trip, he not only visited LaBelle, but called on prominent citizens in several other sections of the State, in order to stir them and such agencies as the Chamber of Commerce to action against Florida mobs, using the LaBelle case as a starting point for a systematic campaign. The second trip was made at the request of Mr. Rider, one of the attorneys interested in the case, who appealed to us for help. Mr. Rider's letter was not very specific, and we decided that Mr. Foreman should go to LaBelle and see exactly what was needed.

Mr. Foreman was authorized to say that we would be willing to supplement dollar for dollar all the money that could be raised in Florida for the prosecution of this case, provided, after investigation, we were convinced that the efforts to prosecute were sincere and intelligent. We set a limit of Five Hundred Dollars for the amount we could put into it, but Mr. Foreman understood that, if it were necessary, we would go beyond that. As a result of this visit, I have before me an appeal from four prominent citizens of Florida - Mr. John F. Webber, President of the LaBelle Chamber of Commerce, Mr. F. Watts Hall, president of the local bank, Mr. H. A. Rider, the attorney who appealed to us for help, and Wesley C. Richards, County Judge.

I am quite willing to go through with my original offer, particularly so now that these Florida people seem willing to take the leadership in pushing the case. However, I am unwilling to go forward without complete understanding with you and the fullest possible cooperation in the matter, since the committee informs me that you have already put something into the case.

From the reports of Mr. Foreman and the letter from the committee, it would seem that the needs are - First, for a detective who can gather evidence. Just where to find the right man, I am not sure. It would seem that the local committee should take responsibility for calling a man into the case for this work. Second, they feel that they need a lawyer to help prosecute the case. It would appear that, if possible, they ought to secure the most prominent lawyer in Florida. I am inclined to think that, if the proper appeal were made, some well known Florida lawyer might be prevailed upon to volunteer his services. I wonder what you would think of this. It seems clear that, if possible, Florida people should be made to do this job themselves.

Awaiting your convenience, I am

Very sincerely. (signed) WILL W. ALEXANDER

HERBERT A. RIDER
ATTORNEY AT LAW
LABELLE, FLORIDA

SEP 7 - 1926

S E P T E M B E R
1st,
1 9 2 6.

Lynching, Fla. 6457
Ed Belle,

National Association for the
Advancement of Colored People,
69 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Sirs:-

RE: LYNCHING OF HENRY PATTERSON AT LABELLE,
FLORIDA ON MAY 11, 1926.

As it has been some time since we received your draft for \$300.00 to assist in the prosecution of the above stated matter, I am, after too long delay, writing to inform you in a general way of the disposition of the above sum and a little something of what we are doing toward the prosecution.

On July 12, 1926, your draft for \$300.00 was turned over to me and deposited in the Bank of LaBelle, LaBelle, Florida. On July 13, 1926, I paid from said fund \$40.00 to a photographer of Fort Myers, Florida, for photographs of the scenes where the mob operated on May 11th. These photographs are to be used in the trial of the cases. On July 14, 1926, at the request of Bishop John Hurst of Baltimore, one of your Vice-Presidents and Directors, I, in company with John F. Webber, President of the Hendry County Chamber of Commerce, left this place to appear before the school of ministers of Florida then in session at Edward Waters College at Jacksonville, Florida, ~~where~~ for the purpose of securing financial assistance with which to prosecute the guilty parties in said lynching. On the night of the 14th on our way to Jacksonville we were in a train wreck and arrived in Jacksonville too late on the 15th to take the matter up with the school while in session. Mr. Webber remained in Jacksonville and appeared before the school on the 16th while I went on to Tallahassee to confer with Governor John W. Martin in reference to said prosecutions. I returned to Jacksonville from Tallahassee and appeared before the school on the 19th, returning to this place on the 20th. The expenses of this trip, including Mr. Webber's expenses amounted to \$160.00. At the meeting at Jacksonville it was arranged, through the advice of Bishop Hurst and M. D. Potter, Editor of The Tampa Bulletin, that all sums raised through the M. E. Church, (Colored) of Florida, ~~should~~ for the prosecution of the lynching at LaBelle, should pass through and be handled by your Association. On July 2, 1926, I, at the invitation of

HERBERT A. RIDER
ATTORNEY AT LAW
LABELLE, FLORIDA

2.

M. D. Potter, Editor of the Tampa Bulletin, left this place to appear before and present our needs for financial assistance to the ~~colored~~ colored business men of Tampa, arriving back at this place on the 4th. This trip was made at the expense of \$50.00 which I advanced from my own personal account. After receiving your draft the Committee of LaBelle voted that I be reimbursed for said expense from the \$300.00 your Association donated. It ~~was~~ also decided at the meeting in Tampa that all sums raised there should be forwarded and disbursed through your Association. I have made four trips to Fort Myers, Florida, and one trip to Arcadia, Florida, to see and confer with prospective witnesses to be used in the trial of the cases at a total expense of \$58.50.

The above is a general statement of expenditures. I can furnish an itemized statement if preferred.

I presume you have heard from Bishop John Hurst before this and that perhaps funds are coming in from various sources from different sections of the State.

The Georgia Committee on Interracial Cooperation, 409 Palmer Building, Atlanta, Georgia, hearing of our situation and needs, sent their Secretary, Mr. Clark Foreman, to LaBelle to make a personal investigation and after looking into the matter they have promised to cooperate with your Association in rendering us assistance.

Up to this time I have secured a list of more than fifty witnesses who will be material to the State in the prosecution of the cases but there is much important work yet to be done. We are still in urgent need of a good detective and additional legal assistance. I have yet been paid nothing for my services and am out a small sum for expenses which I have paid from my own pocket. I have secured a change of investigation before the grand jury of Lee County, Florida, at the next session of Circuit Court in and for that County, which convenes the first Monday in November, 1926. We have a short time in which to prepare these cases compared with the amount of hard work which is, and ought, to be done.

I shall be pleased to hear from you at your earliest convenience and will gladly furnish any information, that I can, which you may desire.

Yours very truly,

H. A. Rider
County Prosecuting Attorney.

*Lynching
La Belle, Fla.*

September 14, 1926

Bishop John Hurst,
Edward Waters College,
Jacksonville, Fla.

My dear Bishop Hurst:

(Sent to Edwards Waters College,
Jacksonville, Florida)
Also to Baltimore, Md.

On June 22 we received from Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune a communication enclosing a copy of a letter which she had received from Mr. H. A. Rider, County Prosecuting Attorney, regarding the lynching of Henry Patterson at LaBelle, Florida, on May 11 of this year. Later we received a letter from Mr. Rider appealing for funds to assist in the prosecution of those guilty of this crime. We also received a letter from the Rev. M. D. Potter, editor of the Tampa Bulletin, regarding the matter.

After further correspondence with Mr. Rider and also with Mr. John F. Webber, President of the Hendry County Chamber of Commerce, the Association sent a contribution of Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00), from the Anti-Lynching Fund.

We recently received a letter from Mr. Rider giving an account of the disbursement of the money we had sent and also stating that he had been in touch with you and that it had been arranged that all sums passing through the Colored M. E. Church of Florida for the prosecution should pass through and be handled by the N.A.A.C.P. Mr. Rider writes further, "I suppose you have heard from Bishop Hurst before this and that perhaps funds are coming in from various sources from different sections of the State."

We have also received a letter from Mr. Will W. Alexander, Secretary of the Interracial Commission, in which he states that Mr. Foreman of their staff has made two trips to LaBelle in connection with the lynching; that the Interracial Commission wishes to help and had promised Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), and might go beyond that; but that they did not want to go forward without complete understanding with the N.A.A.C.P. and our fullest cooperation in the matter.

I am writing to ask if you will not give us all the facts

you have regarding this matter. We should like information about the status of the case and the probabilities of a successful prosecution, and also the probabilities of raising the necessary funds to carry the prosecution on. We should also like to have you make such suggestions as you may have regarding the steps the National Office should take, especially what steps we should take toward financial aid.

With my kindest personal regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

Secretary

JWJ/RR

*Lynching
La Belle, Fla.*

September 18, 1936

Bishop John Hurst,
1808 McCulloch Street,
Baltimore, Md.

Sent also to Edwards Waters College
Jacksonville, Fla.

My dear Bishop Hurst:

I thank you for your letter of the 16th.

We think that this LaBelle case is one of the best ones that the Association can get in behind if there is any practical and effective method of doing so. It is one of the few cases in which there seems to be any reaction on the part of the local whites for justice. From all indications, the Governor of the State is interested as well as business and professional white men in the county in which the lynching took place. If we can do anything to aid in securing the prosecution and conviction of the persons responsible for this crime, I think it would have a fine effect.

If you can be instrumental in setting in motion any machinery that will secure some active cooperation from the white and colored people of Hillsboro and Hendry Counties it would be well to do so.

I can understand that this is a matter that the ministers would be a little bit delicate in pushing, but they would have more reason to fear if they were doing it in the face of opposition from the best elements of the whites in those counties; but since this element of white people are aroused in the matter, I think the ministers and the colored people could without any danger fall in line. I believe the colored people ought to take some part in raising funds to help the forces that are now at work for securing justice.

I note what you say about the two men with whom you were talking being interested in land developments in Hendry County and that they are interested in having the criminals punished because the offense committed by them has paralyzed the land business in that county. I do not believe this motive

on their part is in no way disadvantageous. It is quite likely that they will go further toward having justice done in this matter because they are financially interested than they would if they were merely actuated by abstract ideals of justice.

The National Office feels that the Association ought to do as much as it possibly can in this matter.

Please write me again at your earliest convenience and let us have whatever further information and suggestions you may have.

With kind regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

Secretary

JWJ/RR

The African Methodist Episcopal Church

Headquarters:
Edward Waters College
Jacksonville, Fla.

Rt. Rev. John Hurst, A. M., D. D.
Bishop of Florida

Residence:
1808 McCulloh Street,
Baltimore, Md.

September 16, 1926.

Recd. *9/17/26*

Rfd. to

Ack. *6647*

O. O. *SFP 171926*

Mr. James W. Johnson,
69 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

About two months ago, my attention was called to that situation at La Belle, by the Rev. Mr. Potter and soon afterward, those two gentlemen mentioned in your letter, called to see me, to try ~~to~~ get financial aid in their effort to bring the criminals to trial. The Summer Seminar for the ministers of my church was in session at Edward Waters College. I had them, with the Rev. Mr. Potter, to address the gathering and endeavor to interest the ministers to contribute something in that direction. But I regret to say that those gentlemen did not make a favorable impression. The verdict from the ministers was that those two men were promoters in land development in Hendricks County and they were interested in having those criminals punished because their offense had forever paralyzed their business in that county.

Out of some three hundred men, only twenty-four subscribed and only very small amounts at that. The Rev. Mr. G. W. Hawkins of Gainesville was appointed treasurer to receive the subscriptions and up to the present, I understand he has received but a small pittance, which I will have him forward to you immediately.

I am of the opinion that if the people, both white and colored, of Hillsboro and Hendrick Counties, were given to understand the exact situation, I think they would be willing to contribute something respectable to aid those Hendrick County people to secure conviction of those lynchers. The ministers are not going to carry the matter before their people, as they seem to be afraid as to the effect of it. But they are willing to do something personally, if they are convinced that the prosecution ~~will~~ redound to the good

The African Methodist Episcopal Church

Headquarters:
Edward Waters College
Jacksonville, Fla.

Rt. Rev. John Hurst, A. M., D. D.
Bishop of Florida

Residence:
1808 McCulloh Street,
Baltimore, Md.

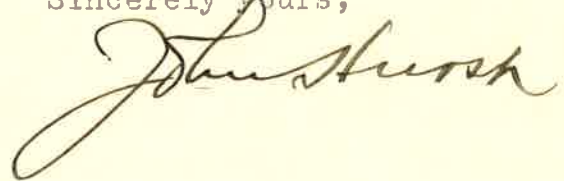
6649
SEP 17 1926

of the Colored people in that part of the State.

I am willing to continue the effort and go as far with it as possible, if the N. A. A. C. P. office think it advisable to take some interest in it. If that is given out to the ministers of my Church in Florida, they will be willing to come out stronger and help along. If you will advise me as to your wishes in the premises, I will take hold of it and put the proposition in its proper light before them.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely yours,



*Lynching
La Belle, Fla.*

October 1, 1926.

Bishop John Hurst,
1808 McCulloh Street,
Baltimore, Maryland.

My dear Bishop Hurst:

I have your letter of September 24th. I wish also to acknowledge receipt of the enclosed check for \$61.00 sent by the Rev. Mr. Hawkins, being a contribution from the twenty-four ministers mentioned in your last letter.

I hope that we shall be able to get some action on the LaBelle case. I am writing to the officials at LaBelle, and I shall also write to Mr. Alexander of the Interracial Commission at Atlanta. We hope you will keep us advised of any new developments that may come to your attention.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

JWJ/NOS

Secretary.

The African Methodist Episcopal Church

Headquarters:
Edward Waters College
Jacksonville, Fla.

Rt. Rev. John Hurst, A. M., D. D.
Bishop of Florida

Residence:
1808 McCulloh Street,
Baltimore, Md.



61.00

6839

September 24, 1926.

SEP 25 1926

Mr. James Weldon Johnson,
69 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

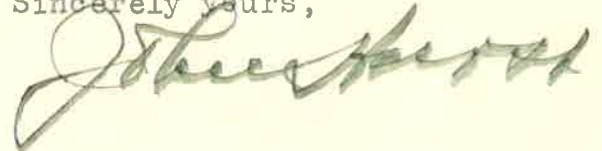
Dear Mr. Johnson:

I readily can see the reason why I should side strongly with those white people, representing that situation at La Belle in the Court and assist in raising what is required to meet the expenses of the trial. I leave for Florida to-night and will meet a number of the preachers. I will straighten them out and put them to work. In a few weeks I should be able to make a respectable report to you.

Herewith enclosed, you will find check sent by Rev. Hawkins, which covers the amount contributed by those 24 ministers mentioned in my last letter to you. When they understand it, they will feel as you do and will plunge into the effort whole-heartedly and bring forth some cash.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely yours,



JH LJ

*of Lynching
La Belle, Fla*

October 4, 1926.

Mr. W. W. Alexander,
409 Palmer Building,
Atlanta, Georgia.

My dear Mr. Alexander:

Following my note written to you from the country several weeks ago, I wish to take up at the office the matter of the LaBelle lynching.

We are glad to cooperate to the fullest possible extent with you on this case. There seems to be offered a splendid opportunity to strike an effective blow at lynching inasmuch as it appears that both the local authorities at LaBelle and the Governor of the State of Florida are interested. I am sure that we should not lose the opportunity to back them up. However, I feel with you that what we do should be a matter of backing up the Florida authorities rather than taking the initiative.

This Association is willing and ready to do all that it can in giving both moral and financial support. We should like to have suggestions from you since you are nearer the scene and have the advantage of having made a personal investigation through your Mr. Foreman.

Regarding the two needs reported by Mr. Foreman, a detective and an outstanding lawyer, I think the best detective service could be secured in Atlanta. It would not be practical or advisable to send a detective from New York. An Atlanta man would know and sense the whole situation up better. The lawyer should be a prominent Florida lawyer and I think he should be selected by the local people. I believe that they could get a good lawyer to volunteer his services if the proper representation were made.

We shall be glad to hear from you further in regard to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

JWJ/NOS

Secretary.

*cf. - Lynching
LaBelle, Fla*

August 30, 1926

Mr. W. W. Alexander,
409 Palmer Building,
Atlanta, Ga.

My dear Mr. Alexander:

Your letter of August 27 regarding the lynching at LaBelle, Florida, has come in Mr. Johnson's absence on vacation. He will be away for about two weeks longer. As soon as he returns I shall bring your letter to his attention.

Yours very truly,

Secretary to Mr. Johnson

R

MRS. MAUD HENDERSON,
WOMAN'S WORK
R. B. ELEAZER,
EDUCATIONAL DIRECTOR

REV. M. ASHBY JONES, CHAIRMAN
R. H. KING, CHAIRMAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
WILL W. ALEXANDER, DIRECTOR

T. J. WOOFER, JR.,
RESEARCH SECRETARY
DAVID D. JONES,
GENERAL FIELD SECRETARY

Commission
ON
Interracial Cooperation

AUG 30 1926

409 PALMER BUILDING
TELEPHONE WALNUT 0352

ATLANTA, GA.

August 27, 1926.

Mr. James Weldon Johnson,
69 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Johnson:

Mr. Foreman, of our staff, has made two trips to LaBelle, Florida, in connection with the lynching. On the first trip, he not only visited LaBelle, but called on prominent citizens in several other sections of the State, in order to stir them and such agencies as the Chamber of Commerce to action against Florida mobs, using the LaBelle case as a starting point for a systematic campaign. The second trip was made at the request of Mr. Rider, one of the attorneys interested in the case, who appealed to us for help. Mr. Rider's letter was not very specific, and we decided that Mr. Foreman should go to LaBelle and see exactly what they needed.

Mr. Foreman was authorized to say that we would be willing to supplement dollar for dollar all the money that could be raised in Florida for the prosecution of this case, provided, after investigation, we were convinced that the efforts to prosecute were sincere and intelligent. We set a limit of Five Hundred Dollars for the amount we could put into it, but Mr. Foreman understood that, if it were necessary, we would go beyond that. As a result of this visit, I have before me an appeal from four prominent citizens of Florida - Mr. John F. Webber, President of the LaBelle Chamber of Commerce, Mr. F. Watts Hall, president of the local bank, Mr. H. A. Rider, the attorney who appealed to us for help, and Wesley C. Richards, County Judge.

I am quite willing to go through with my original offer, particularly so now that these Florida people seem willing to take the leadership in pushing the case. However, I am unwilling to go forward without complete understanding with you and the fullest possible cooperation in the matter, since the committee informs me that you have already put something into the case.

From the reports of Mr. Foreman and the letter from the committee, it would seem that the needs are- First, for a detective who can gather evidence. Just where to find the right man, I am not sure. It would seem that the local committee should take responsibility for calling a man into the case for this work. Second, they feel that they need a lawyer to help prosecute the case. It would appear that, if possible, they ought to secure the most prominent lawyer in Florida. I am inclined to think that, if the proper appeal were made, some well-known Florida lawyer might be prevailed upon to volunteer his services. I wonder what you would think of this. It seems clear that, if possible, Florida people should be made to do this job themselves.

Awaiting your convenience, I am

Very sincerely,

Will W. Alexander
Will W. Alexander

La Belle *7th* *case*

October 4, 1926.

Bishop John Hurst,
1808 McCulloh Street,
Baltimore, Maryland.

My dear Bishop Hurst:

I am sending enclosed in your care a
letter of acknowledgement. It is to the Rever-
end Mr. Hawkins for the check of \$61.00 as a
contribution in the LaBelle case. We will thank
you to get it to him.

Sincerely yours,

JWJ/HOS

Secretary.

October 4, 1926.

Rev. Mr. Hawkins,
c/o Bishop John Hurst,
1808 McCulloh Street,
Baltimore, Maryland.

My dear Mr. Hawkins:

We have received a communication from Bishop Hurst and a check for \$61.00 sent by you which covers the amount contributed by twenty-four ministers for the purpose of bringing to justice the perpetrators of the terrible lynching crime which took place at LaBelle, Florida.

I wish to express to you the appreciation of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People for this contribution. It will be a great victory if we can help in bringing about the just punishment of those responsible for this outrage, and in helping to uphold the laws of Florida. It appears that we have a splendid opportunity inasmuch as we are working in co-operation with the local authorities and the Governor of the State. It is an opportunity which we should not let pass by.

Sincerely yours,

JWJ/NOS

Secretary.

*Lynching
La Belle, Fla.*

October 4, 1926.

Herbert A. Rider, Esq.,
Attorney at Law,
LaBelle, Florida.

My dear Mr. Rider:

Following my note written to you from the country several weeks ago, I wish to take up at the office the matter of the LaBelle lynching.

We should like to hear from you as to the present status of the case, just what has been done and what the prospects are. We have received a letter from Mr. W. W. Alexander, Secretary of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, in which he states that in a letter from you and in Mr. Foreman's report two needs are stressed; that of a good detective, and additional legal assistance. These are the same two needs which you gave me in your letter of September 1st.

If there is yet need of a detective I think it best to secure a man from Atlanta. It would be almost useless to think of sending a detective from New York. Atlanta is close to the scene and a man from there would understand and sense the whole situation up much better than a man from New York. Suppose you write to Mr. Alexander for suggestions on that point.

As to additional legal assistance, what you have in mind I judge, is some eminent lawyer to head up the case. I am quite sure that such a lawyer should be a member of the Florida Bar. It would not do for a moment to bring in any outside lawyer not even from the neighboring State of Georgia. I believe that the LaBelle Committee by making the proper representations could induce some eminent Florida lawyer to volunteer his services. There ought to be a lawyer in one of the largest cities of Florida who would do this.

This Association is willing to do whatever it can in this case to help bring about justice and to strike a blow at the terrible crime of lynching.

Sincerely yours,

JWJ/NOS

Secretary.

La Belle

October 22, 1926

Herbert A. Rider, Esq.,
Attorney at Law,
LaBelle, Florida

My dear Mr. Rider:

I have your letter of the 8th.

I am sending you herewith check for Sixty-one Dollars (\$61.00), which is a contribution from colored ministers in Florida sent through this office by Bishop Hurst. I wish that the amount were larger.

I note what you say about the attack made upon you by those in sympathy with the guilty parties and you are to be congratulated upon your courageous stand in behalf of justice.

Mr. Alexander of the Interracial Commission was in our office a few days ago and he has some very practical suggestions. I wish you would write to him personally and get those suggestions from him.

We shall be glad to have you keep us informed.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary

JWJ/RR

HERBERT A. RIDER
ATTORNEY AT LAW
LABELLE, FLORIDA

OCTOBER
8th,
1926.

Rcd.

Rfd. to

Ack.

D. O.

OCT 13 1926

Mr. James Weldon Johnson, Secretary,
National Association for the
Advancement of Colored People,
69 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Sir:-

Your letter of the 4th inst. regarding the LaBelle lynching received this date upon my return from Fort Myers, Florida, where I had gone to take up the matter of said lynching with the new State Attorney.

The former State Attorney, who has been connected with the case up to ~~the~~ a few weeks ago, resigned his office recently and the Governor appointed Guy M. Strayhorn, Esq. Fort Myers, Florida, to said office. Through the public press the former State Attorney mentioned the LaBelle lynching in connection with his reasons for resigning. As I was preparing to leave this place for Fort Myers for the purpose above stated, I was personally attacked on the street by three men, reputed to be the "worst characters in this section" one of whom has a son that was placed in jail charged with being a party to the lynching. I am confident that the assault was for the purpose of "bluffing" and running me out of the country in order to put an end to my efforts in pushing the prosecution. Some of the most important, material witnesses for The State have been threatened and intimidated to such an extent that they have gone to other states and it now appears that it is going to be quite a task to get them back to testify. I have a letter from one that I consider our most material witness who writes: "I must tell you that I hear both sides of the story every once in awhile. Mr. Spiegle, a man who has a subdivision near LaBelle talked to my people and told them all about LaBelle and also told them that if I should come back for the trial I surely would get killed as people in LaBelle are still very blood thirsty. I also hear occasionally from some other friends and all of them seems to think that I had better not come for the trial. I know what they are, as I was with them long enough to know them, and my people are opposed to me going to that trial. ... I am not afraid of law, but I am afraid of murders," etc. This witness also states that he is not coming back to Florida to testify unless he is

HERBERT A. RIDER
ATTORNEY AT LAW
LABELLE, FLORIDA

7261
OCT 13 1926

2.

forced to by compulsory process and that the prosecution will be compelled to pay all his expenses as he is financially embarrassed. Mr. Strayhorn, the present State Attorney, takes the position that under the laws of this State, ~~that~~ no person in another state can be compelled to attend the trial and that their expenses in attending as a witness cannot be paid from the public funds except from the state line.

I mention the above in order that you may see just what I am up against in my effort to bring about the punishment of the guilty parties. As stated in a former letter, my duties as a prosecuting officer ceased upon the adjournment of the Coroner's Inquest. At that time the prosecution of these cases passed into the hands of the State Attorney. My duty as County Prosecuting Attorney is confined to the County Judge's Court. All that I have done since the Coroner's Inquest has been prompted purely by a desire to see justice prevail. Since said time I have given my time, efforts and some money to that end. At the conclusion of the Coroner's Inquest several of the best citizens of this county requested me to go right ahead and assist The State in the prosecution assuring me that they would compensate me through public subscriptions or donations. Several dollars were subscribed but since the recent storms throughout this section of Florida there is no hope of the amounts subscribed being paid. The damage to this village of about one thousand inhabitants amounts to about three hundred thousand dollars. My former letter to you will inform you of the disposition of the \$300.00 which your Association sent us and for which we are grateful. You will notice that most of that sum was expended in an effort to secure large donations from individuals and institutions of Florida and that said donations should pass through your Association. The object was to convince you that Florida was interested in the prosecution also that no graft could be charged to us locally. It was arranged that the donations should be collected and sent to you by Rev. Potter, colored, Editor Tampa Bulletin, Tampa, Florida. This arrangement was made with the approval of Bishop John Hurst. Afterwards the Interracial Cooperation of Atlanta, Georgia, sent their Secretary, Mr. Foreman, to LaBelle for the purpose of making an investigation of the lynching. Our local committee arranged with Mr. Foreman for assistance through his organization, provided, he would would take the matter up with and make satisfactory arrangements with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which I presume he did. The arrangement was left entirely with Mr. Foreman and your organization with the hope that a plan would be worked out advantageous to the great principle for which we are striving. I am confident that the LaBelle lynching affords the best opportunity of recent years to secure real results in the interest of this great principle.

HERBERT A. RIDER
ATTORNEY AT LAW
LABELLE, FLORIDA

3.

2261
OCT 13 1926

The court at which this lynching will be investigated by a grand jury, convenes at Fort Myers, Lee County, Florida, on Tuesday, November 2nd, 1926. But I have secured a promise from the State Attorney, provided it meets with the approval of the Judge, that the investigation of the LaBelle lynching will not be taken up until Monday, November 29th, 1926. I did this in order that your Association and the Commission on Interracial Cooperation might have more time in which to prepare the cases for the grand jury through whatever medium you might adopt. I said nothing to the State Attorney about your organizations for the reason that I thought it best to wait until something has been accomplished. In fact we do not know just how the new State Attorney stands in sentiment on lynchings. Personally, I consider him of meager and limited ability for a case of this magnitude. Hence, our desire for additional counsel to assist in the prosecution. I truly believe that the success of the prosecution is dependent upon honest detective service in securing evidence and courageous, capable legal talent in prosecuting the cases.

From the foregoing I hope you can surmise the importance of speedy action. In fact a detective should have been on the scene of action weeks ago. This is no small case and the cause is too important to be "whitewashed" and passed up as a small matter. For the year 1926, Florida stands at the head of the list in lynchings. Something, surely, ought to be done in the interest of humanity. Millions have been donated by the other states of the Union to aid our recent survivors from the storm but we recognize this as only temporary in its results, whereas, limiting or stamping out lynchings, benefits not only this age but all future generations. Unless some strong force or pressure is brought to bear upon the prosecution of the mob that took part in the LaBelle lynching I am apprehensive that there is going to be a gross mis-carriage of justice which, in a way, will have a detrimental effect upon our organizations.

Attempting to evade the appearance of dictating, I have, in this and all my former correspondence, tried to point out, what I considered our need in the prosecution of this lynching and I am leaving the matter entirely to your discretion, hoping that something effective can be worked out.

Sincerely yours,

H. A. Rider

La Belle, Fla.

November 10, 1926

Bishop John Hurst,
Edward Waters College,
Jacksonville, Fla.

My dear Bishop Hurst:

We discussed at the Board meeting Monday the proposal of the Florida ministers to have the Association advance five hundred dollars - or \$439.00, since they have already raised \$61.00 - for the prosecution of the LaBelle case, and their promise to refund the money to us later.

It was felt that we should know more about the progress of the case, what steps are being taken, and the prospects for actual prosecution, before putting so large an amount in this case.

We have not yet been able to get any satisfactory account of just what is being done. It seems that the LaBelle people expect us from New York to prosecute the case. They will have to do the actual work, and the best we can do is to help financially. However, it would be a waste of money for us to send large sums down there unless bona fide steps toward prosecution were being taken.

I shall write you again.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Secretary

JWJ/RR

La Belle, Fla.

October 23, 1926

Bishop John Hurst,
1808 McCulloh Street,
Baltimore, Md.

Dear Bishop Hurst:

I have your letter with the suggestion that the National Office expend not less than five hundred dollars to aid in the prosecution of the LaBelle lynchers. I shall bring the matter to the attention of the Board or the Executive staff.

I am glad that you are in South Carolina as Walter left for that destination yesterday and you can be of so much help to him on his present mission.

With kind regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

Secretary

JWJ/RR

RESIDENCE

1808 McCULLOH ST.
BALTIMORE, MD.

The African Methodist Episcopal Church

RIGHT REV. JOHN HURST, D. D.

Bishop of South Carolina

COLUMBIA, S. C.

October 19, 1926.

HEADQUARTERS

ALLEN UNIVERSITY
COLUMBIA, S. C.

Mr James Weldon Johnson
69 Fifth Avenue
New York City

OCT 22 1926

My dear Mr. Johnson:

On account of the hurricane leaving in its wake forty-six of our churches and eighteen parsonages, the leaders under me in Florida have gotten together and decided that I should write you to say that they propose to turn over to the National Association not less than \$500.00, including the \$61.00 already paid, for the prosecution of the LaBelle case; but that they will not be able to do so for a few weeks, and that if that Association will go to work and spend that amount for them, they will be glad to reimburse it. They understand that the case is to be called up in court shortly.

I am in South Carolina now looking after the Annual Conferences, because of the death of the Bishop in charge; but after a few weeks I expect to return to Florida.

With best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours,


John Hurst.
MLA.

*Lynching
La Belle, Fla.*

November 12, 1926

Herbert A. Rider, Esq.,
La Belle, Fla.

My dear Mr. Rider:

Will you not be kind enough to let me know whether or not there are any further developments in the LaBelle lynching investigation since your letter of October 27. In that letter you stated that you were to have another conference with the State Attorney when you would lay before him all the evidence you had gathered.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary

JWJ/RR

*Lynching
La Belle, Fla.*

November 5, 1926

Herbert A. Rider, Esq.,
La Belle, Florida.

My dear Mr. Rider:

I have your letter of October 27th.

I note what you say regarding the
proposed conference with the State Attorney and
I hope soon to hear the outcome of this conference.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary

R

HERBERT A. RIDER
ATTORNEY AT LAW
LABELLE, FLORIDA

O C T O B E R
27th,
1 9 2 6.

11/1/26
Rcd. _____
Rfd. to _____
Ack. _____

Mr. James Weldon Johnson, Secretary,
National Association for the
Advancement of Colored People,
69 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

NOV 1 - 1926

Dear Sir:-

Your check for \$61.00, contribution from colored ministers in Florida sent through your office by Bishop Hurst received yesterday for which please accept our grateful appreciation and when convenient please express our gratitude to Bishop Hurst for his interest and efforts in our behalf.

Acting upon your advice I am writing Dr. Alexander for suggestions in regard to investigation and prosecution of those guilty of lynching Henry Patterson at this place on May 11, 1926.

Since writing you last there have been no other open attacks - only a few threats for the purpose of "bluffing" and intimidating.

I am to have another conference with the State Attorney this week at which time I expect to lay before him all the evidence I have gathered, my ideas of procedure etc. with the hope of arousing his interest toward a rigid prosecution of the cases. I am also gathering evidence in the form of affidavits for the purpose of preferring charges against the sheriff of this county for the part he took in the lynching with a view of asking his removal from office.

You will find enclosed receipt for contribution.

Again thanking you for your interest and assistance,
I am,

Yours very truly,

A. A. Rider

7

HERBERT A. RIDER
ATTORNEY AT LAW
LABELLE, FLORIDA

NOVEMBER
17th,
1926.

Recd. *11/22/26*
Rid. to
Ack.
D. Q.

NOV 22 1926

Mr. James Weldon Johnson,
Secretar N. A. A. C. P.
69 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Johnson:-

Your letter of inquiry of the 12th inst.
received yesterday.

I went to Fort Myers last Friday, which was the second trip since I wrote you, to confer with the State Attorney in regard to the LaBelle lynching. On both occasions I found the State Attorney apparently very busy on account of Circuit Court being in session and he had little time to give me. He stated that he did not have time then to go into the matters with me; that they had more criminal work than they had anticipated in their Lee County matters but requested that I see the State Stenographer and have him to transcribe the evidence taken at the habeas corpus hearing, guaranty the payment for his services, see that the State Stenographer furnished the evidence by the latter part of this week, which I did.

The Grand Jury of Lee County convenes Monday, November 29th, 1926, at Fort Myers, Florida, to investigate the lynching of Henry Patterson, colored, which occurred at LaBelle, Hendry County, Florida, on May 11th, 1926. The investigation was transferred from Hendry County to Lee County on account of relationship and predudice which would prevent the State from securing jurors who were fair and impartial.

I furnished the State Attorney a list of thirty-five witnesses to be subpoenaed to appear before the Grand Jury of Lee County on the 29th inst. and the names of others will be furnished as they are needed. The Sheriff of Hendry County is now serving the list I furnished.

Under the laws of this State I will not be allowed in the Grand Jury room during their investigation except as a witness. The State Attorney is required to be present. During their session, which may last two or three weeks, I will be

HERBERT A. RIDER
ATTORNEY AT LAW
LABELLE, FLORIDA

2.

8241
NOV 22 1926

in Fort Myers for the purpose of advising with and assisting the State Attorney.

With the evidence I have assembled, I see no reason why a large number of the mob should not be true billed. If true bills are found they will be transferred to this (Hendry) county to be tried at the next term of the Circuit Court in and for Hendry County which convenes the third Monday in February, 1927, unless the Judge calls a special term in the meantime. At the next regular or special term of court, when the cases are called for trial, it will be necessary for us to make a proper showing for a change of venue to another county in order that a fair and impartial trial may be secured, which if granted, will carry the cases to another county in the circuit to be called and tried at the regular or special term of court of such county.

I mention the foregoing procedure in order that you may know and understand the amount of work and delay that may be reasonably expected before any against whom true bills may be found can be brought to trial under the laws of this State.

Up to this time I have had no assistance in these matters from the source of detectives or attorneys except the former State Attorney, resigned, who assisted in the habeas corpus hearing.

The indictment of the guilty parties will depend, to a great extent, upon those composing the Grand Jury. I have been informed by the State Attorney that they are good reliable citizens of Lee County.

Just as soon as something definite is ascertained I will inform you.

Hoping that there will not be a miscarriage of justice in this matter, I am,

Sincerely yours,

H. A. Rider

H. A. Rider,
County Prosecuting Attorney.

HERBERT A. RIDER
ATTORNEY AT LAW
LABELLE, FLORIDA

J U N E
13th,
1 9 2 7.

National Association for the
Advancement of Colored People,
69 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

JUN 16 1927

Dear Sirs:-

I am herewith enclosing clippings from the editorial page of the Tampa Tribune, Tampa, Florida, of Saturday, June 11, 1927, issue, in order that you may see that the good work, to which your organization contributed, is still going on and having its effect.

"Levins" referred to is a white man who murdered almost an entire family at Tampa more than a week ago and it was necessary to call out the State militia to protect him from the mob and several members of the mob were killed by the militia in protecting him. ~~from the mob~~. The last four lines of "Mob Rule" refers to the lynching of Henry Patterson on the streets of this place, May 11th, 1926, to which you contributed.

It is true that the Circuit Court Judge and the State Attorney ~~2~~ whitewashed" the investigation of the lynching of Henry Patterson but we stirred up such a "hornet's nest" throughout the State of Florida ~~that~~ that lynching of colored people in this State will in the near future be eliminated.

Before our fight in the Henry Patterson lynching, colored people were not allowed in this (Hendry) county but at this time we have several hundred and they are in no way molested. I used part of the fund you contributed in going to Tallahassee before the Governor and induced him to compel the executive officers of this county to protect the colored people who were here and who may come here later. Today the colored person is just as safe in this county as anywhere else in the Union. We made it so hot for the lynchers of Henry Patterson that we have no anticipation of another lynching of a colored person in this county. And the fight we made is having a wholesome effect throughout the entire State.

Thanking you for the assistance you gave us, I am,

Yours very truly,

H. A. Rider

H. A. Rider,
County Prosecuting Attorney.

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its character is indicated by a symbol in the check or in the address.

WESTERN UNION

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS

BLUE	Day Letter
NITE	Night Message
NL	Night Letter
LCO	Deferred
CLT	Cable Letter
WLT	Week End Letter

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at 210 West 135th St., New York

142N M 113 BLUE VIA XQ VIA SD

ATLANTA GA 1157A DEC 1 1926

JAMES WELDON JOHNSON

187 W 135 ST

GRAND JURY INVESTIGATION LABELLE LYNCHING CHANGED LEE COUNTY GOVERNOR
OFFERED ASSIST PROSECUTION CANNOT UNDER FLORIDA LAW EXCEPT REQUEST
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY THIS OFFICIAL HAS NOT, PROBABLY WILL NOT, MAKE
REQUEST POSSIBILITY TRUE BILLS DOUBTFUL VIEW ATTITUDE PRESENT PROSECUTING
ATTORNEY HAVE WIRED SWOPE URGING IMPORTANCE THIS CASE SUGGESTION
MAN GARRETTS ABILITY BE SENT FLORIDA GOVERNOR ANXIOUS PROSECUTIONS
ENTIRE STATE SENSITIVE OUTSIDE PUBLICITY SHOULD PRESENT INVESTIGATION
FAIL AM INFORMED GOVERNOR HAS AUTHORITY SECURE NEW JUDGE NEW PROSECUTING
ATTORNEY ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATION COURSE SUGGESTED ABOVE SEEMS TO
ME MORE EFFECTIVE NOW THAN INVESTMENT MONEY AM TAKING STEPS CENTER

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its character is indicated by a symbol in the check or in the address.

WESTERN UNION

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS

BLUE	Day Letter
NITE	Night Message
NL	Night Letter
LCO	Deferred
CLT	Cable Letter
WLT	Week End Letter

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at 210 West 135th St., New York

142N M 113 BLUE SHEET 2

ATTENTION SOUTHERN WHITE PAPERS THIS CASE | TRUSTED MEMBER OF STAFF

ON GROUND | BEST THAT CONTENTS THIS TELEGRAM NOT GIVEN GENERAL PUBLICITY

WILL W ALEXANDER

630P

\$

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
TELEGRAM	
DAY LETTER	
NIGHT MESSAGE	
NIGHT LETTER	
Patrons should mark an X opposite the class of service desired; OTHERWISE THE MESSAGE WILL BE TRANSMITTED AS A FULL-RATE TELEGRAM	

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

NO.	CASH OR CHG
CHECK	
TIME FILED	

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

December 2, 1926

Mr. Will W. Alexander
409 Palmer Building
Atlanta, Georgia

(STOP)
AM TAKING UP MATTER YOUR TELEGRAM WITH SWOPE. DOUBTFUL
HOWEVER THAT IT WOULD BE WISE FOR WORLD TO DIVIDE ATTENTION
OF PUBLIC. STOP. AIKEN CASE UNDOUBTEDLY CLEAREST AND BEST
CASE WE COULD POSSIBLY HAVE. STOP. WILL HOWEVER COOPERATE
IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE TO BRING ABOUT SOME ACTION IN
LABELLE CASE. HOPE YOU WILL BE ABLE CONCENTRATE ATTENTION
SOUTHERN WHITE PRESS ON CASE.

James Weldon Johnson

La Belle, Fla.

December 2, 1926

Mr. Herbert Bayard Swope,
The New York World,
Pulitzer Building,
New York City

My dear Mr. Swope:

I have received a telegram from Mr. Will W. Alexander who is, as you know, Director of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation. It was regarding the LaBelle, Florida, lynching. I am enclosing a copy of a letter from Mr. H. A. Rider, Prosecuting Attorney of LaBelle, which will give you some idea of this case. From the beginning Mr. Rider has been working hard to secure convictions of those responsible for the lynching of Henry Patterson.

Mr. Alexander told me he had wired you suggesting that Mr. Garrett or some other representative of The World might be sent to LaBelle. I have wired Mr. Alexander that I would communicate with you but that I was very doubtful about the wisdom of dividing public attention at this stage. I think in the Aiken case we have the clearest cut case against lynching that could be imagined and I am not at all sure that the LaBelle case would strengthen opinion against lynching or merely prove a distraction. From the newspaper end of it you will know far better than I.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary

JWJ/RR

P.S. - I am enclosing the original of Mr. Rider's first letter to us. Will you be good enough to return it to us for our files.

Mob Rule

Punta Gorda Herald: Members of the same mob who would lynch Levins will go right home and make worst the condition that produced Levins the murderer. Many will pay a friend bootlegger for breaking the law and so obtain illicit liquor with which to appease their lawless thirst. Some few of them would buy dope themselves if they could get it, and hundreds would sell both liquor and dope for the financial profit. Others will argue over the case, get red in the face, and acquire a bit of the irresponsibility that was in Levins' heart when his ax carved off innocent heads. Many of them slapped their wives when faced with remonstrations for joining the mob. Were another mob to try their case they would be dragged through the streets, tarred and feathered. Did not a mob lynch an innocent negro just a few months ago at La Belle—even nearer our homes than Tampa? Such is mob rule.

Synching
La Belle, Fla.

June 18, 1927

Herbert A. Rider, Esq.
LaBelle, Fla.

My dear Mr. Rider:

I have your letter of the 13th enclosing
the clipping from the Tampa Tribune. Thank you for
letting us see this.

We are glad the Association was able to
help in bettering conditions in Hendry County.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary

R

The News,

Knoxville, Tenn.

May 12, 1926.

NEGRO LYNCHEDChain Gang Prisoner Seized By
Mob and Hanged

By United Press

LUBELLE, Fla.—Seized by a mob of white men, Henry Patterson, negro, who was laboring on a chain gang, was lynched here late Tuesday. He was accused of having attacked a white woman. All negroes have fled the town.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman, Mary White Ovington, New York

Baltimore

Cathul

Chicago

Cleveland

Detroit

Indianapolis

Los Angeles

Memphis

New Haven

New York

George W. Crawford

Lillian A. Alexander

Rev. Hutchens C. Bishop

Dr. W. E. B. Dubois

Rev. John Haynes Holmes

Florence Kelley

Paul Kennedy

Louis Marshall

John E. Nail

Arthur B. Spingarn

J. D. Spingarn

Herbert K. Stockton

Charles H. Studin

William English Walling

Isadore Martin

Dr. William A. Sinclair

Margie L. Walker

Rev. G. R. Walker

Hon. Arthur Capper

Nannie H. Burroughs

James A. Cobb

Prof. Geo. William Cook

Charles Edward Russell

Neval H. Thomas

New York Times - May 12, 1926

NEGRO LYNCHED IN FLORIDA.

Culprit Accused of Attacking White Woman—Body Paraded, Hanged.

LABELL, Fla., May 11 (P).—Accused of having attacked a white woman, Henry Patterson, a negro, was shot and killed near here late today by a band of white men. The body was paraded through the streets here and then hanged to a tree on the outskirts of the town.

Patterson was arrested shortly before noon. Soon afterward he was said to have escaped from the officers' automobile in which he was riding. Later he was captured by the band. While the men lynched the negro the Sheriff was in Port Goodno, near here, searching for him.

The charge against the negro was that he went to the house of a white woman shortly before noon and attacked her, but later officers said they learned she told friends she merely became frightened at the negro's presence and ran screaming from the house. Armed men then began to gather in groups on the streets here and the lynching followed.

The Coroner called a jury to hold an inquest.

R-

New York World - May 12, 1926

NEGRO CONVICT IS LYNCHED

LABELLE, Fla., May 11 (A. P.).—Henry Patterson, Negro, was taken from his work on a road gang by a band of white men here late to-day and shot and hanged. He was accused of attacking a white woman.

LYNCHED

The Telegram,

Lakeland, Fla.

May 12, 1920.

NEGRO LYNCHED NEAR LABELLE

Alleged Attacker Shot and
Body Paraded Through
Streets of Town

(By Associated Press)

LaBelle, Fla., May 11.—Henry Patterson, negro, was shot and killed near here this afternoon by a band of white men, the body paraded through the streets in an automobile and then hanged.

The negro was arrested shortly before noon by a citizen who turned him over to the officers for an alleged attack on a white woman earlier in the day. He escaped from the officers' car, it was said, and was later captured by a band of white men between here and Goodno station, a short distance from town. The men then drove the body through the streets of LaBelle, lying across the back of the front seat of a touring car, in full view. The body was found later hanging to a tree on the outskirts of town.

Patterson is alleged to have gone to the home of the white woman shortly before noon and attacked her, but later it was said she told friends she merely became frightened at his presence; that he went to the house for a drink of water and she ran from the house screaming.

Soon afterwards armed men were seen to gather in groups on the streets and the lynching followed.

At the time the negro was it was said, the sheriff went to Port Goodno to search

An inquest was being held shortly before midnight officers said they intended a thorough investigation fair.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Chairman, Mary White Ovington, New York

Baltimore
Boston
Catalina
Chicago
Cleveland
Detroit
Indianapolis
Los Angeles
Memphis
New Haven
New York
Rev. W. E. B. Dubois
Rev. John Haynes Holmes
Florence Kelley
Paul Kennedy
Louis Marshall
John E. Nail
Arthur B. Spingarn
J. E. Spingarn
Herbert R. Stockton
Charles H. Studin
William English Walling
D. William A. Shuler
Maggie L. Walker
Rev. G. R. Walker
Hon. Arthur Capper
Nannie H. Burroughs
James A. Cobb
Prot. Geo. William Cook
Charles Edward Russell
Neal H. Thomas

NEGRO IS LYNCHED AND BODY PARADED

LA BELLE, Fla., May 11—Accused of having attacked a white woman, Henry Patterson, negro, was shot and killed near here late today by a band of white men. The body was paraded through the streets here and then hanged to a tree on the outskirts of town.

Patterson was arrested shortly before noon by a citizen who turned him over to officers. He was said to have escaped from the officers' car and was later captured by the band. While the men lynched the negro the sheriff was in Port Goodno, near here in search for him.

The charge against the negro was that he went to the house of a white woman shortly before noon and attacked her, but later officers said that they learned she told friends she merely became frightened at the negro's presence and ran from the house screaming.

Soon afterwards armed men began to gather in groups on the streets here and the lynching followed. The coroner called a jury to hold an inquest tonight.

Chairman, Mary White Ovington, New York

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Baltimore
Cotabul
Chicago
Cleveland
Detroit
Indianapolis
Los Angeles
Memphis
New Haven
New York
Rev. W. E. B. Dubois
Rev. John Haynes Holmes
Florence Kelley
Paul Kennedy
Louis Marshall
John E. Nail
Arthur B. Spingarn
J. W. Spingarn
Herbert R. Stockton
Charles H. Studin
William English Walling
Isadore Martin
Dr. William A. Sinclair
Maggie L. Walker
Rev. G. R. Waller
Hon. Arthur Capper
Nannie H. Burroughs
James A. Cobb
Prot. Geo. William Cook
Charles Edward Russell
Neval H. Thomas

LYNCHED

(Labell, Fla.)

The New York Times,

New York City,

May 12, 1926.

NEGRO LYNCHED IN FLORIDA.

Culprit Accused of Attacking White Woman—Body Paraded, Hanged.

LABELL, Fla., May 11 (P).—Accused of having attacked a white woman, Henry Patterson, a negro, was shot and killed near here late today by a band of white men. The body was paraded through the streets here and then hanged to a tree on the outskirts of the town.

Patterson was arrested shortly before noon. Soon afterward he was said to have escaped from the officers' automobile in which he was riding. Later he was captured by the band. While the men lynched the negro the Sheriff was in Port Goodno, near here, searching for him.

The charge against the negro was that he went to the house of a white woman shortly before noon and attacked her, but later officers said they learned she told friends she merely became frightened at the negro's presence and ran screaming from the house. Armed men then began to gather in groups on the streets here and the lynching followed.

The Coroner called a jury to hold an inquest.

R-

The Tribune,

Tampa, Fla.

May 13, 1926.

GOVERNOR CALLS OUT TROOPS TO HANDLE LABELLE DISORDER

NEGROES FLEE TOWN AS INVESTIGATION BEGINS INTO LYNCHING

All Reported Quiet But More Officers Deputized to Guard Road Camps

TALLAHASSEE, May 12.—(Associated Press).—Between 35 and 40 of the state troopers, members of the National Guard Company located at Arcadia, have been ordered by Governor Martin to proceed at once to LaBelle in connection with the investigation there of the lynching Monday of a negro.

FORT MYERS, May 12.—(Tribune News Service).—With special deputies on guard at all road camps where negroes are quartered and with Sheriff Dan McLaughlin, of Hendry county, prepared for any emergency that may arise during the night, the town of LaBelle, 32 miles northeast of here is frightful quiet tonight following the lynching yesterday of Henry Patterson, negro road hand.

Despite efforts on the part of road contractors and assurances of the sheriff that there will be no further action on the part of the mob which early last night threatened to storm a negro camp, many of the laborers have abandoned the road camps, making their way out of the danger zone in autos, trucks and some by foot. Sheriff McLaughlin said today three truckloads of negroes came to Fort Myers, while two loads went to Moore Haven.

As a result of the disorganization of the crews, road construction in Hendry county was at a standstill with the contractors unable to proceed with the various projects on account of labor shortage.

Citizens Deputized

Immediately after the bullet-riddled body of Patterson had been found dangling from a tree within two blocks of the center of LaBelle, the sheriff, fearing further violence on the part of the mob, had all negroes in the four road camps in the vicinity of the town assembled in one camp where a heavy guard of special deputies was placed for their protection. Twelve prominent LaBelle citizens were deputized, heavily armed and placed on guard duty.

After an uneventful night rumors were again current today indicating plans were being made to rid the community of all negroes. Fearing another outbreak, Sheriff McLaughlin called on Sheriff Tippins, of Lee county, for assistance and requested that Headquarters Company of the 116th Artillery, National Guard, stationed here, be mustered for riot duty. The situation became quieter during the afternoon, however, and the sheriff reported he had the disturbance under control.

In the meantime Governor Martin, learning of the outbreak, wired Sheriff McLaughlin to uphold the law at any cost and to call on the state for assistance in the event the situation became uncontrollable.

The Hendry county sheriff said that a mob composed of approximately 25 men made up the lynching party and that every effort will be made to bring the responsible men to justice. He pointed out that the victim of the mob, while known to have been a "bad" negro, had not injured nor entered the home of the white woman who laid the charges against him.

Woman Frightened

The woman, it was said, became frightened when the negro appeared at the rear door of her home, and screamed as she fled from the house with her child.

A coroner's jury is investigating the case and a thorough probe is being made, the sheriff said.

Governor Awaits Verdicts

TALLAHASSEE, May 12.—(A.P.)—Reports of the sheriffs of Pinellas and Hendry counties regarding investigations into the lynching of two negroes within the last three days were being awaited here tonight by Governor Martin.

The governor telegraphed Sheriff Roy Booth, of Pinellas county, for full particulars of the lynching Sunday of Parker Watson, "and reasons for your deputies turning him over to six masked men."

To Sheriff McLaughlin, of LaBelle, the executive sent a message, reminding the officer he had authority "to swear in as many citizens of your county as necessary to preserve peace and order," and that any one who refused to act could be prosecuted.

Grand Jury Fails

CLEARWATER, May 12.—(A.P.)—Efforts of the Pinellas county grand jury to unearth some tangible clue to the mysterious killing of Parker Watson, negro, taken from deputy sheriffs Sunday night by six masked men, have been fruitless, according to the report submitted to Judge Freeman P. Lane, of the circuit court today.

Following the examination of Henry Belcher, J. Y. Tucker, deputy sheriffs, and J. D. Peacock, St. Petersburg constable, by whom the negro was being conducted to Clearwater, and L. H. Sellers and C. H. Sellers, brothers, who found the body of the negro on a lonely roadside near St. Petersburg Monday morning, the grand jury reported that nothing was learned on which further investigation may be made.

The grand jury recommended that the county commissioners offer a suitable reward for the arrest and conviction of the person or persons who abducted the alleged bandit from the officers in charge of him and probably killed him. This followed a resolution by the county commissioners yesterday to the effect that the commissioners will stand solidly behind Sheriff Roy Booth in any investigation that he may desire to make to clear up the mystery.

News bulletins are displayed in walls inside factories of Russian to keep workers posted on current events without leaving their tasks.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LYNCHING

The New York Evening World

New York City,

May 13, 1926.

FLORIDA LYNCHINGS

Within the last three days Florida has made an unenviable record in the way of lynching. One of these two cases illustrates the infamy of mobs taking the law into their own hands, aside from that which is implied in lawlessness itself. A Negro, accused of having attacked a white woman, was caught, paraded through the streets of a town, then hanged and shot. Since this precipitate action this mob has learned that there had been no attack at all. The Negro appearing unexpectedly at the woman's home, she became frightened and ran into the street screaming. It is now admitted by the woman that she was not attacked or even insulted.

Had there been an attack, the punishment of the offender would have been speedy and sure had the law been permitted to take its course.

What is more important still, had the law taken its course the men who constituted the mob would not have thought death due the Negro who had done nothing at all. In other words, there would have been no murder.

We of the North have long since learned better than to preach to the South. We have too many such sins of our own to answer for. The lynching might have happened anywhere, and should have been possible nowhere. Just at this time when Florida is making its drive for population and wealth it is especially unfortunate that within three days there should have been two lynchings.

P

LYNCHING

For Other In Out Daily Sent Annual
Monthly Report Col. Col. Clk. Lt.

Division of Statistics of Bureau of Census sent to managers:

Lynching.

LaBelle, Fla.

FORMERLY THE FLORIDA METROPOLIS - FOUNDED 1888

JACKSONVILLE, FLA., THURSDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 13, 1924

Member of
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BRITISH LABOR

LABELLE QUIET TROOPS ARRIVE TO KEEP ORDER

Will Assure Freedom
of Testimony Before
Lynching Probe.

LABELLE. — Under orders of Gov. John W. Martin, Battery F, 116th Field Artillery, of Arcadia, arrived here this morning and will remain until after the inquest into the death of Henry Patterson, negro, whose bullet-riddled body was paraded through the streets before it was hanged to a tree. Military protection was deemed advisable by LaBelle citizens in order to assure freedom of testimony at the inquest. Patterson was accused of attacking a white woman but some testify that the woman said she became frightened when Patterson appeared at the back door of her home and asked for a drink of water.

THE FLORIDA TIMES-UNION, JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA, THURSDAY, MAY 13, 1926.

LYNCHINGS IN ALL SECTION

GOVERNOR MARTIN TO USE STATE MILITIA AT LA BELLE IF NEEDED

Wires General Foster to Have
Nearest Unit in
Readiness.

NO CLUE TO KILLING OF NEGRO PATTERSON

Probe in Pinellas Slaying of
Parker Watson Is
Fruitless.

The Associated Press.

TALLAHASSEE, May 12.—A detachment of state militia to restore order at LaBelle was imminent here tonight. Gov. John W. Martin announced that he had instructed Adjutant General J. C. R. Foster, at St. Augustine, to get the nearest unit in readiness at once.

Reports of the sheriffs of Pinellas and Hendry counties regarding investigations into the lynching of two negroes within the past three days were being awaited here tonight by Governor Martin.

The governor this morning telegraphed Sheriff Roy Booth, at St. Petersburg for full particulars of the lynching Sunday of Parker Watson, "and reasons for your deputies turning him over to six masked men."

To Sheriff D. L. McLaughlin, of LaBelle, the executive despatched a message reminding the officer that the later had authority "to swear in as many citizens of your county as necessary to preserve peace and order," and that anyone who refused to act could be prosecuted. The governor's telegram followed one sent earlier in the day in which Sheriff McLaughlin was asked for details of the lynching yesterday of Henry Patterson, who was charged with an attempted attack upon a white woman.

Sheriff Asks for Help.

Sheriff McLaughlin telegraphed the governor early this afternoon that messages sent last night by residents of LaBelle, asking for the militia to preserve order, had been sent without his knowledge and that he could handle the situation. The sheriff then wired that he could "use eight or ten men as officers, with authority to arrest." The governor's message that as many citizens as necessary be sworn in was the answer.

Wesley C. Richards, county judge at LaBelle, and H. A. Rider, prosecuting attorney, in a communication to the governor late today stated that conditions there were quiet, and that a coroner's inquest was in progress.

The governor's message to Sheriff Booth was sent following receipt of telegrams from Herman Dann, president of the Florida State Chamber of Commerce, and Frank L. Pulver, St. Petersburg publisher, asking for an investigation. Mr. Dann declared that the lynching of Watson, which occurred while the negro was being taken to the Pinellas county jail to await trial on charges of robbery and housebreaking indicated "culpable negligence or outright conspiracy on the part of city or county officers charged with his safe-keeping."

Hold Inquest.

FORT MYERS, May 12.—(AP).—The inquest investigating the lynching of Henry Patterson, negro, at LaBelle yesterday, heard six witnesses this afternoon in the continuation of the inquiry started last night, and then adjourned until 9 a. m. tomorrow. Sheriff Dan McLaughlin said that two more days undoubtedly would be required to complete the investigation.

Talk of driving all negroes from the vicinity of LaBelle was resumed today, Sheriff McLaughlin said. Early in the day he telephoned to Fort Myers to ask if a detail of National Guardsmen from the headquarters company of the 116th field artillery here could be sent to LaBelle if needed. Later he decided to ask aid from Sheriff F. B. Tippins of Lee county, but Sheriff Tippins said this evening that he had not received the call.

Witnesses Examined.

The witnesses examined today included Mrs. Bennett Crawford whose fright when Patterson appeared at her home yesterday morning started the trouble. She testified that the negro had entered her kitchen when she was in another part of the house. When she saw him, she said, she seized her child and ran screaming to the home of a neighbor.

Women residing in the neighborhood testified to seeing the negro run towards the river as men in the vicinity, attracted by Mrs. Crawford's screams, hurried toward the residence.

The examination of the witnesses is being conducted behind closed doors by H. A. Rider, county prosecuting attorney, with County Judge Wesley C. Richardson presiding. Mr. Rider said that witnesses today who had talked with Mrs. Crawford after the affair yesterday testified that she had at that time told them that the negro had not entered her home but had appeared at the door to ask for a drink of water.

Mr. Rider said that investigation was being conducted in secret because witnesses summoned had hesitated to testify at a public hearing. The prosecutor added that no effort had yet been made to ascertain the identity of those in yesterday's disorder, but expressed confidence that names would come out as the inquest proceeds. He said that the authorities planned to make no arrests until after a verdict was reached.

INGS IN ALL SECTIONS

GOVERNOR MARTIN TO USE STATE MILITIA AT LA BELLE IF NEEDED

Wires General Foster to Have
Nearest Unit in
Readiness.

NO CLUE TO KILLING OF NEGRO PATTERSON

Probe in Pinellas Slaying of
Parker Watson Is
Fruitless.

The Associated Press.

TALLAHASSEE, May 12.—A detachment of state militia to restore order at LaBelle was imminent here tonight. Gov. John W. Martin announced that he had instructed Adjutant General J. C. R. Foster, at St. Augustine, to get the nearest unit in readiness at once.

Reports of the sheriffs of Pinellas and Hendry counties regarding investigations into the lynching of two negroes within the past three days were being awaited here tonight by Governor Martin.

The governor this morning telegraphed Sheriff Roy Booth, at St. Petersburg for full particulars of the lynching Sunday of Parker Watson, "and reasons for your deputies turning him over to six masked men."

To Sheriff D. L. McLaughlin, of LaBelle, the executive despatched a message reminding the officer that the later had authority "to swear in as many citizens of your county as necessary to preserve peace and order," and that anyone who refused to act could be prosecuted. The governor's telegram followed one sent earlier in the day in which Sheriff McLaughlin was asked for details of the lynching yesterday of Henry Patterson, who was charged with an attempted attack upon a white woman.

Sheriff Asks for Help.

Sheriff McLaughlin telegraphed the governor early this afternoon that messages sent last night by residents of LaBelle, asking for the militia to preserve order, had been sent without his knowledge and that he could handle the situation. The sheriff then wired that he could "use eight or ten men as officers, with authority to arrest." The governor's message that as many citizens as necessary be sworn in was the answer.

Wesley C. Richards, county judge at LaBelle, and H. A. Rider, prosecuting attorney, in a communication to the governor late today stated that conditions there were quiet, and that a coroner's inquest was in progress.

The governor's message to Sheriff Booth was sent following receipt of telegrams from Herman Dann, president of the Florida State Chamber of Commerce, and Frank L. Pulver, St. Petersburg publisher, asking for an investigation. Mr. Dann declared that the lynching of Watson, which occurred while the negro was being taken to the Pinellas county jail to await trial on charges of robbery and housebreaking indicated "culpable negligence or outright conspiracy on the part of city or county officers charged with his safe-keeping."

Hold Inquest.

FORT MYERS, May 12.—(AP).—The inquest investigating the lynching of Henry Patterson, negro, at LaBelle yesterday, heard six witnesses this afternoon in the continuation of the inquiry started last night, and then adjourned until 9 a. m. tomorrow. Sheriff Dan McLaughlin said that two more days undoubtedly would be required to complete the investigation.

Talk of driving all negroes from the vicinity of LaBelle was resumed today, Sheriff McLaughlin said. Early in the day he telephoned to Fort Myers to ask if a detail of National Guardsmen from the headquarters company of the 118th field artillery here could be sent to LaBelle if needed. Later he decided to ask aid from Sheriff F. B. Tippins of Lee county, but Sheriff Tippins said this evening that he had not received the call.

Witnesses Examined.

The witnesses examined today included Mrs. Bennett Crawford whose fright when Patterson appeared at her home yesterday morning started the trouble. She testified that the negro had entered her kitchen when she was in another part of the house. When she saw him, she said, she seized her child and ran screaming to the home of a neighbor.

Women residing in the neighborhood testified to seeing the negro run towards the river as men in the vicinity, attracted by Mrs. Crawford's screams, hurried toward the residence.

The examination of the witnesses is being conducted behind closed doors by H. A. Rider, county prosecuting attorney, with County Judge Wesley C. Richardson presiding. Mr. Rider said that witnesses today who had talked with Mrs. Crawford after the affair yesterday testified that she had at that time told them that the negro had not entered her home but had appeared at the door to ask for a drink of water.

Mr. Rider said that investigation was being conducted in secret because witnesses summoned had hesitated to testify at a public hearing. The prosecutor added that no effort had yet been made to ascertain the identity of those in yesterday's disorder, but expressed confidence that names would come out as the inquest proceeds. He said that the authorities planned to make no arrests until after a verdict was reached.

FLORIDA KEEPS UP HER LYNCHING RECORD.

Like Ephraim, of old, was joined to his evils, Florida seems to be joined to lynching. When every other state in the Union is holding up on lynching, and trying to redeem the South from lawlessness, Florida continues the disgrace and savagery of lynching. This week she adds another chapter of disgrace to the South's long record of mob law by lynching another Negro. Lynching has greatly decreased in the South and other sections of the country and if we can reform Florida, we will make a record in the South to be proud of. The good people in Florida, like the good people everywhere, are opposed to lynching. Mob-law is a menace to free institutions and it is earnestly hoped that Florida will join her sisters in suppressing mob-law and redeeming our section of the country. It was hoped that the influx of capital and new people in Florida would bring about a new life and that Florida would take on a spirit of reformation and contribute her share to the suppression of mob law.

Let Florida get busy, apprehend and punish the lynchers who murdered the Negro a few days ago in her midst.

Chairman, Mary White Ovington, New York

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Baltimore
Boston
Catskill
Chicago
Cleveland
Detroit
Indianapolis
Los Angeles
Memphis
New Haven
New York
George W. Crawford
R. R. Church
E. Burton Cerutt
F. B. Ransom
Hon. Ira W. Jayne
Harry E. Davis
Dr. C. E. Bentley
Jane Addams
Ellis Rush Murray
Moorfield Storey
Joseph Prince Loud
Bishop John Hurst

Philadelphia
Richmond
Springfield
Tampa
Washington
Neal H. Thomas
Charles Edward Russell
James A. Cobb
Nannie H. Burroughs
Hon. Arthur Capper
Rev. G. R. Waller
Maggie L. Walker
Dr. William A. Stinchley
Isadore Martin
William Engle Walling
Charles H. Studin
Herbert K. Stockton
J. E. Spingarn
Arthur B. Spingarn
John E. Nail
Louis Marshall
Paul Kennedy
Florence Kelley
Rev. John Haynes Holmes
Dr. W. E. B. Dubois
Rev. Hutchins C. Bishop
William A. Alexander

FLORIDA, FRIDAY, MAY 14, 1926.

SECTIONS

Inquest Held Into Killing At La Belle

Company of National
Guardsmen Is Keeping
Order in Town.

The Associated Press.
LA BELLE, May 13.—Protected by machine guns and a company of national guardsmen, a coroner's jury today continued its investigation into the lynching of Henry Patterson, negro, Tuesday for an alleged attack upon a white woman.

One witness at a time passed through the doors behind which the investigation was being made, told what he knew of the affair and passed out again. No statement concerning the progress of the investigation will be made until the verdict is returned, it was announced.

While the coroner's jury was seeking to ascertain who was responsible for the death of the negro, citizens of the town were speculating over the possibilities of his being innocent of the crime for which he was lynched.

Mrs. Mary Davis, publisher of the Hendry County News, said: "He did not commit a crime. He asked for a drink of water from the back door."

Others did not commit themselves so positively. Deputy Carroll said:

Drinks Moonshine.

"This was a bad nigger. His boss whipped him Monday for being lazy. He had sold his automobile and was getting ready to leave for Birmingham. He had been drinking moonshine. No nigger has a right to go to any white man's home and enter the yard without hollering."

The deputy said it was not unusual for paid negro laborers to be whipped for infractions of rules on road jobs.

Captain S. C. Smith, in charge of the troop of soldiers, declared the town would not be placed under martial law unless such action was requested by Mayor J. H. Magill, but the soldiers, bearing side arms, circulated about the streets and two machine guns were mounted, ready for action in an emergency.

Troops Will Remain.

TALLAHASSEE, May 13.—(AP)—The unit of national guard troopers which was ordered to LaBelle early today will remain there during the investigation into the lynching of a negro Monday. It was announced late today by Gov. John W. Martin following receipt of advices from Sheriff McLaughlin of Hendry county. Sheriff McLaughlin requested that the troops be held there "for a few days."

"Troops are here," Sheriff McLaughlin wired. "I wish to hold them over a few days. Some trouble brewing tonight."

The sheriff's message followed one from Adjutant General Clifford R. Foster, in which the latter stated that "representative citizens" had requested that the troops be held at LaBelle until the investigation into the lynching Tuesday of Henry Patterson, negro, and the coroner's inquest had been completed. The adjutant general added, however, that the investigation and inquest would end today, and that he did not think the troops would be needed after conclusion of the testimony.

General Foster also requested the governor to designate a civil official to decide when the troops should be withdrawn.

The troops were ordered to LaBelle.

Continued on Page 21.

Killing at La Belle

Continued from Page 4.

when the governor early last night received a message from the prosecuting attorney and county judge of Hendry county and the mayor of the town asking that assistance be sent to maintain order and afford protection to those testifying at the inquest.

Patterson was lynched for an alleged attempt to attack a white woman.

\$1,000 Reward Offered.

ST. PETERSBURG, May 13.—(AP) Action of the masked band that took Parker Watson, negro, from three deputies Sunday night and shot him, was condemned in a resolution of the county commission in special session today, and a reward of \$1,000 offered for information leading to arrest and conviction of the guilty parties.

FLY SCREENS

Elton Screen Mfg. Co. Ph. 5-2592.
—Adv.

FOUR ARRESTS ARE MADE AS RESULT OF LA BELLE LYNCHING

Coroner's Jury Working Under Protection of State Militia.

PRISONERS REMOVED
AS SAFE PRECAUTION

Taken to Arcadia Under Guard After Preliminary Hearing.

The Associated Press.

LA BELLE, May 14.—Four men were arrested here late today on first degree murder charges in connection with the death of Henry Patterson, negro, who was lynched by a mob Tuesday.

The prisoners were Driz Curry, Lemuel Howard, Ham Smith and Stanley Aultman. They were arrested by Sheriff D. L. McLaughlin on coroner's jury warrants issued by County Judge W. C. Richards.

National guardsmen from Arcadia, who have been on duty here in connection with the jury investigation into the death of Patterson, assisted the sheriff in rounding up three of his prisoners. Curry, Howard and Smith were the first ones taken into custody. Shortly after their arrival at the courthouse, Aultman appeared voluntarily, said he had heard they were looking for him, and surrendered.

Immediately after their arrest the four men were given a preliminary hearing before Judge Richards and held without bail for action by the grand jury.

A detail of guardsmen then took the prisoners to Arcadia where they were turned over to the authorities there for safekeeping.

News of the arrests spread through this section like wild fire and extra precautions were taken by the militia to guard against a possible outbreak.

Chairman, Mary White Ovington, New York

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Baltimore
Boston
Catalina
Chicago
Cleveland
Detroit
Indianapolis
Los Angeles
Memphis
New Haven
New York
Lillian A. Alexander
Rev. Hutchins C. Bishop
Dr. W. E. B. Dubois
Rev. John Haynes Holmes
Florence Kelley
Paul Kennedy
Louis Marshall
John E. Nail
Arthur B. Spingarn
J. B. Spingarn
Herbert K. Stockton
Charles H. Studin
William English Walling
Isadore Martin
Dr. William A. Sinclair
Maggie L. Walker
Rev. G. R. Waller
Hon. Arthur Capper
Nannie H. Burroughs
James A. Cobb
Prof. Geo. William Cook
Charles Edward Russell
Nerval H. Thomas

Philadelphia
Richmond
Springfield
Tampa
Washington

P

11

LABELLE MAKES FIRST ARRESTS AFTER LYNCHING

Troops Take Four Men, Charged With Murder, to Arcadia

SOLDIERS MOUNT GUNS IN SQUARE

Few Negroes Go Back to Work Under Guard As Town Gets Quiet Again

LA BELLE, May 14.—(A.P.)—Four men were arrested here today on first degree murder charges in connection with the death of Henry Patterson, negro, who was lynched by a mob Tuesday.

The prisoners were: Stanley Aultman, Driz Curry, Lemuel Howard, and Ham Smith. They were arrested by Sheriff D. L. McLaughlin on coroner's jury warrants issued by County Judge W. C. Richards.

National guardsmen from Arcadia, who have been on duty here in connection with the jury investigation into the death of Patterson, assisted the sheriff in rounding up the prisoners.

Curry, Howard and Smith were the first taken into custody. Shortly after their arrival at the courthouse, Aultman appeared voluntarily, said he had heard they were looking for him and surrendered.

Held Without Bond

Immediately after their arrest the four men were given a preliminary hearing before Judge Richards and held without bail for action by the grand jury.

A detail of guardsmen then took the prisoners to Arcadia where they were turned over to the authorities there for safe keeping.

News of the arrests spread rapidly through this section and extra precautions were taken by the militia to guard against a possible outbreak.

The arrests were the climax of a three-day investigation into the lynching. County Prosecutor H. A. Rider, who is conducting the inquiry, said it would extend at least another week. Judge Richards has issued subpoenas for nearly 100 persons and the authorities expect further arrests as the investigation proceeds.

Conditions were quiet today. Sheriff McLaughlin, who wired Governor Martin this morning, suggesting withdrawal of the troops, sent a second telegram later in the day, saying the presence of the guardsmen was desired for a while longer. This action was taken in view of arrests which were expected and which were made later.

Barbarism Hinted

Episodes in connection with the lynching have given investigating authorities the impression that barbaric methods were used by the mob in killing its victim. One story is to the effect that the lynchers shot the negro several times and placed him in a half dying condition on the running board of an automobile.

In searching for arms, members of the mob broke into a citizen's home while he was at work, and terrorized his wife in their demands for rifle or pistol, it was said.

Officers Testify

A veil of secrecy has been thrown about the room in the courthouse where the jury is holding its inquest. Officials will not divulge results of their inquest, pending its completion and their report to Governor Martin. Two of the witnesses thus far examined are Sheriff McLaughlin and Town Marshal R. E. Edwards. The sheriff has said repeatedly he was at Goodno, a settlement about six miles from here, at the time of the lynching. Both officers have been subjected to severe grilling by the judge and the lawyer.

Witness after witness was summoned before the coroner's jury throughout the day as the inquisitors pursued their examination. Apparently reassured by the presence of the guardsmen, a number of persons offered to assist the investigation. From them further details were learned concerning the killing of the negro.

Names of persons, said to have been members of the mob, were supplied to the jury. It was announced shortly before noon the officials obtained the first complete story of the crime.

Mrs. Mary Hayes Davis, editor of the little weekly newspaper here, witnessed an incident connected with the lynching. She was standing in the doorway of her office when the mob rode wildly down the street and stopped.

Breaking away from his captors, the tortured negro turned to Mrs. Davis with a plea for help.

"Man, I can not help you," she cried. "Pray to your God."

Editor Gets Story

As Patterson's captors dragged him back to the running board of the automobile, Mrs. Davis was rapidly jotting down notes for her guidance in preparing the "story" for her paper.

The negro broke away from his captors several times preceding his death, but he seemed too bewildered to make any determined effort at escape.

On one occasion, a spectator declared, Patterson was perhaps 50 feet from the mob and was jogging along the road looking desperately for a place to hide.

The negro stopped at a wire fence and threw one leg over it, apparently intending to crawl beneath a nearby house. As he did so, a shotgun roared, the fugitive's left shoulder sagged and he fell through the wire. In a few moments the mob closed in on him again and threw him on the running board of the automobile.

fusillade which tore its victim's body almost to shreds.

Prosecuting Attorney Rider said tonight that much credit for the success of the probe thus far was due to Capt. S. C. Smith, in charge of the national guardsmen, and Capt. Rupert Smith, his brother, who is assisting him.

Citizens here, while relieved by the presence of the troops, are worried over the expense. Hendry county is one of the newest counties in the state and has just undertaken an extensive program of road construction. The cost of maintaining the soldiers is said to be about \$201 a day.

Immediately after the lynching practically every negro road worker fled from town. Today, however, a number were brought back by the contractors and resumed their work under the protection of the guardsmen who have set up two machine guns in the courthouse square.

Tar and Feathers Used

KEY WEST, May 14.—(A.P.)—An identified negro was reported seized by a group of men here today and taken to the outskirts of the city where he was whipped and subsequently tarred and feathered.

The incident was said to have followed insulting remarks which the negro was alleged to have made to a prominent white woman on a downtown street earlier in the day.

After the coat of tar and feathers had been applied, the negro was conducted to the only railroad track connecting Key West with the Florida mainland and ordered to "beat it."

This was the third kidnapping here within the last two weeks, following alleged insults to white women.

Body May Be Exhumed

ST. PETERSBURG, May 14.—(Tribune News Service.)—A post mortem examination of the body of Parker Watson, negro, lynched here last Sunday night by a band of armed men on the Seminole road probably will be made this week, officials from the sheriff's office announced today. The investigation of the lynching, according to reports from Tallahassee, has been turned over to the sheriff.

The post mortem will be made to determine the caliber of the five bullets which entered the negro's body, officials being of the opinion that the bullets will provide clues leading to arrests of the lynchers.

Although it has been announced that investigation has been turned over to Sheriff Roy Booth, it was said here today that special police had arrived from Tallahassee to conduct an investigation.

Part of Troops Retire

JACKSONVILLE, May 14.—(A.P.)—Half of the troops stationed at La Belle have been ordered to return to their headquarters city, Arcadia, by Governor Martin, he announced here tonight.

REPORTED SIGHTED

Los Angeles
Indianapolis
Detroit
Cleveland
Chicago
Canton
Boston
Baltimore
Chattanooga

P

Troops in Florida Town; Lynching to Be Investigated

LABELLE, Fla., May 13.—(By A. P.)—This town of less than 500 population where Henry Patterson, negro, was lynched last Monday, assumed a martial air today with the arrival of a unit of Florida national guardsmen to help preserve order during the progress of the coroner's inquest into the negro's death.

Arriving by automobile from Arcadia, Battery F, 116th Field Artillery, under command of Captain C. S. Smith, reported to town authorities for duty in connection with the inquest.

The troops were ordered in readiness after Governor John W. Martin, at Tallahassee, received alarming messages from prominent citizens and officials of the town and Henry county, of which Labelle is the county seat. These messages were to the effect that threats had been made against negro residents by the "rougher white element" of the county and that many responsible persons were afraid to testify at the coroner's inquiry.

The trouble began following an alleged attack on a white woman last Monday. Patterson was arrested but was said to have escaped. Captured by a band of white women, the negro was shot and hanged to a tree on the outskirts of the town. Immediately afterwards nearly every negro in this community fled. Many had returned yesterday when assured of protection.

The woman whom Patterson was alleged to have attacked testified at the inquest yesterday that the negro entered her kitchen. She said she took her child and fled from the house. Prosecuting Attorney H. A. Rider announced that other witnesses told of hearing the woman say she had not been attacked but she became frightened when the negro appeared at the house to get drink of water.

The inquest proceeded today behind closed doors.

Chairman, Mary White Ovington, New York

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Baltimore
Boston
Catalan
Chicago
Cleveland
Detroit
Indianapolis
Los Angeles
Memphis
New Haven
New York

Bishop John Hurst
Joseph Prince Loud
Moorfield Storey
Ella Rush Murray
Jane Addams
Dr. C. E. Bentley
Harry E. Davis
Hon. Ira W. Jayne
F. B. Ransom
E. Burton Cerrit
R. R. Church
George W. Crawford
William A. Alexander
Rev. Hutchens C. Bishop
Dr. W. E. B. Dubois
Rev. John Haynes Holmes
Florence Kelley
Paul Kennedy
Louis Marshall
John E. Nail
Arthur B. Spingarn
J. E. Spingarn
Herbert R. Stockton
Charles H. Studin
William English Walling
Isadore Martin
Dr. William A. Sinclair
Maggie I. Walker
Rev. G. R. Waller
Hon. Arthur Capper
Nannie H. Burroughs
James A. Cobb
Prof. Geo. William Cook
Charles Edward Russell
Nevill H. Thomas

NEGRO LYNCHING CASE CONDEMNED

LEGION, BIBLE CLASS AND CITY COMMISSION ADOPT RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions condemning the lynching of Parker Watson, negro, last Sunday night, after he was taken from three deputies by a band of masked men, have been adopted by the local post of the American Legion and the Business Men's Bible class of the First Congregational church.

At its regular meeting last night, the city commission, on motion of Commissioner E. C. Reed and on the second of Commissioner W. Scott Serviss, instructed City Attorney A. S. Bradley to draft a resolution condemning "the party or parties who were guilty of the murder of Watson, while in the custody of the law and placing at the disposal of those now investigating the crime all facilities of the city which would assist in bringing the murderers to justice." The resolution was unanimously adopted and the formal action of the commission will be taken at an adjourned session tomorrow afternoon at 3 o'clock. No offer of an additional reward was included in the resolution.

Discussion of the situation which emphasized the objection officials

had to the reflection upon the community resulting from a lynching, even though it did not occur within the city itself, caused Commissioner Serviss to propose that the county board be asked to provide a suitable jail or detention house for county prisoners here and for offices of the sheriff's deputies, because of the overcrowding of the city jail facilities when county as well as municipal prisoners are detained there. It was pointed out that Watson, the negro lynched, had been a county prisoner after his arraignment in the magistrate's court and was in the custody of the sheriff preceding and at the time he was lynched on the way to the county seat at Clearwater.

CONDEMNING MOB MURDER

At the regular session of the Business Men's Bible class of the Congregational church Sunday, the following resolutions were adopted:

Whereas, it appears from reports published in the daily press of this city that a hideous crime has recently been committed in our midst, a negro suspected of robbery, in the custody of officers of the law and on his way to jail, having been forcibly taken from those officers and brutally murdered;

Therefore, Be it resolved, That we, the Business Men's Bible class of the Congregational church of St. Petersburg, hereby express our horror of the crime and condemn it in the strongest and most unqualified terms, believing that murder is murder by whom and upon whomsoever it may be committed, and that crime unpunished incites the criminal mind to other crimes, one crime thus leading to another; therefore, we express the hope that all our constituted authorities, including the sheriff of Pinellas county, his honor the mayor of St. Petersburg, the forces of our police department, and his excellency, the governor of the state, will exert all the power and resources at their command to discover the perpetrators and bring them to justice, not only that the blemish and stigma may be removed from the name and fame of this fair city which we love, and from our state, but that every resident, irrespective of race, color or creed, from the most humble to the highest in point of position and influence, may feel assured of the protection to which we all are entitled under the constitution and laws of our state and nation.

We regard this deed as that of a band of conspirators who struck a blow in the dark at the foundation of law and order, declaring to all the world their belief that the courts and legal institutions of St. Petersburg, the county of Pinellas, and the state of Florida, can not be trusted to protect citizens and administer justice. In this these conspirators seem to have been sustained by the three officers of the law who, as they say, fled at the first threat and surrendered their sworn duty to lawless men.

And be it further resolved, That we condemn most vigorously the action of the three officers who, although sworn to protect the lives of those entrusted to their care, handed over a handcuffed man to be tortured and murdered without an effort to protect him, and then calmly going to bed without giving notice to their superior officers of what had happened.

Resolved, That a copy of the foregoing be furnished each of the three daily newspapers of this city also a copy each to the sheriff of Pinellas county, the mayor and the chief of police of St. Petersburg, and the governor of the state.

Approved by the class.

(Signed) J. H. WINCHESTER,
President

(Signed) HARVEY JEWELL,
Secretary

Rev. Hutchens C. Bishop
William A. Alexander
George W. Crawford
R. R. Church
E. Burton Cerutt
F. B. Ransom
Hon. Ira W. Jayne
Harry E. Davis
Dr. C. E. Bentley
Jane Addams
Ella Rush Murray
Moorfield Storey
Joseph Prince Loud
Bishop John Hurst
New York
New Haven
Memphis
Los Angeles
Indianapolis
Detroit
Cleveland
Chicago
Catskill
Boston
Baltimore
Chairman, Mary White Ovington, New York

The Enterprise,

Thomasville, Ga. May 19, 1926.

THE LABELLE, FLA., LYNCHING.

No matter what the "nigger in the woodpile" may be, Labelle, a small Florida town, has transcended all rights, legal and moral, in the cruel and brutal treatment administered by a mob to a negro, who was accused of having attempted an assault. It proved afterward, according to report, that it was not even an attempt and that the woman became frightened and ran away shrieking, when the negro appeared and asked for something. There was no evidence, so far as can be ascertained from the newspapers accounts, to justify the statement that he had ever considered such a thing.

Yet this negro was taken in hand by a mob, shot and then hung until he was dead, if he was not already dead from the bullet wounds. A great stir has been raised in Florida, where there have been two prior lynchings this year, if we remember right, and the state chamber of commerce has asked the Governor to make a rigid investigation and ascertain, if possible, who were the guilty parties.

This has been done before in the South but it has rarely ever succeeded in creating fear of punishment for this form of manslaughter in the hearts of those, who lose control of themselves in the face of an ugly crime or with the current of strong mob spirit that is often engendered uselessly and without any provocation.

The negro was entitled to a fair trial. He is guaranteed that by all the laws we know anything about. Man made the laws but man made them so that he has no personal right to unmake or abrogate them at will. This must come from a legal source and the man that persists in taking the law into his own hands makes an outlaw of himself and leaves himself liable to punishment.

These instances are becoming more rare in the South, as statistics gathered at the Tuskegee Institute, a negro school, will show. There are still too many of them and they are entirely too brutal to satisfy the conscience of any reasoning man. There are millions of people, who would not be caught in such an affair under any circumstances. They should exercise the necessity deterrent influence on those who are subject to those maniacal spasms and let them realize that we are living under a lawful government and that the processes of law are necessary not only to establish the guilt of the accused but in the administration of punishment.

We all realize the mood that is created by the commission of a crime such as was attributed by rumor to this negro. We cannot fail to grasp its horrible significance and yet the failure to repress that urge to commit violence will give it free rein and it will spread into all phases of our life and will become a thing of habit, contrary to our best instincts and in violation of the profound philosophy of law and justice. Its too easy to give way to passion and in matters of this kind, as it is personal affairs, the strongest man is one, who can learn self control. He not only saves much trouble for himself but has benefitted society.

Chairman, Mary White Ovington, New York

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Baltimore
Boston
Catskill
Chicago
Cleveland
Detroit
Indianapolis
Los Angeles
Memphis
New Haven
New York
Rev. W. E. B. Dubois
Rev. John Haynes Holmes
Rev. Florence Kelley
Paul Kennedy
Louis Marshall
John E. Nail
Arthur B. Spingarn
J. E. Spingarn
Herbert R. Stockton
Charles H. Studin
William English Walling
Isadore Martin
Dr. William A. Sinclair
Maggie L. Walker
Rev. G. R. Waller
Hon. Arthur Capper
Toscha

R

MAYOR ASKS GOVERNOR'S AID IN SOLVING NEGRO LYNCHING

*His Efforts to Trace Slayers of Parker Watson
Have Failed, Blanc Tells State Executive
in Telegram to Capital*

(From Yesterday's Final Edition.)
Unable to uncover evidence pointing to the slayers of Parker Watson, negro, after he had been taken from three deputies a week ago Sunday night, Mayor C. M. Blanc today telegraphed Governor John W. Martin, notifying the executive of his efforts, and concluding the telegram with the statement "If you can suggest or aid us in any way, would greatly appreciate it."
Immediately after the abduction of the negro with the subsequent finding of his body the day following near Clearview Avenue, Mayor Blanc assigned several detectives to the case, with instructions to investigate every clue that came to their attention.
Although the affair happened outside the city limits, and, according to the mayor, comes within the

jurisdiction of the sheriff's department, the head of the city stated that he took action in the case, in the hope of clearing up what has been termed in all quarters as a blot upon the state.

Following is the telegram sent by Mayor Blanc to the governor at the state capital today:

"I have made every effort to get evidence in connection with the killing of Parker Watson, colored, in this county the night of May 9, when he was taken from deputy sheriffs en route to Clearwater jail from this city. Every clue brought to my attention has been followed by my special men delegated to this case, but all our efforts have resulted in no evidence of guilty parties. If you can suggest or aid us in any way, would greatly appreciate it."

Chairman, Mary White Ovington, New York
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Baltimore
Boston
Catskill
Chicago
Cleveland
Detroit
Indianapolis
Los Angeles
Memphis
New Haven
New York
Rev. W. E. B. Dubois
Rev. John Haynes Holmes
Rev. Florence Kelley
Paul Kennedy
Louis Marshall
John E. Nail
Arthur B. Spingarn
J. E. Spingarn
Herbert K. Stockton
Charles H. Studin
William English Walling
Isadore Martin
Dr. William A. Sinclair
Maggie L. Walker
Rev. G. R. Waller
Hon. Arthur Capper
Nannie H. Burroughs
James A. Cobb
Prof. Geo. William Cook
Charles Edward Russell
Neval H. Thomas

R

Boston
 Buffalo
 Burlington
 Cambridge
 Chicago
 Cincinnati
 Cleveland
 Columbia
 Dallas
 Denver
 Detroit
 El Paso
 Evansville
 Hartford
 Indianapolis
 Jacksonville
 Kansas City
 Knoxville
 Louisville
 Memphis
 Miami
 Milwaukee
 Minneapolis
 Mobile
 New Orleans
 New York
 Philadelphia
 Portland
 Richmond
 St. Louis
 St. Paul
 Tampa
 Washington
 Wichita

LYNCHING

New York City,

May 20, 1926.

FLORIDA GUARD RECALLED

15 Held in Negro's Lynching After
Coroner's Inquiry

LA BELLE, Fla., May 19 (A. P.)—With the completion of the Coroner's investigation into the lynching of Henry Patterson, Negro, last week, troops of Florida National Guard, who had been on duty here six days, were withdrawn yesterday.

Fifteen men are being held to the Grand Jury on charges of first degree murder.

Patterson was lynched when it was alleged that he had attempted to attack a white woman. The woman testified before the Coroner that she merely became frightened and ran from the house screaming when the Negro entered her kitchen.

REYICH

Mr. Chief
M. J. H. H.

Mr. Chief
C. J. H.

Mr. Chief
C. J. H.

Mr. Chief
C. J. H.

Mr. Chief

Revised

Date

Revised

Original. Material exclusive of Branch Bulletin sent to branches:

Lynching Suspects May Be Released

FORTY MYERS, May 21.—(AP)—

A writ of habeas corpus, returnable May 27, was issued yesterday by Judge George W. Whitehurst of the circuit on petition of Louis O. Gravelly, counsel for the 17 men arrested in connection with the lynching of Tenry Patterson, negro, at LaBelle on May 11.

The efforts of the defendants to obtain their release on bail will be resisted by the state. S. Watt Lawler, state's attorney for the district, said yesterday after the date for hearing arguments on the writ had been fixed.

Chairman, Mary White Ovington, New York
 Boston
 Catekill
 Chicago
 Cleveland
 Detroit
 Indianapolis
 Los Angeles
 Memphis
 New Haven
 New York
 Rev. John Haynes Holmes
 Rev. Florence Kelley
 Paul Kennedy
 Louis Marshall
 John E. Nail
 Arthur B. Spingarn
 J. B. Spingarn
 Herbert K. Stockton
 Charles H. Studin
 William English Walling
 Isadore Martin
 Philadelphia
 Dr. William A. Sinclair
 Maggie I. Walker
 Rev. G. R. Waller
 Rev. Arthur Capper
 Nannie H. Burroughs
 James A. Cobb
 Prof. Geo. William Cook
 Charles Edward Russell
 Nerval H. Thomas

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LYNCHED

The Advertiser,

Birmingham, Ala.

May 11, 1926.

NEGRO IS LYNCHED

ST. PETERSBURG, FLA., May 9.—(AP)—Parker Watson, negro, was taken from three deputy sheriffs shortly before 10 o'clock tonight by masked men in two automobiles on the north side of Seminole Bridge, between St. Petersburg and Clearwater. Watson was held for a series of robberies in St. Petersburg.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman, Mary White Ovington, New York

Baltimore

Blahop John Hurst

Joseph Prince Lord

Moorefield Storey

Ellis Rush Murray

Jane Addams

Dr. C. E. Bentley

Harry E. Davis

Hon. Ira W. Jayne

F. B. Ransom

E. B. Burton Ceruti

R. R. Church

George W. Crawford

Lillian A. Alexander

Rev. Hutcheson C. Bishop

Dr. W. E. B. Dubois

Rev. John Haynes Holmes

Florence Kelley

Paul Kennaday

Louis Marshall

John E. Nail

Arthur B. Spingarn

J. B. Spingarn

Herbert K. Stockton

Charles H. Studin

William English Walling

Isadore Martin

Dr. William A. Sinclair

Maggie L. Walker

Rev. G. R. Waller

Hon. Arthur Capper

Nannie H. Burroughs

James A. Cobb

Prof. Geo. William Cook

Charles Edward Russell

Neval H. Thomas

Baltimore

Blahop John Hurst

Joseph Prince Lord

Moorefield Storey

Ellis Rush Murray

Jane Addams

Dr. C. E. Bentley

Harry E. Davis

Hon. Ira W. Jayne

F. B. Ransom

E. B. Burton Ceruti

R. R. Church

George W. Crawford

Lillian A. Alexander

Rev. Hutcheson C. Bishop

Dr. W. E. B. Dubois

Rev. John Haynes Holmes

Florence Kelley

Paul Kennaday

Louis Marshall

John E. Nail

Arthur B. Spingarn

J. B. Spingarn

Herbert K. Stockton

Charles H. Studin

William English Walling

Isadore Martin

Dr. William A. Sinclair

Maggie L. Walker

Rev. G. R. Waller

Hon. Arthur Capper

Nannie H. Burroughs

James A. Cobb

Prof. Geo. William Cook

Charles Edward Russell

Neval H. Thomas

Washington

Toronto

Springfield

Richmond

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

LYNCHING

The Tribune,

Tampa. Fla.

May 11, 1926.

COUNTY GRAND JURY MOVES TO CLEAR UP PINELLAS LYNCHING

SHERIFF ASKS INVESTIGATION INTO DEATH OF NEGRO

Alleged Purse Snatcher Taken From Deputies By Masked Band and Shot

ST. PETERSBURG, May 10.—(Tribune News Service.)—The Pinellas county grand jury will open an investigation tomorrow into the lynching late last night of Parker Watson, negro, who was taken from deputy sheriffs by a band of six armed and masked men and shot.

This was announced tonight by Sheriff Roy Booth, who requested the grand jury investigation, after a verdict was returned by a coroner's jury that the negro came to his death "by gunshot wounds at the hands of unknown parties."

Deputy sheriffs said today the band took the negro from them on the county highway near the Seminole bridge as they were transferring him from the city jail here to the county jail at Clearwater. His body was found this morning on Clearview avenue near the Seminole boulevard, lying in a ditch.

The negro was arrested here last week on charges of highway robbery. He was charged with attacking white women and taking their pocketbooks. Arraigned before a local magistrate, he was bound over to the circuit court on nine charges.

Chairman, Mary White Ovington, New York

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Baltimore
Boston
Cathkill
Chicago
Cleveland
Detroit
Indianapolis
Los Angeles
Memphis
New Haven
New York
Rev. Hutchins C. Bishop
Dr. W. E. B. Dubois
Rev. John Haynes Holmes
Florence Kelley
Paul Kennedy
Louis Marshall
John E. Nail
Arthur B. Spingarn
J. E. Spingarn
Herbert K. Stockton
Charles H. Studin
William English Walling
Isadore Martin
Dr. William A. Sinclair
Margie L. Walker
Rev. G. R. Walker
Hon. Arthur Capper
Nannie H. Burroughs
James A. Cobb
Prof. Geo. William Cook
Charles Edward Russell
Neval H. Thomas

2 LYNCHINGS IN SOUTH FLORIDA WILL BE PROBED

Special Grand Jury Plans To Announce Its Findings In Lynching Of Pinellas Negro Near Clearwater On Sunday

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla., May 12.—(AP)—Official inquiries were made today into two lynchings within three days in different sections of southern Florida.

A special grand jury here was ready to announce its findings in the case of Parker Watson, negro, who was lynched Sunday night last, after being taken from officers who were being him here from Clearwater.

At Labelle, near Fort Myers, sheriff's forces investigated the death of Henry Patterson, negro, who was shot to death and hanged last night for an alleged attack on a white woman.

Herman Dann, president of the State Chamber of Commerce, announced here that Governor John W. Martin would be asked to make a complete investigation into the killing of Watson. Mr. Dann said the State of Florida could ill afford to have a stain like that caused by the slaying of the negro at this time when the eyes of the nation were on the state.

Watson was found dead with five bullet wounds in his body and his face seared with acid. The theory has been advanced that some persons believed the negro to know the location of a large amount of stolen goods and applied the acid in an effort to force him to reveal the cache. Watson had been arrested for alleged burglaries here.

Escaped From Officers

A coroner's jury at Labelle, summoned last night, reserved its verdict until today in the case of Patterson, who was accused of attacking a white woman at her home near here. Officers said they had learned that the woman told her friends later that she had only become frightened at the negro's presence and that he had not attacked her.

Patterson was captured by the band of men after he was said to have escaped from officers. They first paraded him through the streets of Labelle and then left him hanging to a tree on the outskirts of the city.

The hanging caused great fear in the negro section. Many of the inhabitants fled to Fort Myers. In road-building camps in the vicinity where large numbers of negro laborers are employed, foremen gathered the negroes into one large camp and stood armed white guards about them.

Martin Hasn't Been Notified

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., May 12.—(AP)—If Governor Martin has been petitioned to act in two lynchings which have occurred in the state within the past few days, nothing regarding them has as yet been received at the executive offices, the governor stated here early today.

The Governor indicated that, although the requests for executive action had not yet arrived at the capitol, they will be given his personal attention when placed before him.

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., May 12.

—(AP)—Governor Martin moved today to investigate two lynchings which occurred in the state within the past three days.

The executive telegraphed Sheriff D. L. McLaughlin, at Labelle, asking if he needed assistance to maintain order there, following the lynching of Henry Patterson, negro, and to Sheriff Roy Booth, at St. Petersburg, requesting full particulars of the lynching of Parker Watson, another negro.

"Can you maintain peace and order in Henry county?" the Governor wired Sheriff McLaughlin. "If not, advise me and I will despatch what assistance you need to keep down riot."

Asks For Full Particulars

The Governor also telegraphed M. T. Forey of Labelle, asking him "as my friend," to give him all facts regarding the lynching of Patterson yesterday.

Governor Martin demanded to know of Sheriff Booth why the latter's deputies had turned Watson over to six masked men Sunday, while the negro was being taken to the Pinellas county jail to await trial on charges of house-breaking and highway robbery.

Several telegrams were received by the Governor this morning from residents of both St. Petersburg and Labelle, requesting executive action.

Philadelphia
Isadore Martin
William English Walling
Charles H. Studin
Herbert R. Stockton
I. E. Spingarn
Arthur B. Spingarn
John E. Nail
Louis Marshall
Paul Kennaday
Florence Kelley
Rev. John Haynes Holmes
Dr. W. E. B. Dubois
Rev. Hutcheson C. Bishop
William A. Alexander
George W. Crawford
R. R. Church
E. Burton Cerull
F. L. Ransom
Hon. Ira W. Jayne
Harry E. Davis
Dr. C. E. Bentley
Jane Addams
Ella Rush Murray
Moorfield Storey
Joseph Prince Loud
Bishop John Hurst

Chairman, Mary White Ovington, New York

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Chief.

Winter Haven, Fla.

INVESTIGATING OF LYNCHINGS IS UNDER WAY

Two Mob Crimes Within Two Days Arouses South, Florida Officials.

St. Petersburg, Fla., May 12 (AP)—Investigation is being made to-day into two lynchings within three days in different sections of southern Florida.

A special grand jury here was ready to announce its findings in the case of Parker Watson, negro, who was lynched Sunday night last after being taken from officers who were bringing him here from Clearwater.

At Labelle, near Fort Myers, sheriffs forces investigated the death of Henry Patterson, negro, who was shot to death and hanged last night for an alleged attack on a white woman.

Herman Dann, president of the state chamber of commerce, announced here that Governor John W. Martin would be asked to make a complete investigation into the killing of Watson. Mr. Dann said that the state of Florida could "ill-afford to have a stain like that caused by the slaying of the negro at this time when the eyes of the nation were on the state."

Watson was found dead with five bullet wounds in his body and his face seared with acid. The theory has been advanced that some persons believed the negro knew the location of a large amount of stolen goods and applied the acid in an effort to force him to reveal the cache. Watson had been arrested for alleged burglaries here.

A coroner's jury at Labelle, summoned last night, reserved its verdict until today in the case of Patterson who was accused of attacking a white woman at her home near here. Officers said they had learned that the woman told her friends later that she had only become frightened at the negro's presence and that he had not attacked her.

Patterson was captured by the band of men after he was said to have escaped from officers. His body first paraded through the streets of Labelle was left hanging to a tree on the outskirts. The lynching cast great fear into the negro quarters of the town. Many of the inhabitants fled to Fort Myers. In road building camps in the vicinity where large number of negro laborers are employed, foreman gathered the negroes into one large camp and stood armed white guards about them.

Governor Not Informed

Tallahassee, Fla., May 12 (AP)—If Governor Martin has been petitioned to act in two lynchings which have occurred in the state within the past few days, nothing regarding them has as yet been received at the executive office, the governor stated here early today. The governor indicated that, although the requests for executive action had not yet arrived at the capitol, they will be given his personal attention when placed before him.

Chairman, Mary White Ovington, New York

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Baltimore
Boston
Catskill
Chicago
Cleveland
Detroit
Indianapolis
Los Angeles
Memphis
New Haven
New York
Philadelphia
Richmond
Springfield
Tampa
Washington

Bishop John Hurst
Joseph Prince Loud
Moorefield Storey
Ella Rush Murray
Jane Addams
Dr. C. E. Bentley
Harry E. Davis
Hon. Ira W. Jayne
F. B. Ransom
R. B. Burton
George W. Church
Lillian A. Crawford
Rev. Hutchens C. Bishop
Dr. W. E. B. Dubois
Rev. John Haynes Holmes
Florence Kelley
Paul Kennedy
Louis Marshall
John E. Nail
Arthur B. Spingarn
J. E. Spingarn
Herbert K. Stockton
Charles H. Studin
William English Walling
Isadore Martin
Dr. William A. Sinclair
Margie L. Walker
Rev. G. R. Waller
Hon. Arthur Capper
Nannie H. Burroughs
James A. Cobb
Prof. Geo. William Cook
Charles Edward Russell
Neval H. Thomas

ASKS INFORMATION ABOUT LYNCHINGS

Two Negroes Lynched in Florida Within the Past Three Days.

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tallahassee, Fla., May 12.—Governor John W. Martin today telegraphed individuals on Labelle and Clearwater requesting full information concerning the lynching of two negroes there within the past three days.

The executive also asked Sheriff D. L. McLaughlin at Labelle if assistance was needed to maintain order there, promising whatever aid might be needed to keep down riot.

In a telegram to Sheriff Roy Booth, the governor requested complete information concerning the lynching near St. Petersburg Sunday of Parker Watson, negro charged with house breaking and highway robbery.

Another message to H. T. Forey at Labelle asked him "as my friend" to supply particulars of the lynching of Henry Patterson, negro there yesterday.

- BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
- Chairman, Mary White Ovington, New York
- Baltimore
Boston
Cincinnati
Chicago
Cleveland
Detroit
Indianapolis
Los Angeles
Memphis
New Haven
New York
Rev. Hutchins C. Bishop
Dr. W. E. B. Dubois
Rev. John Haynes Holmes
Florence Kelley
Paul Kennedy
Louis Marshall
John B. Nail
Arthur B. Spingarn
J. B. Spingarn
Herbert K. Stockton
Charles H. Studin
William English Walling
Isadore Martin
Dr. William A. Sinclair
Margie L. Walker
Rev. G. R. Waller
Hon. Arthur Capper
Nannie H. Burroughs
James A. Cobb
Prof. Geo. William Cook
Charles Edward Russell
Neval H. Thomas

Lynching.

Clearwater, Fla.
La Belle, Fla.

Journal

FORMERLY THE FLORIDA METROPOLIS - FOUNDED 1887

JACKSONVILLE, FLA., WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 12, 1926.

GOVERNOR WILL PROBE KILLINGS ON WEST COAST

Asks for Facts in the
Lynching of Two
Negro Suspects.

TALLAHASSEE — (AP) — Governor Martin moved today to investigate two lynchings which occurred in the state within the past three days.

The executive telegraphed Sheriff D. L. McLaughlin, at La Belle, asking if he needed assistance to maintain order there, following the lynching of Henry Patterson, negro, and to Sheriff Roy Booth, at St. Petersburg, requesting full particulars of the lynching of Parker Watson, another negro. Governor Martin demanded to know from Sheriff Booth why the latter's deputies had turned Watson over to six masked men Sunday.

INQUIRIES MADE.

ST. PETERSBURG.—(AP)—Official inquiries were made today into two lynchings within three days in different sections of southern Florida.

A special grand jury here was ready to announce its findings in the case of Parker Watson, negro, who was lynched Sunday night last after being taken from officers who were bringing him here from Clearwater. At LaBelle, near Fort Myers, sheriff's force investigated the death of Henry Patterson, negro, who was shot to death and hanged last night for an alleged attack on a white woman.

CLEARWATER — The Pinellas grand jury recommended that the county commissioners offer a suitable reward for the arrest and conviction of the person or persons who abducted Parker Watson, alleged negro bandit, from the officers in charge of him and probably killed him. This followed a resolution by the county commissioners yesterday to the effect that the commissioners will stand solidly behind Sheriff Roy Booth in any investigation that he may desire to make to clear up the mystery surrounding the death of Watson.

PARADE WITH BODY.

LA BELLE—(AP)—A coroner's jury was empaneled here today to investigate the slaying of Henry Patterson, a negro. Patterson was shot to death yesterday by a band of masked men, who paraded through the town with the negro's body and later hanged it to a tree.

The negro was charged with an attempted attack upon a white woman. Reports of his alleged crime spread through this section rapidly. Patterson was captured by citizens, who turned him over to a deputy sheriff. As the latter was taking him to jail a band of armed men appeared and seized the prisoner.

La Belle Situation Safe, Says Martin Upon Arrival Here

After a late arrival in Jacksonville last night, Governor Martin announced that the troops he ordered to La Belle early Thursday to prevent a possible race clash have the situation in hand and probably will be withdrawn as soon as the inquest into the lynching of Henry Patterson, negro ends.

The governor, who came here to participate in the dedication of the Scottish Rite temple today, said he had kept in close touch with Sheriff D. L. McLaughlin, of Hendry county, and that he was informed that perfect order is being maintained in the inflamed area.

OFFICIAL PROBE BEING MADE IN TWO LYNCHINGS

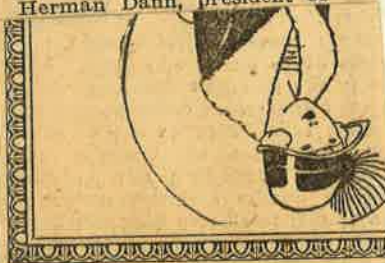
Grand Jury Ready to An-
nounce Findings in Sun-
day Night's Affair

TO ASK MARTIN

State Chamber Head to Peti-
tion Governor for Rigid
Investigation

ST. PETERSBURG, May
12.—(P)— Official inquiries
were made today into two
lynchings within three days
in different sections of South-
ern Florida. A special grand
jury here was ready to an-
nounce its findings in the
case of Parker Watson, negro,
who was lynched Sunday
night, last after being taken
from officers who were bringing
him here from Clearwater. At La
Belle, near Fort Myers, sheriff's
forces investigated the death of
Henry Patterson, negro, who was
shot to death and hanged last night
for an alleged attack on a white
woman.

To Ask Governor
Herman Dann, president of the



Nevel H. Thomas
Charles Edward Russell
Prof. Geo. William Cook
James A. Cobb
Nannie H. Burroughs
Hon. Arthur Capper
Maggie L. Walker
Dr. William A. Sinclair
Isadore Martin
William English Walling
Charles H. Studin
Herbert K. Stockton
J. E. Spingarn
Arthur B. Spingarn
John E. Nail
Louis Marshall
Paul Kennaday
Florence Kelley
Rev. John Haynes Holmes
Dr. W. E. B. Dubois
Rev. Hutcheson C. Bishop
Lillian A. Alexander
George W. Crawford
R. R. Church
E. Burton Cerutt
F. B. Ransom
Hon. Ira W. Jayne
Harry E. Davis
Dr. C. E. Bentley
Jane Addams
Ella Rush Murray
Moorefield Storey
Joseph Prince Loud
Bishop John Hurst

Washington
Topeka
Springfield
Richmond
Philadelphia
New York
New Haven
Memphis
Los Angeles
Indianapolis
Detroit
Cleveland
Chicago
Cattanooga
Boston

Chairman, Mary White Ovington, New York
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

VAUGHN ASSAILS NEGRO LYNCHERS

MAKES STATEMENT FOLLOWING RETURN FROM TOUR OF NORTHERN CITIES

Condemnation of the lynching of Parker Watson, negro, after he had been taken from three deputies on the highway north of the Seminole bridge, came from Chief of Police E. D. Vaughn today, in an interview he gave upon his return from a trip through the north for the purpose of studying police work in the big cities.

The police chief also made it known that the department had been seeking to run down the negro during most of the past winter, as reports of robberies multiplied.

"However," he continued, "the negro had been arrested and held for action of the grand jury, and trial by the higher court. He was in the hands of the law and I want to say that I do not countenance any such action as was taken by the band of men which interfered with the law taking its own course."

The chief said there is no doubt in his mind but that the negro was the one guilty of most of the housebreaking and street robberies during the past winter.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman, Mary White Ovington, New York
Bishop John Hurst
Joseph Prince Loud
Moorefield Storey
Ella Rush Murray
Jane Addams
Dr. C. E. Bentley
Harry E. Davis
Hon. Ira W. Jayne
R. B. Ransom
E. Burton Cerrill
R. R. Church
George W. Crawford
William A. Alexander
Rev. Hutcheson C. Bishop
Dr. W. E. B. Dubois
Rev. John Haynes Holmes
Florence Kelley
Paul Kennaday
Louis Marshall
John E. Nail
Arthur B. Spingarn
J. E. Spingarn
Herbert K. Stockton
Charles H. Studio
William English Walling
Isadore Martin
Dr. William A. Sinclair
Maggie L. Walker
Rev. G. R. Waller
Hon. Arthur Capper
Nannie H. Burroughs
James A. Cobb
Prof. Geo. William Cook
Charles Edward Russell
Neval H. Thomas

Baltimore
Boston
Cathall
Chicago
Cleveland
Detroit
Indianapolis
Los Angeles
Memphis
New Haven
New York
Philadelphia
Richmond
Springfield
Topeka
Washington

LYNCHING

The Tribune,

Tampa, Fla.

May 21, 1920.

CONSTABLE BLAMED FOR NEGRO LYNCHING

Pinellas Sheriff Says County
Officers Merely Accompanied
Him Unofficially

CLEARWATER, May 20.—(Tribune News Service.)—Making his first public statement relative to the lynching of Parker Watson, negro, on the night of May 9, Sheriff Roy Booth declared today the lynching was not within the jurisdiction of his office as the negro was in the custody of a constable when taken by a band of masked men on the Seminole road.

The presence of Henry Belcher, deputy sheriff, and R. Tucker, commissioned deputy, in the automobile with Constable Dewey Peacock when the negro was taken from the car was declared to have been unofficial by the sheriff. "The deputies were merely invited by Peacock to make the trip to Clearwater with him and did not have the prisoner in their custody. The responsibility lies with the constable and not with my men."

It was definitely proved today that the actual shooting of the negro took place within the city limits of St. Petersburg. Ernest Kitchen, director of public works, visited the scene and announced it was 70 feet inside the city line. The city police, in whose jurisdiction the case would rest have made only a brief investigation and announced they were unable to find clues and would close their inquiry.

Chairman, Mary White Ovington, New York
 Bishop John Hurst
 Joseph Prince Loud
 Moorfield Storey
 Ella Rush Murray
 Jane Addams
 Dr. C. E. Bentley
 Harry E. Davis
 Hon. Ira W. Jayne
 R. B. Ransom
 E. Burton Cerrill
 R. R. Church
 George W. Crawford
 William A. Alexander
 Rev. Hutchens C. Bishop
 Dr. W. E. B. Dubois
 Rev. John Haynes Holmes
 Florence Kelley
 Paul Kennaday
 Louis Marshall
 John E. Nail
 Arthur B. Spingarn
 J. B. Spingarn
 Herbert K. Stockton
 Charles H. Studin
 William Engle Walling
 Isadore Martin
 Dr. William A. Sinclair
 Maggie L. Walker
 Rev. G. R. Waller
 Hon. Arthur Capper
 Nannie H. Burroughs
 James A. Cobb
 Prof. Geo. William Cook
 Charles Edward Russell
 Nevel H. Thomas

Baltimore
 Boston
 Catekill
 Chicago
 Cleveland
 Detroit
 Indianapolis
 Los Angeles
 Memphis
 New Haven
 New York

P-

Arcadian,

Arcadia, Fla.

May 31, 1920.

GIVES DETAILS ABOUT LYNCHING

Former Mayor of LaBelle Dis- cusses Tragedy

Says News Stories Do Not Give All
the Facts in Connection with
Death of Negro

Perry C. Hull, former mayor of LaBelle and now engaged in the real estate and retail ice business there, was one of about twenty-five residents of that city who were in Arcadia yesterday visiting the ten citizens of LaBelle who are being held in jail here following an investigation into the recent lynching there of Henry Patterson, a negro.

Mr. Hull in an interview with a representative of the Arcadian expressed deepest regret at the unfortunate publicity that his city had received as a result of the lynching. "The reports that have been sent out in regard to the affair have not done our city and our people justice," Mr. Hull declared. "While I do not excuse the actions of the mob, I do feel that the world at large should know some things that have not been given publicity in the news accounts of the affair.

"The negro," said Mr. Hull, "had not attacked the white woman, but he had acted in a suspicious manner, which gave rise to the report that he had attacked her. He had been seen by the woman walking past the house, in the road, and had stopped and looked back at the house after passing it for a short distance. A little later, when he appeared at the back door of the house and asked for a drink of water, and his peculiar actions of a moment before were recalled, the woman became alarmed and rushed from the house badly frightened and gave the impression to neighbors that she had been attacked.

"The people, believing that they were acting in the protection of womanhood, hunted and found the man, and one thing leading to another, the lynching was the climax."

Ten men are in the DeSoto county jail and four are in jail at Fort Myers, all being held upon charges of first degree murder, following an investigation there before a coroner's jury. The investigation was conducted by Prosecuting Attorney H. A. Rider, with County Judge Wesley C. Richards presiding.

All of the defendants are being held without bail pending a hearing to be conducted at 10 o'clock next Thursday morning at Fort Myers, before Circuit Judge George W. Whitehurst.

"I want to compliment in the highest terms the conduct of the members of the Artillery Company from Arcadia, sent to LaBelle on orders of Governor Martin," declared Mr. Hull. "They are a group of fine gentlemen and soldiers, and their presence and splendid conduct had a quieting effect upon the people."

The names of those who are being held pending the hearing in the circuit court are as follows:

At Arcadia: Griz Curry, young cowman; Ham Smith, laborer; Howard, farmer; Stanley Alton, special marshal; Captain Hurd L. Reaves, county tax assessor; Radford Edwards, city marshal; Coy Mercer, a minor and son of Tom Mercer; Duane Cox, a mail carrier; Norman Brunson, boss of the Curtis-Bright cattle ranch; one other whose name Mr. Hull did not know.

Ft. Myers: Van Curry, member of school board of Glades county; Harney Alton, Coleman and Colon Godboldt.

Chairman, Mary White Ovington, New York

Baltimore
Boston
Cathill
Chicago
Cleveland
Detroit
Indianapolis
Los Angeles
Memphis
New Haven
New York

Bishop John Hurst
Joseph Prince Loud
Moorfield Storey
Ella Rush Murray
Jane Addams
Dr. C. E. Bentley
Harry E. Davis
Hon. Ira W. Jayne
R. B. Ransom
E. Burton Cernutt
R. R. Church
George W. Crawford
William A. Alexander
Rev. Hutches C. Bishop
Dr. W. E. B. Dubois
Rev. John Haynes Holmes
Florence Kelley
Paul Kennedy
Louis Marshall
John E. Nail
Arthur B. Spingarn
J. E. Spingarn
Herbert K. Stockton
Charles H. Studin
William English Walling
Isadore Martin
Dr. William A. Sinclair
Maggie L. Walker
Rev. G. R. Walker
Hon. Arthur Capper
Nannie H. Burroughs
James A. Cobb
Prof. Geo. William Cook
Charles Edward Russell
Neval H. Thomas

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LYNCHING
(Labelle, Fla.)

May 21, 1926.

The Wichita Protest,

Wichita, Kans.

Lynched Wrong Man

Labelle, Fla., May 21.—(Special).—Scarcely a day after a helpless Colored citizen had been lynched by whites in this section, Henry Patterson, another, unfortunate man, was brutally slain by a masked band. Taken Tuesday afternoon, Patterson was shot, his body dragged through the streets of this city and then hanged to a tree and used as a target. After the lynching evidence was revealed to show that the slain man was innocent of the crime with which he had been charged.

The charge against Patterson was that he went into the house of a white woman shortly before noon Tuesday and attacked her, but later officers admitted that they had learned the woman told friends she only became frightened as the Colored man's presence and ran from the house screaming.

Soon afterward armed men began to gather in the street and the lynching followed. The little group of colored citizens living in LaBelle fled in terror as the news of the lynching spread. Not one of the lynchers was identified.

P -

BRANCH

No. Order
Monthly Report

In Out
Cash Col.

Income
Exp.

Gain
Loss

Assets
Liabilities

Subject

Date

By Whom

Circular letter, certificate of Branch Bulletin sent to members:

LYNCHING

The News,

Palatka, Fla.

June 1, 1926.

TATE TO URGE VENUE CHANGE AT LYNCHING TRIAL

Special Session of Court Convened by Order of Governor

Fort Myers, Fla., May 31 (INS)—With 17 men awaiting trial in connection with the lynching of Henry Patterson, negro road hand, who was shot and hanged from the limb of a tree on the afternoon of May 11 at La Belle, 32 miles southeast of here, a special session of the circuit court, called at the request of Governor John W. Martin was convened by Judge George W. Whitehurst at La Belle today. An effort to fix the responsibility for the death of the negro will be made and while the trial is expected to spread over a period of several days indications point to speedy proceedings when court is organized.

The big preliminary fight is expected to center around the attempt of the state to have the hearing transferred to another county, H. Watt Lawler, state's attorney, making it known that he will make a strenuous fight for a change of venue, basing his argument on the grounds that a grand jury, in his opinion, which would be qualified to hear the evidence expected to be introduced cannot be obtained in La Belle or Hendry county.

RP-

BRANCH

Mr. J. H. Martin
Hon. J. H. Martin

Mr. J. H. Martin
Hon. J. H. Martin

Mr. J. H. Martin
Hon. J. H. Martin

Mr. J. H. Martin
Hon. J. H. Martin

Mr. J. H. Martin
Hon. J. H. Martin

Subject

Date

Ref. No.

Clipping from file of Branch Bulletin sent to printer:

LYNCHING

The Herald,

Miami, Fla.

June 2, 1926.

LYNCHINGS CONDEMNED

LAKELAND, Fla., June 2. (AP)—
Condemnation of two lynchings in
the state recently and thanks to Gov-
ernor Martin for his quick and ef-
fective action to assure prosecution
of members of the mob which partici-
pated in the affair at LaBelle, and
of which 17 are now under arrest,
was voted today by the board of
directors of the Florida state cham-
ber of commerce, in quarterly session
here.

RP-

REVISION

Mr. John
Murray Brown

Mr. J. C.
C. C.

Mr. J. C.
C. C.

Mr. J. C.
C. C.

Mr. J. C.
C. C.

Supplies

Date

Reply returned

Original material, including all papers, letters, sent to publisher:

LYNCHING

June 2, 1926.

Lakeland, Fla.

The Telegram,

**Lynching Query
Is Transferred**

(By Associated Press)

Fort Myers, June 1.—Judge George W. Whitehurst of the circuit court today granted a motion of the prosecution to transfer from Hendry county the grand jury investigation into the lynching May 11 of Henry Patterson, negro. The time and place of the inquiry will be designated after a hearing on Thursday of habeas corpus proceedings instituted to procure the release on bail of the 17 men under arrest on warrants issued by the coroner's jury.

RP-

REVENUE

For Office
Monthly Report

For Office
Cash Col.

For Office
C.R.

For Office
R.R.

For Office
A.R.

Subject

Date

By

Circular Number, complete or Branch Office name to be printed:

LYNCHING

Jacksonville, Fla.

June 2, 1926.

Times-Union.

**TRANSFER LYNCHING
CASE FROM HENDRY**

The Associated Press.
FORT MYERS, June 1.—Judge George W. Whitehurst of the circuit court, today granted a motion of the prosecution to transfer from Hendry county the grand jury investigation into the lynching May 11 of Henry Patterson, negro. The time and place of the inquiry will be designed after a hearing on Thursday of habeas corpus proceedings instituted to procure the release on bail of the seventeen men under arrest on warrants issued by the coroner's jury.

P-

BRANCH

Mr. Chief
Monthly Report

In Out
Gen. Cor.

Books
Clk.

Gen
Lic

Notes

Supplies

Index

Books ordered

Charles Hunter, exclusive of Branch Bulletin sent to branches:

LYNCHING

June 3, 1926.

The Telegram,

Lakeland, Fla.

LYNCHINGS IN STATE ARE HIT BY RESOLUTION

Quarterly Meeting of Executive Committee Occupied by Variety of Matters

Directors of the Florida State Chamber of Commerce in quarterly session here yesterday took action upon the resignation of A. A. Coult General Secretary of the organization since its inception went on record with relation to numerous questions before the state and transacted a large amount of routine business.

Mr. Coult, whose resignation was tendered in order that he might accept the secretaryship of the Fort Myers chamber of commerce, will remain with the state organization as secretary of the corporation, the board opposing the complete severance of his relations on the ground that his experience was of great value. Mr. Coult will make his headquarters in Fort Myers, in order to discharge his duties with the chamber in that city but is expected to spend some of his time in Jacksonville.

Regional Bodies

Upon motion of Karl Lehmann of Orlando, the board adopted a resolution favoring the organization of regional or sectional bodies to be composed of local chambers of commerce in the territories concerned. The board previously had opposed such organizations in the belief that sectionalism, pitting one part of the state against another, might arise but the success obtained through organization of the chambers in the Scenic Highlands, and the chambers on the East Coast has been so great it was felt the movement should be encouraged rather than discouraged.

President Herman Dann appointed a committee, consisting of A. A. Coult, chairman; David Sholtz, Daytona Beach; Frederick Van Roy, Crystal River; Karl Yehmann, Orlando; Mark Lance, Avon Park, and J. B. Morrow, Pensacola, to investigate the formation of regional organizations and means whereby the state chamber could assist them in solving sectional problems, and to re-

Another resolution introduced by Mr. Lehmann condemned without reservation the recent lynchings in the state and expressed thanks to Governor Martin for his quick and effective action to assure thorough prosecution of members of the mob who participated in the affair at LaBelle. The resolution further declared that the chamber would do all in its power to create a proper regard for law and order.

Advertising Fund

With reference to a proposal by H. R. Doughty of Daytona Beach, that an organization be formed immediately to raise an all-state national advertising fund of at least \$1,000,000, the board reaffirmed, upon motion of Col. Peter O. Knight of Tampa, its position of declining to engage in any plan to raise money for such purposes. The state chamber has a standing advertising censorship committee charged

with the duty of approving or disapproving advertising promotion plans and it was the sense of the board that the proposal of Mr. Doughty be submitted to that body. The plan calls for action along the lines of that of "The Believers" in Jacksonville, on a state-wide scale, and the opinion of several members of the board was that the committee would not disapprove of it.

Two changes in the membership of the board were effected. By virtue of expiration of his term as president of the Florida State Commercial Secretaries' association, Karl Lehmann ceased to be a director and his place was filled by the election of George H. Clements of Bartow, the new president of the secretaries' organization. The resignation of Mrs. W. F. Blackman of Orlando, formerly president of the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs, was accepted for the same reason. Mrs. Katharine Tippetts of St. Petersburg, who has been a member of the board

outside of its own borders.

Business has been so butchered, so harrassed, everywhere throughout the country, except in Florida, that capital is turning toward this state in ever increasing volume to escape it. During March, Florida paid \$12,000,000 in federal income tax as against \$3,000,000 last year and Col. Knight said it was impossible to believe that Floridians made four times as much money last year as the year previously. The increase in tax payments, he asserted, resulted clearly from the sending of capital into Florida, where conservative laws protect rather than destroy it.

Knight Is Thanked

The board, at the conclusion of Col. Knight's report, adopted a resolution thanking him for his efforts in behalf of the state.

Mr. Lehmann, reporting on the recent meeting in Washington of the National Association of State Chambers of Commerce, declared that representatives of the twenty-two state chambers in attendance agreed that the Florida chamber stood third of all those in the country in point of program and efficiency. The only two state organizations ahead of it were those of Pennsylvania and Illinois.

port of the state chamber work.

128 Famous Players
127 Risk Rubber
126 Foundation Co
125 General Asphalt
124 General Electric
123 General Motors
122 Gt Nor Iron Ore
121 Gt Northern Pld
120 Hudson Motors
119 Gulf States Steel
118 Gulf States Steel
117 Illinois Central
116 Independent O & G
115 Int Harvester
114 Int Combustion Eng
113 Int Nickel
112 Kennecott Cop
111 Louisville & Nashville
110 Mack Truck
109 Mariand Oil
108 Mid Continent Oil
107 No Kan & Tex
106 Missouri Pac Pld
105 Monticomey Ware

(By The Associated Press)
New York, June 2.—Cotton goods were quiet in the gray goods division today with quotations virtually unchanged. Denims were being bought liberally from June-fully delivery. Percalines and other printed goods continued to sell in moderate lots. New lines of fancy silks were shown for fall in some hoses. Spot business continued light and in small lots made up largely of novelties and fancies of a seasonal character. Raw silk was slightly higher at Yokohama and unchanged here. Some new lines of men's wear flannels for spring 1927 were shown, but general openings will not occur until next month.

Dry Goods

184000

184000

184000

184000 The Journal,

184000

Men In Lynching / Released On Bond

184000 FORT MYERS, Fla., June 3—
184000 (AP)—The seven men arrested in
184000 connection with the lynching at
184000 LaBelle on May 11 of Henry Pat-
184000 terson, negro, were ordered releas-
184000 ed from jail today by Judge
184000 George W. Whitehurst of the cir-
184000 cuit court after a hearing on a
184000 writ of habeas corpus. Nine of
184000 them must furnish bonds in the
184000 amount of \$10,000 each to appear
184000 before the Lee grand jury in Nov-
184000 ember. The others were released
184000 without bail.

184000

184000

184000

184000

184000

184000

184000

184000

184000

184000

184000

184000

184000

184000

184000

184000

184000

184000

184000

184000

184000

184000

184000

184000

184000

184000

184000

184000

184000

184000

184000

184000

184000

184000

184000

184000

184000

P-

Business Body Protests Mobs

Florida Chamber of Commerce to Wage Fight
Against Lynching

Both Sexes Maimed

Sends Resolution to the
Governor

St. Petersburg, Fla., June 24.—Aroused by the recent epidemic of lynchings in Florida, the State Chamber of Commerce has gone on record with a declaration that this condition must not continue and has pledged to the Governor its approval of his vigorous efforts to secure effective prosecution in the recent La Belle lynching case and its willingness to co-operate to the fullest in the maintenance of law and order. The statement, which was adopted without a dissenting vote at the quarterly director's meeting, is as follows:

"The Florida State Chamber of Commerce has heard with concern that already this year there have been four recorded lynchings in this State, and that men and women, white and black, have been taken from the protection of the law and brutally maimed by masked gangs.

"Feeling that this condition must not continue if Florida is to prosper as she deserves, the State Chamber of Commerce hereby respectfully thanks the Governor for his quick and effective action in assuring a thorough prosecution of those persons who recently lynched a man in La Belle. Although there have been 143 recorded lynchings in Florida since 1900, this is the first to be followed by a vigorous prosecution of the offending mob.

"Again expressing its approval of the Governor's action, the State Chamber of Commerce wishes to assure him of its continued willingness to do all in its power to create the proper regard for law and order."

Chairman, Mary White Ovington, New York

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Baltimore
Bishop John Hurst
Joseph Prince Lord
Boston
Joseph Storey
Cathul
Della Rush Murray
Chicago
Jane Addams
Dr. C. E. Bentley
Cleveland
Harry E. Davis
Hon. Ira W. Jayne
Detroit
R. B. Ransom
E. Burton Cernit
Los Angeles
R. R. Church
George W. Crawford
New Haven
Lillian A. Alexander
Rev. Hutchens C. Bishop
Dr. W. E. B. Dubois
Rev. John Haynes Holmes
Florence Kelley
Paul Kennedy
Louis Marshall
Harry H. Pace
Arthur B. Spingarn
J. E. Spingarn
Herbert K. Stockton
Charles H. Studin
William English Walling
Philadelphia
Isadore Martin
Dr. William A. Sinclair
Margie L. Walker
Hon. Charles Nagel
Rev. G. R. Waller
Hon. Arthur Capper
Nannie H. Burroughs
James A. Cobb
Prof. Geo. William Cook
Charles Edward Russell
Nevel H. Thomas
Washington
Topeka
Springfield
St. Louis
Richmond
Maryland
New York

LYNCHING

The Tribune,

Tampa, Fla. July 7, 1926.

About Lynching

Leesburg Commercial: Were the community in which we live to voice its sentiments at the polls in the manner LaBelle voters cast their ballots in the recent primary, we would quietly make our arrangements to select another place of abode.

We know of no greater shame to flaunt than is now being carried by that beautiful little section lying near the headwaters of the Caloosahatchee river. County Judge W. C. Andrews, the man to whom we referred recently in praising his stand in the lynching investigation when he bade a witness go on and tell what he knew regardless of retaliation, saying that he knew of no nobler death than to die in the cause of justice and the upholding of the law, was snowed under in the primary.

That it was not merely a coincidence is proved by the fact that the foreman of the coroner's jury, running in a field of three for a place on the school board, received the fewest votes in his race, and still another whose wife testified in one hearing connected with the lynching case, was defeated for nomination to the Legislature.

It probably will be said that the situation at LaBelle is none of our business. But it is. The voters, by their own free will in a secret balloting, have cast a blot upon the name of one of Florida's smaller political divisions and in so doing have given Florida as a whole something for which to apologize. It is but right that these voters know how their action is regarded elsewhere in the state.

Chairman, Mary White Ovington, New York

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Baltimore
Bishop John Hurst
Joseph Prince Loud
Moorthfield Storey
Ella Rush Murray
Jane Addams
Dr. C. E. Bentley
Harry E. Davis
Hon. Ira W. Jayne
F. B. Ransom
R. Burton Ceruti
R. R. Church
George W. Crawford
Lillian A. Alexander
Rev. Hutches C. Bishop
Dr. W. E. B. DuBois
Rev. John Haynes Holmes
Florence Kelley
Paul Kennedy
Louis Marshall
Harry H. Pace
Arthur B. Spingarn
J. E. Spingarn
Herbert K. Stockton
Charles H. Studin
William English Walling
Isadore Martin
Dr. William A. Sinclair
Maggie L. Walker
Hon. Charles Nagel
Rev. G. R. Waller
Hon. Arthur Capper
Nannie H. Burroughs
James A. Cobb
Prof. Geo. William Cook
Charles Edward Russell
Neval H. Thomas

Philadelphia
St. Louis
Springfield
Topoka
Washington

New York
New Haven
Memphis
Los Angeles
Indianapolis
Detroit
Cleveland
Chicago
Catskill
Boston

LYNCHING

The Vero Beach Press,

Vero Beach, Fla.

July 9, 1926.

ABOUT LYNCHING
 Leesburg (Commercial)
 are the community in which
 we live voice its sentiments at
 the polls in the manner LaBelle
 voters cast their ballots in the re-

cent primary, we would quietly
 make our arrangements to select
 another place of abode.

We know of no greater shame
 to haunt than is now being car-
 ried by that beautiful little sec-
 tion lying near the headwaters of
 the Caloosahatchee river. County
 Judge W. C. Andrews, the man to
 whom we referred recently in
 praising his stand in the lynch-
 ing investigation when he bade a
 witness go on and tell what he
 knew regardless of retaliation,
 saying that he knew of no nobler
 death than to die in the cause
 of justice and the upholding of
 the law, was snowed under in the
 primary.

That is was not merely a coin-
 cidence is proved by the fact that
 the foreman of the coroner's jury,
 running in a field of three for a
 place on the school board, receiv-
 ed the fewest votes in his race, and
 still another whose wife testified
 in one hearing connected with the
 lynching case, was defeated for
 nomination to the legislature.

It probably will be said that the
 situation at LaBelle is none of our
 business. But it is. The voters,
 by their own free will in a secret
 balloting, have cast a blot upon

the name of one of Florida's small-
 er political divisions and in so do-
 ing have given Florida as a whole
 something for which to apologize.
 It is but right that these voters
 know how their action is regarded
 elsewhere in the state.

- BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
- Chairman, Mary White Ovington, New York
 - Baltimore
 - Boston
 - Catskill
 - Chicago
 - Cleveland
 - Detroit
 - Indianapolis
 - Los Angeles
 - Memphis
 - New Haven
 - New York
 - Rev. W. E. B. Dubois
 - Rev. John Haynes Holmes
 - Rev. Florence Kelley
 - Paul Kennedy
 - Louis Marshall
 - Harry H. Pace
 - Arthur B. Spingarn
 - J. E. Spingarn
 - Herbert K. Stockton
 - Charles H. Studin
 - William English Walling
 - Isadore Martin
 - Dr. William A. Sinclair
 - Maggie L. Walker
 - Hon. Charles Nagel
 - Rev. G. R. Waller
 - Hon. Arthur Capper
 - Nannie H. Burroughs
 - James A. Cobb
 - Prof. Geo. William Cook
 - Charles Edward Russell
 - Neval H. Thomas

LYNCHING

The New York News,

New York City,

July 10, 1926.

Four Lynchings Rouse Florida's Business Alarm

Aligator State Chamber of Commerce Pledges Aid in Wiping Out Mob Law

St. Petersburg, Fla., July 1—Aroused by the recent epidemic of lynchings in Florida, the State Chamber of Commerce has gone on record with a declaration that this condition must not continue and has pledged to the Governor its approval of his vigorous efforts to secure effective prosecution in the recent La Belle lynching case and its willingness to cooperate to the fullest in the maintenance of law and order. The statement, which was adopted without a dissenting vote at the quarterly director's meeting, is as follows:

"The Florida State Chamber of Commerce has heard with concern that already this year there have been four recorded lynchings in this state, and that men and women, white and black, have been taken from the protection of the law and brutally maimed by masked gangs.

"Feeling that this condition must not continue if Florida is to prosper as she deserves, the State Chamber of Commerce hereby respectfully thanks the Governor for his quick and effective action in assuring a thorough prosecution of those persons who recently lynched a man in La Belle. Although there have been 143 recorded lynchings in Florida since 1900, this is the first to be followed by a vigorous prosecution of the offending mob.

"Again expressing its approval of the Governor's action, the State Chamber of Commerce wishes to assure him of its continued willingness to do all in its power to create the proper regard for law and order."

R

Aug. 10, 1926.

Arcadia, Fla.

The Arcadian,

SAYS LYNCHERS ARE BEING HELD

Hendry County Judge Replies to Inquiry

Says Everything is Being Done to
Bring Slayers of Negro at La-
Belle to Justice

Judge Wesley C. Richards of LaBelle, answering a recent inquiry printed in the Tampa Tribune, declares that everything possible is being done to bring to trial the men who are yet held on murder charges in connection with the slaying of a negro in LaBelle in May. A number of the men indicted were later released by the circuit court at Ft. Myers, but others are still being held. Several of them were held in the county jail in Arcadia for some time following their indictment.

In the reply of Judge Richards to the Tampa paper's question as to what has become of the case Judge Richards says:

"In yesterday's issue there appeared an editorial query as to 'What is the present status, if any, of the lynching investigations in Pinellas and Hendry counties?'

Acted as Coroner

"As county judge of Hendry county and acting coroner in the lynching investigations following the murder of Henry Patterson, negro, on May 11th, last, I feel qualified to reply as to Hendry county.

"The formal investigations of the coroner's court, beginning with the recording of the jurors' names by the flaring lights of a camp fire and beneath the suspended body of the dead negro, Tuesday night, May 11th, continued for seven days behind closed doors, guarded by armed troops until May 18th when the troops were ordered away, and the formal inquest ended after implicating, according to sworn testimony, between 30 and 40 men as taking part, in open day, within the limits of our city, in the brutal murder and hanging of an innocent American citizen.

"Of these so implicated, 17 were arrested on warrants charging murder in the first degree and denied bail by the coroner's court. After some two weeks in jail, these men were brought before Judge George H. Whitehurst, at Fort Myers, on a writ of habeas corpus, and nine were released while eight were held under bond of \$10,000 each, to await action of the grand jury in Lee county (not Hendry county) in November.

No Let Up Yet

"Since the close of the inquest not for one day has there been any let up, on the part of this court or the county prosecutors, to clear any accused man who may be innocent, if any there be, or to bring to justice those who are guilty.

"To those of us who feel that upon us rests the responsibility for vindicating the good name of Hendry county as a community that stands for law and order, and the duty of punishing the perpetrators of one of the most cruel and brutal murders that ever darkened the pages of the history of any county north or south, the consequences are in many respects far from pleasant. Lifelong friendships have been broken, dire threats have been made, incalculable social, moral material and spiritual damage done to our community, but the better element are supporting all efforts to so vindicate the laws of our fair state as to remove as far as may be the dark stain made by the acts of a drunken mob on our streets on that fateful day of May 11th, A. D., 1926.

"Assuring you and, through your most excellent newspaper, the world, that not even death itself can stop the onward march of justice in this matter, I beg to remain,

WESLEY RICHARDS,

County Judge

LYNCHING

Aug. 14, 1926.

Akron, O.

The Journal,

Authorities Are Probing Lynching

Tampa, Fla., Aug. 11.—(INS)—Seventeen arrests have been made on warrants charging first degree murder as a result of the lynching of Henry Patterson, negro, in Hendry county on May 11. At the same time authorities at LaBelle are working dally to bring those who lynched the negro to justice, according to a letter by Wesley C. Richards to a local newspaper.

Defending the actions of Hendry county authorities, Judge Richards tells of the inquest held behind closed doors and guarded by troops until May 18, implicating between 30 and 40 men.

Of the 17 arrested eight were held under bond of \$10,000 by Judge George H. Whitehurst of Lee county at Fort Myers. They will be tried in November.

Handwritten mark resembling a stylized 'P' or 'B'.

REYACH

Mr. J. H. H. H.

Mr. J. H. H.

Mr. J. H. H.

Mr. J. H. H.

Mr. J. H. H.

REYACH

REYACH

REYACH

REYACH

LYNCHING

(Labelle, Fla.)

The Greensboro Daily News, Sunday.

Greensboro, N.C.

Nov. 28, 1926.

GRAND JURY TO PROBE LYNCHING OF NEGRO

Seventeen Men Have Been Arrested on Coroner's Warrants For Florida Killing.

Ft. Myers, Fla., Nov. 28.—(AP)—The lynching of a negro at Labelle last May in connection with which 17 men were arrested on coroner's warrants will be investigated by the Lee county grand jury, which convenes here tomorrow.

The negro, Henry Patterson, who was accused of attacking a white woman, was slain in daylight by a mob which then hauled his body through the main street of the town in an automobile. The woman he was accused of attacking had failed to identify him as her assailant, according to authorities.

The 17 men, including some of the town's leading citizens, were charged by the coroner with being present at the abetting the murder of the negro.

A hearing on petitions for habeas corpus writs last June, at which eye witnesses to the lynching were heard, resulted in the release of nine of the accused men without bond and the admittance of the others to bail in the sum of \$10,000 each.

Jury to Investigate Lynching of Negro In LaBelle, Florida

Fort Myers, Fla., Nov. 28.—(AP)—The lynching of a negro at LaBelle last May in connection with which 17 men were arrested on coroner's warrants, will be investigated by the Lee county grand jury, which convenes here tomorrow.

The negro, Henry Patterson, who was accused of attacking a white woman, was slain in daylight by a mob which then hauled his body through the main street of the town in an automobile. The woman he was accused of attacking had failed to identify him as her assailant, according to authorities.

The 17 men, including some of the town's leading citizens, were charged by the coroner with being present at and abetting in the murder of the negro.

During the coroner's investigation, Governor Martin sent national guard troops to LaBelle to prevent further trouble.

At a special term of court ordered by Governor Martin to investigate the lynching, a change of venue to Lee county was granted on motion of counsel for the accused men. A hearing on petitions for habeas corpus writes last June, at which eye-witnesses to the lynching were heard, resulted in the release of nine of the accused men without bond and the admittance of others to bail in the sum of \$10,000 each.

Several witnesses have been summoned to appear before the grand jury. The inquiry is expected to require two or three days at least.

R

LYNCHING
(Labelle, Fla.)

The News and Courier,

Charleston, S. C.

Nov. 29, 1928 .

**17 Held in Lynching
Florida Jury Probes**

Fort Myers, Fla., Nov. 28.—
(AP).—The lynching of a negro
at Labelle last May, in connec-
tion with which 17 men were
arrested on coroner's warrants,
will be investigated by the Lee
County grand jury which con-
venes here tomorrow.

The negro, Henry Patterson,
who was accused of attacking
a white woman, was slain in
daylight by a mob which then
hauled his body through the
main street of the town in an
automobile. The woman he was
accused of attacking had failed
to identify him as her assailant,
according to authorities.

The seventeen men, including
some of the town's leading
citizens, were charged by the
coroner with being present at
and abetting the murder of the
negro.

R

LYNCHING

(Labelle, Fla.)

The Spartanburg Herald,

Spartanburg, S. C.

Nov. 29, 1926.

TO PROBE LYNCHING

Fort Myers, Fla., Nov. 28 (AP). The lynching of a negro at Labelle last May, in connection with which 17 men were arrested on coronor's warrants, will be investigated by the Lee county grand jury, which convenes here tomorrow.

The negro, Henry Patterson, who was accused of attacking a white woman, was slain in daylight by a mob which hauled his body through the main street of the town in an automobile.

The woman he was accused of attacking had failed to identify him as her assailant, according to authorities.

The 17 men, including some of the town's leading citizens, were charged by the coroner with being present at and abetting the murder of the negro.

During the coroner's investigation Governor Martin sent national guard troops to Labelle to prevent further trouble.

LYNCHING
(LaBelle, Fla.)

The Constitution,

Atlanta, Ga.

Nov. 30, 1926.

**TEN TAKE STAND
AT LYNCHING TRIAL**

Fort Myers, Fla., November 29.—
(P)—Ten witnesses were examined during the morning session today of the grand jury investigating the lynching of Henry Patterson, negro, at LaBelle, May 11. State's Attorney Guy N. Strayhorn announced important testimony was expected to be heard this afternoon and tomorrow. Those testifying this morning were Sheriff Dan McLaughlin of Hendry county; J. E. Marshall, R. N. Miller, William Stallings, Solon B. Crews and wife, Frank McGill, Mrs. R. C. Taylor, Mrs. Harry Lou Wall and Raleigh Dyess.

outbreaks like this, when its own world, cannot clear itself of the responsibility and citizens, knowing the truth, are too cowardly to tell it in court.

"We had hoped for better results in this LaBelle case. We had hoped that Florida might furnish an example, like that recently given in Georgia, refuting the charge that Southern communities are in sympathy with mob law. But we must dismiss the hope as vain. The LaBelle horror must remain a bloody blot on the name of the state, imposed in the first place by a lawless mob and accentuated by the abject failure to bring the members of that mob to the bar of justice.

Florida has been the winter resort of hundreds of the most influential and affluent citizens of the nation. She has hoped through them to attract not merely more people of means but more business and more industries upon which to build a more substantial prosperity. Long ago Florida would have been among the wealthiest and happiest states of the union had it not been for the seeming disregard of law and of human life by her own citizens.

Does not Florida realize that not even whites feel safe where colored men are an excuse for lynching the federal constitution and tramping under foot state, county and city laws by those into whose hands the keeping of the law reposes? The same state of mind that gives way to one provocation to disregard human life under a colored skin cannot be trusted to withstand a provocation to disregard a human life under a white skin. Are not white men being lynched already, and cannot their being lynched be traced indirectly to the case in which there have been escapes from punishment of lynchers of colored men? The kind of white men that this state needs and invites are the kind who have sense enough to reason. We are fooling ourselves when we think that the glowing hostility we southerners display toward northerners blinds them

A TERRIBLE INDICTMENT.

WHEN there is an open admission from the Tampa Tribune that the situation at LaBelle in regards to ever bringing to court the parties who participated in the lynching of Henry Patterson, is hopeless as far as placing responsibility the entire state of Florida is under a terrible indictment.

In this case, an honest effort was made by the Hendry county officials to determine who the lynchers are and to convict them. In this effort the best citizens themselves found local sentiment so hostile to law enforcement that they were forced to recede from their original position as witnesses against those whom they saw actually serving the purpose of the mob.

The Tampa Tribune speaks for the decent, self-respecting people of Florida when it writes under "THE BLOODY BLOT REMAINS," the following sad commentary:

"An innocent Negro was brutally murdered by a mob at LaBelle. He had committed no offense. The victim was beaten, stabbed, shot, mutilated, before being hanged. All this was in broad daylight. It was a 'public demonstration.' There was practically no effort at concealment of identity on the part of members of the mob. The horrible affair was witnessed by almost the entire populace. Scores of citizens looked on and easily recognized fellow-citizens they had known for years. There was no interference by officers of the law. It was the most barbarous lynching perpetrated in years—and without the provocation of even an attempt at misdoing by the helpless object of its brutality.

"A few officials and fearless citizens of the county demanded an investigation and were active in bringing it about. A coroner's inquest was held. Many of the eye witnesses were examined. The result of the inquest was the finding of the jury that 17 men be held for murder. Later, the Circuit Court released nine of them held for further investigation under a bail of \$10,000 each.

"Owing to the state of the public mind in LaBelle, a change of venue was ordered in the case and the grand jury of Lee, an adjoining county, was empowered to investigate. This grand jury convened last week and spent several days in the investigation. Witnesses who had testified at the coroner's inquest and whose testimony resulted in the accusation of 17 men as members of the mob, also testified before the grand jury. But something had happened to these witnesses in the interim. Their memories evidently proved defective. What they knew clearly at the inquest, they had 'forgotten' before the grand jury. The grand jury, in its report, says these witnesses testified with 'seeming reluctance.' They seemed 'afraid to give direct testimony.' Men who had looked on, in the clear light of day, while the crime was being perpetrated, and who identified some of the perpetrators, could not 'remember' a few months later. Another peculiar discrepancy developed. The transcript of testimony taken at the inquest was not available for use in the examination of these same witnesses before the grand jury. This was a very essential document and its absence naturally seriously handicapped the proceedings of the grand jury. We do not know what became of this transcript. It appears that it should have been the subject of inquiry—that someone should be held to account for the failure to produce it.

"The grand jury, unable to obtain sufficient evidence upon which to indict one or two or a dozen of the lynchers, made the sheriff of Hendry county the 'goat.' We do not question the grand jury's charge that the sheriff proved recreant to his duty in the case; we do not doubt that his delinquency was sufficient to warrant the governor in removing him from office. But the removal of the sheriff is a matter of small consequence compared with the punishment of the murderers. The sheriff, at the most, was guilty only of neglect or of avoidance of duty; his hands are not red with the life-blood of Henry Patterson.

"The few officers and citizens of LaBelle who have been active in pushing this investigation, to the end that justice may be done, will, it is reported, ask the Governor to designate a judge and a prosecuting attorney from another part of the state to carry the case further; but we doubt that this would have any good effect. With the witnesses silenced, by intimidation or otherwise, another grand jury could do no more than the present one has been able to do. Those timid citizens of LaBelle who showed 'great reluctance' and who seemed 'afraid to give direct testimony' must share with the members of the mob the onus of this regrettable tragedy, which has smirched the name of Hendry county and of the entire state.

"A community cannot vindicate itself if it does not

to the fact that there is danger still in ti of the races and that no capital or business is a likelihood of riots the extent of which when once the lust for blood is rampant an lands are already red with crime.

When once we realize that men are killing a Negro but for breaking well esta be more likely that courts will function an ment will back the courts when the subject dealt with.

The time to start the ball rolling agai other forms of law breaking, is now. The it can be done anywhere else in Florida, it Belle, Hendry County.

The Tampa Tribune is not expected to be involved in this Hendry County lynching. Its courageous lines and given other state pa lead in the right direction. Where public s ized through the newspapers to war aga evil must go. The papers are as guilty of Belle mob if they are in sympathy with the tent, honest-to-goodness hammering against law observance, will clear the way for dece bility.

My

I've just b
(You know)
For Santa
And he will

I read th
Of course,
What I am
For then t
To Father,
To Mother,
To Brother,
For those

To each d
To cousin
A pair of
To Grandm

A pair of
A necktie
And to w
I'll give

A basket
I would
I think

Clearwater, Fla.

LYNCHED

New Smyrna Florida News,

(St. Petersburg, Fla.)
May 10, 1926.

NEGRO LYNCHED AT ST. PETERSBURG

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla., May 10 (P)—The body of Parker Watson, a negro who was taken from three deputies Sunday night while enroute to the county jail at Clearwater, was found on a lonely road north of this city today. Six armed men are said to have demanded the negro and the officers turned him over. Evidence connecting the negro with nine house breaking cases and one highway robbery was to have been presented to the grand jury today.

19-

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Chairman, Mary White Ovington, New York
Baltimore
Boston
Chicago
Cincinnati
Cleveland
Detroit
Indianapolis
Los Angeles
Memphis
New Haven
New York
Rev. Hutchens C. Bishop
Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois
Rev. John Haynes Holmes
Florence Kelley
Paul Kennedy
Louis Marshall
Harry H. Pace
Arthur B. Spingarn
J. E. Spingarn
Herbert K. Stockton
Charles H. Studin
William Engle Walling
Isadore Martin
Dr. William A. Sinclair
Margie L. Walker
Hon. Charles Nagel
Rev. G. R. Waller
Springfield
Topeka
Washington
James A. Cobb
Prof. George William Cook
Charles Edward Russell
Neal H. Thomas

FLORIDA PROBES TWO LYNCHINGS

Last Victim, Negro, Killed Last Night For Frightening Woman.

ST. PETERSBURG, FLA., May 12.—(AP)—Official inquiries were made today into two lynchings within three days in different sections of southern Florida. A special grand jury here was ready to announce its findings in the case of Parker Watson, negro, who was lynched Sunday night last after being taken from officers who were bringing him here from Clearwater. At La Belle, near Fort Myers, sheriff's forces investigated the death of Henry Patterson, negro, who was shot to death and hanged last night for an alleged attack on a white woman.

Hermann Dann, president of the state chamber of commerce, announced here that John W. Martin would be asked to make a complete investigation into the killing of Watson. Mr. Dann said the state of Florida could "ill afford to have a stain like that caused by the slaying of the negro at this time when the eyes of the nation were on the state."

Watson was found dead with five bullet wounds in his body and his face seared with acid. The theory has been advanced that some persons believed the negro to know the location of a large amount of stolen goods and applied the acid in an effort to force him to reveal the cache. Watson had been arrested for alleged burglaries here.

A coroner's jury at La Belle, summoned last night, reserved its verdict until today in the case of Patterson, who was accused of attacking a white woman at her home near here. Officers said they had learned that the woman told her friends later that she had only become frightened at the negro's presence and that he had not attacked her.

Patterson was captured by the band of men after he was said to have escaped from officers. His body, first paraded through the streets of La Belle, was left hanging to a tree on the outskirts.

The lynching cast great fear into the negro quarters of the town. Many of the inhabitants fled to Fort Myers. In road building camps in the vicinity where large numbers of negro laborers are employed, foremen gathered the negroes into one large camp and stood armed with guards about them.

Chairman, Mary White Ovington, New York

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Baltimore
Boston
Cincinnati
Cleveland
Detroit
Indianapolis
Los Angeles
Memphis
New Haven
New York
Rev. W. B. Dubois
Rev. John Haynes Holmes
Florence Kelley
Paul Kennedy
Louis Marshall
John E. Nail
Arthur B. Spingarn
J. E. Spingarn
Herbert K. Stockton
Charles H. Studin
William English Walling
Isadore Martin
Dr. William A. Sinclair
Margie L. Walker
Rev. G. R. Walker
Hon. Arthur Capper
Nannie H. Burroughs
James A. Cobb
Prof. Geo. William Cook
Charles Edward Russell
Neval H. Thomas

LYNCHING

May 12, 1926.

Man Shot and Hanged by Mob, Then She Says She Was Only Frightened by His Presence—Two Lynchings Probed

Patterson was captured by a mob after he had escaped from officers. His body was paraded through the streets of Labelle and left hanging to a tree on the outskirts.

Hermann Dann, president of the State Chamber of Commerce, announced that Governor John W. Martin would be asked to make a complete investigation into the killing of Watson. Mr. Dann said the State could "ill afford to have a stain such as that caused by the slaying of the negro

[illegible]

GOVERNOR ASKED INVESTIGATE LYNCHING

St. Petersburg, May 12. (AP) Governor Martin will be asked to make a complete and far reaching investigation into the lynching of Parker Watson, a negro who was taken from the party of officers Sunday night while en route from this city to Clearwater. This statement was made today by Herman Dann, president of the state chamber of commerce after he had gone thoroly over the case. Rarely has this city been stirred as it has over the death of the negro whose body was found with five bullet holes in it and what appeared to be acid stains on the face Monday morning after he had been taken from the officers Sunday night at Clearwater. To day the Pinellas grand jury investigated the affair with its report expected tomorrow.

Chairman, Mary White Ovington, New York
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
 Baltimore
 Boston
 Catekill
 Chicago
 Cleveland
 Detroit
 Indianapolis
 Los Angeles
 Memphis
 New Haven
 New York
 Rev. W. B. Dubois
 Rev. John Haynes Holmes
 Florence Kelley
 Paul Kennedy
 Louis Marshall
 John E. Nail
 Arthur B. Spingarn
 J. B. Spingarn
 Herbert R. Stockton
 Charles H. Studin
 William English Walling
 Isadore Martin
 Dr. William A. Sinclair
 Maggie L. Walker
 Rev. G. R. Waller
 Hon. Arthur Capper
 Nannie H. Burroughs
 James A. Cobb
 Prof. Geo. William Cook
 Charles Edward Russell
 Neval H. Thomas

Philadelphia
 Richmond
 Springfield
 Topoka
 Washington

R

The Times,

Tampa, Fla.

May 14, 1926.

FIND THE LEADERS.

Lynching has again besmirched the fair name of Florida. Two instances occurred this week, one at LaBelle and the other in Pinellas county. The governor has been asked to investigate, and it is to be hoped that some light at least will be thrown on these acts of barbarity, although we must admit we are not very sanguine over the prospects. Investigating a lynching is somewhat like investigating a tornado.

News reports from LaBelle say that a mob lynched a negro because of a report that he had assaulted a woman. At the inquest the woman said she had fled from the house when the negro entered. Other witnesses testified that the woman had told them she became frightened when the negro appeared at the door to ask for a drink of water.

Whatever may be the truth about the cause of it, we do know they took him out and hanged him. He was shot, paraded through the streets in an automobile, then strung up on the outskirts of the town.

Here is Sheriff Dan McLaughlin's explanation of the lynching:

"They were over at the jail where Deputy Sheriff McGiggins, of Moore Haven, had the negro, when the mob came swarming up. Wiggins had no keys to get into the jail and therefore could not hold him. The negro was taken from him, put into a car and started for the outskirts of town. He was confronted with the woman who had run from him. Some distance out the negro leaped from the car where some white man in the crowd told him it was a good time to jump and run. Others in the crowd fired into his back and knocked him down. He was then brought to Ford park, here.

"Some one cut a long gash in his left shoulder and down his left arm. But that was all of the mutilation I saw. Someone shot out one of his eyes in the general shooting. They threw him on the running board of an automobile and paraded down with him."

And there seems to be very little doubt about his innocence. A mob is never qualified to pass on that. They grabbed this negro, or maybe another one, it doesn't make much difference to the mob,

Chairman, Mary White Ovington, New York
Baltimore
Boston
Catala
Chicago
Cleveland
Detroit
Indianapolis
Los Angeles
Memphis
New Haven
New York
Rev. Hutchins C. Bishop
Dr. W. E. B. DuBois
Rev. John Haynes Holmes
Florence Kelley
Paul Kennedy
Louis Marshall
John E. Nail
Arthur B. Spingarn
J. B. Spingarn
Herbert K. Stockton
Charles H. Studin
William English Walling
Isadore Martin
Dr. William A. Shuler
Maggie L. Walker
Rev. G. R. Walker
Hon. Arthur Capper
Nannie H. Burroughs
James A. Cobb
Prof. Geo. William Cook
Charles Edward Russell
Neal H. Thomas

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

merit
permit.
he very
NITED

Shoi
Gen
Shoi

LYNCHING CASE STILL MYSTERY

POLICE NO NEARER SOLUTION
IN WATSON SHOOTING
AFTER ONE WEEK.

After a week in which to investigate the abduction of Parker Watson, negro, whose body was found last Monday near Clearview avenue, authorities seem no nearer a solution of the case than they were the first day of the investigation.

From Clearwater comes word that Sheriff Roy Booth may demand a post mortem examination of the negro's body, provided there are no developments within the next few days which may lead to the identity of the persons who took the negro from the three deputies a week ago last night.

Sheriff Booth has announced his personal offer of \$500 to the person or persons who cause the arrest and conviction of parties guilty of the killing, this with the \$2500 already up as rewards, making the total \$3,000.

Chairman, Mary White Ovington, New York

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Baltimore
Boston
Catalina
Chicago
Cleveland
Detroit
Indianapolis
Los Angeles
Memphis
New Haven
New York

Rev. Hutchens C. Bishop
Dr. W. E. B. DuBois
Rev. John Haynes Holmes
Florence Kelley
Paul Kennedy
Louis Marshall
John E. Nail
Arthur B. Spingarn
J. E. Spingarn
Herbert K. Stockton
Charles H. Studin
William Bingham Walling
Isadore Martin
Dr. William A. Stenelat
Maggie L. Walker
Rev. G. R. Waller
Hon. Arthur Capper
Nannie H. Burroughs
James A. Cobb
Prof. Geo. William Cook
Charles Edward Russell
Nevel H. Thomas

The Independent,

St. Petersburg, Fla.

May 21, 1926.

VAUGHN ASSAILS NEGRO LYNCHERS

MAKES STATEMENT FOLLOWING
RETURN FROM TOUR
OF NORTHERN CITIES

Condemnation of the lynching of Parker Watson, negro, after he had been taken from three deputies on the highway north of the Seminole bridge, came from Chief of Police E. D. Vaughn today, in an interview he gave upon his return from a trip through the north for the purpose of studying police work in the big cities.

The police chief also made it known that the department had been seeking to run down the negro during most of the past winter, as reports of robberies multiplied.

"However," he continued, "the negro had been arrested and held for action of the grand jury, and trial by the higher court. He was in the hands of the law and I want to say that I do not countenance any such action as was taken by the band of men which interfered with the law taking its own course."

The chief said there is no doubt in his mind but that the negro was the one guilty of most of the housebreaking and street robberies during the past winter.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman, Mary White Ovington, New York

Boston

Chicago

Cleveland

Detroit

Los Angeles

Memphis

New Haven

New York

Rev. H. H. Holmes

Dr. W. E. B. Dubois

Rev. John Haynes

Florence Kelley

Paul Kennedy

Louis Marshall

John E. Nail

Arthur B. Spingarn

J. E. Spingarn

Herbert K. Stockton

Charles H. Studin

William English Walling

Isadore Martin

Dr. William A. Sinclair

Margie L. Walker

Rev. G. R. Waller

Hon. Arthur Capper

Nannie H. Burroughs

James A. Cobb

Prof. Geo. William Cook

Charles Edward Russell

Neval H. Thomas

Washington

Tampa

Springfield

Richmond

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

TWO FLORIDA LYNCHINGS WITHIN 3 DAYS STARTS PROBE; ONE VICTIM FRIGHTENED WOMAN

Woman Declares He Only Scared But Did Not At- tack Her; Bullet-Riddled Body Dragged Thru the Streets

St. Petersburg, Fla., May 23.—Of-
ficial inquiries were made into two
lynchings within three days in dif-
ferent sections of southern Florida.
A special grand jury here was ready
to announce its findings in the case
of Parker Watson, who was lynched
Sunday night after being taken from
officers who were bringing him here
from Clearwater. At La Belle, near
Fort Meyers, sheriff's forces were in-
vestigating the death of Henry Pat-
terson, who was shot to death and
his body hanged to a tree for an
alleged attack on a white woman.

Will Ask Full Probe

Hermann Dann, President of the
State Chamber of Commerce, announc-
ed that Gov. John W. Martin, would
be asked to make a complete in-
vestigation into the killing of Wat-
son. Mr. Dann said the State of Flor-
ida could "ill afford to have a stain
such as that caused by the slaying at
this time when the eyes of the Nation
were on the State."

Watson was found dead with five
bullet wounds in his body and his face
smeared by acid. The theory has been
advanced that some persons believed
the Negro to have known the location
of a large amount of stolen goods and
applied the acid in an effort to force
him to reveal the cache. Watson had
been arrested for alleged burglaries
here.

A coroner's jury at La Belle, reserv-
ed its verdict in the case of Patterson,
who was accused of attacking a white
woman at her home near here. Offi-
cers said they had learned that the
woman told her friends later that she
had only become frightened at the
Negro's presence and that he had not
attacked her.

Body Paraded in Streets

Patterson was captured by a mob
after he had escaped from officers.
His body, first paraded through the
streets of La Belle, was left hang-
ing to a tree on the outskirts.

The lynching cast fear into the
Negro quarters of the town. Many in-
habitants fled to Fort Meyers. In road
building camps in the vicinity where
large numbers of laborers are em-
ployed, foremen gathered them into
one camp and stood armed guards
about them.

Neval H. Thomas
Charles Edward Russell
Prof. Geo. William Cook
James A. Cobb
Nannie H. Burroughs
Hon. Arthur Capper
Rev. G. R. Walker
Magpie L. Walker
Dr. William A. Sinclair
Isadore Martin
William English Walling
Charles H. Studin
Herbert K. Stockton
J. E. Spingarn
Arthur B. Spingarn
John E. Nail
Louis Marshall
Paul Kennaday
Florence Kelley
Rev. John Haynes Holmes
Dr. W. E. B. Dubois
Rev. Hutchens C. Bishop
William A. Alexander
George W. Crawford
R. R. Church
E. Burton Ceruti
F. B. Ransom
Hon. Ira W. Jayne
Harry E. Davis
Dr. C. E. Bentley
Jane Addams
Ella Rush Murray
Moorfield Storey
Joseph Prince Loud
Bishop John Hurst
Chairman, Mary White Ovington, New York

Washington
Toske
Springfield
Richmond
Philadelphia
New York
New Haven
Memphis
Los Angeles
Indianapolis
Detroit
Cleveland
Chicago
Cattkill
Boston
Baltimore

MOB VIOLENCE (Tampa, Fla.)

The New York Evening Post,

New York City,

May 31, 1927.

11 OF TAMPA MOB SHOT IN JAIL WAR

2,000, Seeking Murder Suspect,
Routed by Troops After Six-
Hour Fight With Police

PRISONER WAS REMOVED

Tampa, Fla., May 31 (P).—A six-hour battle between police and infuriated civilians that counted eleven persons wounded ended this morning when a company of National Guardsmen took up a position behind machine guns and tear gas bombs in the Hillsborough jail here.

Throughout the night, a mob of 2,000 persons had stormed the jail in an attempt to get to B. F. Levins, confessed murderer. Despite assurances of Sheriff Hiers that the prisoner had been removed to another jail, the mob persisted in its attempts to break into the jail and was not deterred even when the sheriff ordered his deputies to open fire on the crowd. Nine men and two women are known to have been wounded. Reports that others also had been shot had not been confirmed this morning.

Streams of ammonia, played by a chemical squad of the local Fire Department, were resorted to by the officers, but the mob refused to disperse. Some took up a position in a negro church across the street from the jail and from that point returned the fire of the deputies. Others obtained heavy timbers to use as battering rams against the walls of the building.

In one attack fifty men succeeded in breaking an opening in one of the walls. Two of the attackers fell through the hole and were immediately arrested and placed in cells.

With daylight came the guardsmen. Piling out of motor trucks and automobiles, they marched in formation to the jail. There was a temporary lull be-

fore the battle broke out again. Sharpshooters for a time resumed their firing on the jail.

The appearance of the soldiers and announcement that two more companies were on the way from Lakeland and Bartow, under orders from Governor Martin, apparently served to cool the anger of the mob. They became quiet, and although many continued to linger about the jail, no further immediate disorders were anticipated. Levins was arrested last Friday and is alleged to have confessed he killed Herman Merrill, his wife and three children by crushing their heads with a heavy railroad tool. A fourth child also was badly injured. It was re-

ported Levins said he killed the Merrells thinking they were another family against whom he held a grudge.

R

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Chairman, Mary White Ovington, New York
Baltimore
Boston
Buffalo
Chicago
Cleveland
Detroit
Jersey City
Los Angeles
Memphis
New Haven
New York
Rev. John Haynes Holmes
Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois
Rev. H. H. C. Brown
George W. Crawford
R. R. Church
Dr. George B. Cannon
Hon. Ira W. Jayne
Harry H. Davis
Dr. C. D. Bentley
Jane Addams
Mary B. Talbot
Butler R. Wilson
Moorefield Storey
Joseph Prince Lund
Bishop John Hurst
Chalmers, Mary White Ovington, New York

Grand Jury Asks for Resignation of Sheriff

GRAND JURY ASKS 'LYNCH' SHERIFF FOR RESIGNATION INVESTIGATING BODY SAYS THE SHERIFF ALONE IS TO BLAME FOR TRAGEDY

Fort Myers, Fla., Dec. 15.—After a six days investigation during which two score of witnesses were examined, the Lee county grand jury Saturday freed 22 whites held in connection with the lynching of Henry Patterson at LaBelle, Mall 11 last, declaring that it was not able to determine the guilty parties. At the same time the jury recommended that Sheriff Dan McLaughlin of Hendry County, be dismissed from office on account of his failure to prevent the lynching or to make any arrests.

"Our investigation shows that the sheriff of Hendry county and his deputies and the peace officers of the town of LaBelle made absolutely no effort to disperse the mob, or to get the Negro away or to prevent his being hanged, it being the opinion of the grand jury that this lynching could have been prevented if these officers had done their duty," said the report, part of which follows:

"All of the witnesses have with a few exceptions, testified with reluctance, the majority appearing to be afraid to give any direct and positive evidence as to the identity of the members of the mob, the results being that we have not been able to obtain sufficient evidence to identify any of the members of the mob, which had a part in the killing of this Negro for an alleged attack on a white woman."

"Our investigation however abundantly shows that the sheriff of Hendry county and his deputies and the peace officers of the town of LaBelle made absolutely no effort to disperse

the mob or to prevent the hanging. "The sheriff of Hendry county having so signally failed to do his duty at this time, and has purposely, as it appears to this body after a careful investigation, avoided the mob, we feel that D. L. McLaughlin, sheriff of Hendry county, should be removed from office, and we recommend to the Governor, John W. Martin, that this be done; and we ask that your honor direct the clerk of the circuit court of this county to forward to Gov. Martin a certified copy of that part of this report which refers to the Hendry county matter."

Chairman, Mary White Ovington, New York
-BOARD OF DIRECTORS-
Boston
Cleveland
Detroit
Los Angeles
Memphis
New Haven
New York
Rev. Hutchens C. Bishop
Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois
Rev. John Haynes Holmes
Florence Kelley
Paul Kennedy
Louis Marshall
Ella Rusk Murray
Harry H. Pace
Arthur B. Spingarn
J. E. Spingarn
Herbert K. Stockton
Charles H. Studin
William English Walling
Isadore Martin
Dr. William A. Sinclair
Maggie L. Walker
Hon. Charles Nagel
Rev. G. R. Waller
Hon. Arthur Capper
Nannie H. Burroughs
Prof. George William Cook
Charles Edward Russell
Neval H. Thomas

P

The New York Evening Post,

New York City,

June 1, 1927.

3 KILLED, 31 SHOT BY TAMPA TROOPS

Soldiers Open Fire as Mob,
Seeking to Take Slayer From
Jail, Renews Outbreaks

RIOT BEGAN MONDAY NIGHT

Tampa, Fla., June 1 (AP).—Three men were killed and nineteen wounded, several severely, in two clashes with State troops last night and this morning at the county jail, where twelve others were wounded Monday night.

Reinforcements for the 500 national guardsmen holding the jail and a district within two blocks in each direction began arriving today from nearby towns.

There were sporadic clashes throughout the night between the soldiers and a crowd of 2,000 persons and once the troops opened fire with a machine gun, killing Hal Pifer of Ocala, Fla., foreman of drivers for the Blue Bus Line; Hugh Edward McRae of Fort William, Ont., whose sisters live here, and Earl McGill, who was otherwise unidentified.

The rioting had been in progress intermittently since Monday night when a mob gathered around the jail in search of B. F. Levins, who had confessed to the killing of Herman Merrell, his wife and three children with a hammer as they slept last Saturday morning. He said he had mistaken them for another family against whom he bore a grudge.

Colonel Sumter L. Lowry, commanding the National Guard troops, said today he had asked prosecution of members of the mob and of any one found talking violence. "These men had murder in their minds," he said. "Every man who fired at a soldier fired to kill. Such men must be prosecuted. Our forces will show the lawless element that we are prepared to cope with them."

For a time after arrival of the soldiers yesterday, the mob quieted down and no further disorders were anticipated. Last night, however, the rioting began again when a sergeant, leading a detail of six soldiers, was felled by a brick thrown by a member of the crowd which had continued to linger about the jail throughout the day.

The sergeant ordered his men to open fire with their side-arms. Six men fell wounded.

That was the signal for the battle to begin again, and before the firing had ceased the casualty list had mounted to three dead and about twenty wounded.

Since the first flurry Monday night

the mob apparently forgot about Levins, who, officers said, had been removed to another county for safe keeping. Their wrath turned on the officers. They yelled for Sheriff Hiers. His car was standing in the street and they reduced it to ashes. When the soldiers arrived the crowd vented its rage on them.

Store Windows Shattered

The crowd did not get within two blocks of the jail last night. Machine gunners were in a cemetery opposite the side of the prison and others were in the steeple of a church across from the front entrance. Troops manned two machine guns on the roof of the jail and manipulated a big searchlight that lighted up the area a block away.

Disorder reigned after each foray, and during the intermission there was sniping between the troops in the streets and civilians secluded on roof tops and in trees. Early in the night the mob shot out all the street lights.

Several persons who were treated for wounds at the hospital declared they fell several blocks away from the danger zone from stray bullets. Plate glass windows on Franklin Street, Tampa's main thoroughfare, three blocks from the military outposts, were shattered by the fire.

Chairman, Mary White Ovington, New York

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Baltimore

Boston

Buffalo

Chicago

Cleveland

Detroit

Los Angeles

Memphis

New Haven

New York

Philadelphia

St. Louis

Springfield

Topeka

Washington

Neval H. Thomas

Charles Edward Russell

Archibald H. Grimke

Prot. George William Cook

Namie H. Burroughs

Hon. Arthur Capper

Rev. G. R. Waller

Hon. Charles Nagel

Dr. William A. Sinclair

William English Walling

Charles H. Studin

Herbert K. Stockton

T. E. Spingarn

Arthur B. Spingarn

Harry H. Pace

John E. Millholland

John E. Millholland

Paul Kennedy

Florence Kelley

Dr. V. Morton Jones

Rev. John Haynes Holmes

Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois

George W. Crawford

Rev. Hutchens C. Bishop

R. R. Church

Dr. George E. Cannon

Hon. Ira W. Jayne

Harry E. Davis

Dr. C. E. Bentley

Jane Addams

Mary B. Talbert

Butler R. Wilson

Alcorfield Storey

Joseph Prince Loud

Bishop John Hurst