

The Nebraska Star

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1914

Associated Press.

United Press

SCENE OF BAD RIOT T MERCY OF A MOB

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UNAVAILING

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AFIRE.

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SCALE BY MEANS OF ROPE.

A small crowd of young men, none of whom appeared over twenty years old, then secured a rope, which they threw over the ledge of a second story window. One of their number mounted the rope to the window. From there he pulled up a ladder that had been provided and a score or more of his companions followed. Once inside the building they were followed by many more who began working their way to the upper floors.

The sheriff's office is on the fourth floor, facing north on Farnam street, and from the rear of his office is a stairway and elevator to the jail. What methods were used to force a passage to the jail is uncertain tonight. All of the men who got inside were apparently armed, because they fired numerous shots after getting inside. That occurred about 4 o'clock, af-

is in a critical condition at a local hospital. His physician declines to say just how seriously he is injured. A rope was thrown around his neck and he was pulled off the ground twice before two police officers succeeded in cutting the rope and getting him into an automobile and away from the mob.

The mayor had gone to the court house and held a consultation with Sheriff Clark. Emerging from the court house, he met the mob and began to make an appeal for law and order. Somebody shouted, "Lynch him" and a member of the mob threw a rope around his neck.

Half a dozen men dragged the mayor half a block and threw the loose end of the rope over a trolley pole. Twice they drew the mayor's body from the ground. Each time two police officers cut the rope. Following the second attempt these officers succeeded in getting the mayor into a police motor car and rushed him to a surgeon's office nearby. The mayor was bleeding from his mouth and nose and after a brief examination by physicians was taken to a hospital. At the hospital it was stated by the physician at midnight that he was still unconscious.

It is believed that the mayor's condition is very serious if not critical. A corps of physicians have been working over him ever since he was removed to the hospital. His face and body were badly bruised by being dragged by the mob.

CAUSE OF THE OUTBREAK.

The assault with which William Brown was charged, was committed on Agnes Lobeck early last week. With an escort, crippled beyond the

streets and others by those already on the inside.

Just as he started to make an appeal for law and order a soldier fired and a man in a soldier's uniform received a bullet in the head. A shout to lynch the mayor followed.

The mayor has never been so obnoxious in such matters as he is now who saw him at the time he was responsible for the shooting.

Tonight the whereabouts of the mayor were kept secret. Further attempts on his life by a few newspaper men known by their whereabouts.

Since the present city administration came into office Mayor Ringer has consistently supported the police administration of Sheriff Ringer, which has been a "reform" administration. He openly supported such changes in police personnel as were suggested by Mr. Ringer and this has been the source of considerable criticism in part of the partisans of the old administration.

During the rioting a large number of negroes were badly beaten on the streets, some of them dangerously injured. Chief of Police Egan himself was subjected to physical assault and narrowly escaped being killed when members of the mob surrounded the crowd and led him to the court house.

Thousands of persons gathered in the downtown district, many of them out of curiosity, but many showing decided hostility toward the would-be lynchers.

One explosion of dynamite was heard at the court house during the progress of the fire.

At 9 o'clock Sheriff Ringer announced the situation as being beyond his control and advised

CITY AT MERCY OF A MOB

Negro Assailant of a Girl Dragged From Jail and Hanged.

SHERIFF'S FIGHT UNAVAILING

FORCED TO YIELD WHEN COURT HOUSE SET AFIRE.

ATTEMPT TO LYNCH THE MAYOR

Rope Thrown About Neck, Victim Hauled Half Block and Seriously Injured—Police Almost Powerless.

OMAHA, Sept. 28.—Shortly before midnight the fire in the court house was brought under control, the mob was dispersing fast and it was believed that the sheriff's force and prisoners were safe.

OMAHA, Neb., Sept. 28.—William Brown, colored, was dragged from the county jail at 11 o'clock tonight and hanged to an electric light pole, following a struggle of nine hours to secure possession of him by an immense mob. Sheriff Michael L. Clark and his deputies held the fort in the top story of the court house, where is located the jail, with a hundred prisoners, until the building became a mass of flames, and he was forced to submit.

At 11 o'clock after Brown had been hung, the firemen were, for the first time, able to get a stream on the flames. At the same time additional extension ladders were sent to the third and fourth floors, where many of the occupants were standing on the window ledges on the one side of the building that had not yet been touched by the flames.

FIREMEN CHECK FLAMES.

The entire fire department was on the scene and many of the trucks were

side of the court house and much other damage done. From that time on until the negro was strung up to the pole the vicinity for many blocks around was a bedlam.

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That occurred about 4 o'clock, after the mob had been on the scene for two hours. From that time on panic reigned with the crowd on the street. Thousands of shots were fired.

FIRE IN TREASURER'S OFFICE.

The mob surged around the block on which the court house stands. Finally, about 7 o'clock in the evening after securing fuel of kerosene and tar they managed to start a fire in the office of the county treasurer, which is on the first floor and at the northeast corner. The first trial was a failure, but another one a few minutes later started a flame which spread to all four floors below the pail.

There was no time during the first half hour, however, that the flames could not have been easily controlled had the firemen been permitted to

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ing the second attempt these officers succeeded in getting the mayor into a police motor car and rushed him to a surgeon's office nearby. The mayor was bleeding from his mouth and nose and after a brief examination by physicians was taken to a hospital. At the hospital it was stated by the physician at midnight that he was still unconscious.

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A corps of physicians have been working over him ever since he was removed to the hospital. His face and body were badly bruised by being dragged by the mob.

CAUSE OF THE OUTBREAK.

The assault with which William Brown was charged, was committed on Agnes Lobeck early last week. With an escort, crippled beyond the point of resistance, Miss Lobeck met her assailant a few blocks from home in the southeast part of the city. He held up the couple at the point of a revolver. After robbing the young man, he assaulted the young woman in his presence, holding a revolver at the head of her escort in the meantime.

Later Brown was arrested by police officers and taken to the city jail, where both Miss Lobeck and her escort identified him as the man who committed the deed. Later it was stated that Brown had made a confession of his crime. He was taken to the county jail, which was considered a safe place for his confinement. Tonight's lynching followed.

SOLDIERS FROM THE FORTS.

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of the occupants were standing on the window ledges on the one side of the building that had not yet been touched by the flames.

FIREMEN CHECK FLAMES.

The entire fire department was on the scene and many of the trucks were rushed to fire houses to secure reserve hose.

The negro was pulled out on the south side of the court house, giving the firemen an opportunity to work on the north side where the fire started. The fire, however, had already destroyed valuable records which can never be replaced. As soon as the mob had accomplished its prime object, it appeared to be ready to subside and began to diminish.

The work of rescue then began. It was apparent that the jail story on the highest floor of the building was becoming intensely hot. Pleas were being made by those on the top floor for assistance. The handicapped fire department was already making heroic efforts to reach the panic stricken and by this time well nigh suffocated occupants of the top story.

NIGHT A WILD ONE.

The lynching followed an afternoon and evening fraught with mob demonstrations seldom recorded. When the first rumblings of a possible attempt to lynch Brown were heard during the forenoon Sheriff Clark called in all his regular deputies and swore in a number of others. The first act that indicated the mob was in earnest was a parade up Harney street by about fifty men who detrained from street cars a few blocks from the court house. They tore up Harney street at double quick and the sheriff's headquarters before he realized what had happened.

Appeals were made to the police station for help, and a few uniformed men were hurried to the place. In the meantime central station telephoned every man on the force and those on the south side to report at once. Being Sunday many of the men could not be found. The result was that several thousand persons had gathered on the south side of the court house before the police could arrive in any considerable number.

MOB FORMS IN NUMBERS.

The original members of the mob were augmented presently by hundreds of others, apparently equally de-

east corner. The first trial was a failure, but another one a few minutes later started a flame which spread to all four floors below the pail.

There was no time during the first half hour, however, that the flames could not have been easily controlled had the firemen been permitted to work. A general alarm had called out the entire department. No sooner could they run a line of hose, however, than it was cut by the mob. The fire was thus permitted to continue without effort to subdue it.

The police were absolutely powerless to do anything, except stand and watch the proceeding. As the fire continued to reach other parts of the fine big structure, the men continued their work in the upper stories to secure possession of the negro.

GET POSSESSION OF BLACK.

After more than two-thirds of the building had been destroyed and the fire was near the jail on the top floor, where the sheriff and prisoners had been finally forced to go, the mob in the building secured possession of their man and dragged him down the stairways, partly thru smoke and some flame, to the Harney street entrance. Once on the street the remainder of their work was accomplished in five minutes. For hours the crowd outside had been waiting for those who had dragged their victim to the street. Two shots were fired into Brown's body just after the noose had been placed around his neck. He was dressed in the simple garb of prisoners. When the mob started to drag him up Harney street half a block to a convenient pole his clothing was stripped clean from his body.

One of the mob climbed the pole and threw the rope over the cross-arm. A score or more men pulled Brown's nude body into the air and anchored the loose end of the rope. Hundreds of shots were fired into his body, many of the mob having secured shot-guns and weapons of all kinds.

PATROL WAGON SET AFIRE.

The mob at once dispersed, but not until they had met up with a police patrol wagon, overturned it and set it on fire at Fifteenth and Farnam streets.

Outside the death of the negro, the known casualties tonight numbered twenty-four, one of whom was killed and the remainder received wounds, most of which were the result of re-

committed the deed. Later it was stated that Brown had made a confession of his crime. He was taken to the county jail, which was considered a safe place for his confinement. Tonight's lynching followed.

SOLDIERS FROM THE FORTS.

About the time the mob accomplished the lynching, regular army soldiers started from Fort Omaha and Fort Crook, two nearby posts. Their aid had been sought early in the evening, but the routine necessary to secure an order for their detrainment for the city prevented them from getting started until nearly midnight.

As quickly as the soldiers reached the city they marched to the court house, where they were stationed at convenient points from which they could control the situation. Altho martial law was not declared, it was stated that the army officers had the situation well in hand and would be able not only to maintain order, but also to police the city, until conditions become normal.

Late tonight Superintendent of Police Ringer gave out a statement deprecating the lynching and the conditions which led up to it. He said he believed his force had done everything in its power to prevent the tragedy. He also expressed regret that the mob had been able to secure their man and lynch him.

A coincidence is that twenty-eight years ago to the day a negro named Neal was taken from the court house and hung on a pole just across the street from where Brown met his death.

BENT ON BURNING BUILDING.

The interior of the big court house building became a mass of flames by 10 o'clock, and, forced by the heat, a large part of the mob moved back from the building on the north side. They gathered again, however, on the south, where the heat had not become so intense.

At this point a present day Barbara Freitchie appeared at a window at the north end of the building in the person of an aged woman, who wildly flung old glory to the wind and appealed to the mob to desist. There were mingled cheers and hoots from the rioters, who yelled for the prisoner whom they sought to lynch. It had the effect, however, of giving the firemen an opportunity to run an extension ladder to the third floor, from

efforts to reach the panic-stricken and by this time well nigh suffocated occupants of the top story.

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Appeals were made to the police station for help, and a few uniformed men were hurried to the place. In the meantime central station telephoned every man on the force and those on the south side to report at once. Being Sunday many of the men could not be found. The result was that several thousand persons had gathered on the south side of the court house before the police could arrive in any considerable number.

MOB FORMS IN NUMBERS.

The original members of the mob were augmented presently by hundreds of others, apparently equally determined to lynch Brown. They yelled for their prisoner and attempted to get into the court house. The few police officers who had arrived were unable to keep them from breaking the doors for only a short while. A colored officer was among those to report for duty at the court house. His presence angered the crowd beyond reason. He was the first victim of violence and his life was saved only by the hardest kind of a tussle by the officers. As it was he was badly beaten up.

The sheriff then coupled up three lines of interior fire hose and with his deputies and some police officers attempted to cow the crowd by turning the water on them. Instead of having that effect, it brought a hail of stones and bricks. In ten minutes fifty windows had been broken on the south

side of the building secured possession of their man and dragged him down the stairways, partly thru smoke and some flame, to the Harney street entrance. Once on the street the remainder of their work was accomplished in five minutes. For hours the crowd outside had been waiting for those who had dragged their victim to the street. Two shots were fired into Brown's body just after the noose had been placed around his neck. He was dressed in the simple garb of prisoners. When the mob started to drag him up Harney street half a block to a convenient pole his clothing was stripped clean from his body.

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Late tonight it is believed that there were no casualties in the county jail as a result of the fire. Altho the fire had made the jail quarters smothering hot, the occupants were able to remain there until the firemen subdued the flames following the lynching.

The body of the dead negro was dragged about the street for several hours following the lynching followed by a morbid crowd of hooting men and boys.

ATTEMPT TO LYNCH MAYOR.

An attempt to lynch Mayor Ed. P. Smith was made this afternoon by the mob which later hung William Brown, negro, to a pole. The mayor tonight

became normal. Late tonight Superintendent of Police Ringer gave out a statement deprecating the lynching and the conditions which led up to it. He said he believed his force had done every thing in its power to prevent the tragedy. He also expressed regret that the mob had been able to secure their man and lynch him.

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Thousands of spectators are on the streets. Either the police are cowed by the mob, or else they cannot be organized in efforts at stopping it from committing its depredations.

MAYOR NOT BELLIGERENT.

The situation which resulted in the attempt to lynch Mayor Smith has not been cleared up late tonight, and there are a number of conflicting stories. It is stated by one of the officers who assisted in the mayor's escape that he emerged from the court house with a revolver in his hand.

Numerous shots were being fired at the moment, some by men in

a local streets and others by those lynchers lines to already on the inside.

Just as he started to make his appeal for law and order a shot was fired and a man in a soldier's uniform received a bullet in the hand. The shout to lynch the mayor followed.

The mayor has never been a belligerent in such matters and nobody who saw him at the time believes he was responsible for the shot.

Tonight the whereabouts of the mayor were kept secret for fear of further attempts on his life. Only a few newspaper men knew of his whereabouts.

Since the present city administration came into office May 1, 1918, the mayor has consistently supported the police administration of Superintendent Ringer, which has been known as a "reform administration." He has openly supported such changes in the police personnel as were recommended by Mr. Ringer and this action has been the source of considerable criticism in part of the partisan press.

During the rioting a large number of negroes were badly beaten on the streets, some of them dangerously injured. Chief of Police Eberstein was himself subjected to physical violence and narrowly escaped personal injury when members of the force charged the crowd and led him to safety.

Thousands of persons congregated in the downtown district, some of them out of curiosity, but great numbers showing decided sympathy for the would-be lynchers.

One explosion of dynamite was heard at the court house during the progress of the fire.

At 9 o'clock Sheriff Clark announced the situation had gotten beyond his control and asked Fort Omaha for assistance of regular troops.

Just after darkness set in an immense crowd began sacking a downtown gun and ammunition store, which the police were powerless to prevent for the time being. The crowd reached enormous proportions during the evening, every street within a radius of four or five blocks being jammed with humanity.

(Continued on Page Two.)

WILSON BACK HOME MUST TAKE A REST

ORDERED BY PHYSICIAN TO REFRAIN FROM WORK.

Illness Described as Serious, But Not Alarming—Mass of Public Matters Awaiting His Attention.

BY ARTHUR SEARS HENNING.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 28.—(Leased Wire Service.)—President Wilson returned today from his western tour suffering from a serious, tho not alarming, nervous breakdown, and unable to give immediate attention to the greatest aggregation of domestic and foreign difficulties an American executive has confronted in many a decade. Mr. Wilson walked from his train to his motor, lifting his hat with trembling hand, and smiling at the greeting throng. After a rest of several hours at the white house, the president was taken for a drive by Mrs. Wilson and Doctor Grayson. He was allowed to see no callers and retired at an early hour.

Complete unbroken rest the president must have, says Doctor Grayson, emphasizing the intention to see that his patient gets it. Altho the condition of the executive is not deemed alarming, recovery will be a matter of some weeks under the most favorable circumstances, and Admiral Grayson fears that unless it is possible to keep his mind off pressing public matters, it may be months before Mr. Wilson's shattered nerves resume their equilibrium.

May Go to Some Resort.

The physician hopes that he will be able to carry out his program of rest with the president remaining in the white house and eventually resuming his drives and his golf. But if this should not prove feasible Doctor Grayson will take his patient to some resort where climate and seclusion will aid recovery.

Secretary Tumulty found his office in receipt of requests from scores of officials and representatives of various interests for conferences with the president upon pressing questions as soon as he should return. Senator Hitchcock and other administration leaders in the senate desire to inform the president of the outlook in the league of nations contest. Democratic

THE WEATHER.

Nebraska — Unsettled, probable showers on Monday night or on Tuesday; cooler in south and east Monday; Tuesday showers.
Iowa—Unsettled Monday; cooler in east and south portion Tuesday showers and rather cool.
South Dakota—Unsettled, probable showers by Monday night or on Tuesday; continued cool.

MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.
The Associated Press is exclusively entitled to the use for publication of all dispatches credited to it or not otherwise credited in this paper and also the news published herein.

IN THIS PAPER.

- Page One.**
Omaha was the scene of a race riot with negro lynched and the city at the mercy of a mob.
Germany has been ordered to get the Der Goltz army out of Lithuania.
President Wilson is back in the white house and has been ordered by his physician to take an extended rest.
If the united mine workers' demand is granted the price of coal may be doubled.
Steel masters expect to see many men turn to work this week in the Pittsburgh district.
- Page Two.**
Samuel Gompers predicted victory for steel-workers.
Congress faces a busy week, with the treaty and the steel strike engaging attention.
Railroad traffic in Great Britain is most complete standstill.
- Page Three.**
Detroit, St. Louis and Washington vote the American league.
New York (2), Chicago and Pittsburg in the National league.
Lincoln high will stage the curtain for the local football season with clash with Sioux City this week.
The constable at Guide Rock, Neb., notified of a bank robbery at Center, Kas., in which it was believed one or more men were killed.
- Page Four.**
Rural Nebraska: Postal reports of live stock conditions.
- Page Five.**
The past week in Wall street influenced largely by the steel strike.
The Utah legislature, called in special session, is to deal with high prices.
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Editorial: What do we stand to lose by rejecting the proposed peace treaty?
- Page Seven.**
The army is called upon to sell its surplus of usable motor cars.
- Page Eight.**
Mere Mention.
People You Know.
Who proposed the motorcycle course first one-coursed Lincoln 20 years ago.
- Page Nine.**
Page devoted to home economics.
- Pages Ten and Eleven.**
Classified want advertisements.
- Page Twelve.**
C. A. Lord writes of great social movement in Buffalo within the past few years.

PRESSURE PUT ON GERMANY