

when 150 masked men burst into the temporary jail and fired upon the begging, screaming, groaning, helpless group of prisoners until four were killed and five desperately wounded. Commenting upon this infamous crime, the Macon Telegraph makes some gratifying observations. It views the occurrence with horror, and boldly charges it to race antipathy. This antipathy, it says—

is deep seated, ineradicable, but it can be prevented from leading to atrocities such as this, and it must be prevented, or anarchy will one day reign among us. Were the blacks powerful, dreaded, challenging the other race to battle, the matter would have a different aspect. As it is, compared with the whites, they are weak and practically helpless, and therein is the chief horror of these wholesale slaughtering. The men who take part in them bring more evil upon themselves than upon their hapless victims. That they are ready to dip their hands in human blood lightly and recklessly, without any just provocation, implies a moral obliquity of mind and a brutal perversion of all humane instincts that should be a source of grave concern for their friends and their community. It means that the springs of compassion and human kindness are dried up to their source.

A brave sentiment from such a source. But a true sentiment from any source. If this masked mob was ready to dip hands "in human blood lightly and recklessly," what made them do so? The bloodguiltiness rests not upon these sanguinary wretches alone. It rests upon the community that cultivates race antipathies by denying to one race the common rights that are freely accorded to the other. Deny common rights to any class and—if they be weak and timid, as the negroes are apt to be—you invite every brute of a man whose accidents place him in the superior class, to assert his dubious title to superiority by cowardly acts like that at Palmetto. In the horrible butchery there by those masked men, whites everywhere, north as well as south, may see their own race antipathies in action. For brutal mobs are to the communities that generate them, what murder is to men who cultivate hate—living

pictures of their own cherished passions. The Macon Telegraph is profoundly right when it says that the tragedy at Palmetto "means that the springs of compassion and human kindness are dried up to their source."

A member of the Oregon legislature, one of those who participated actively in defeating the Torrens system of land transfers, publishes explanations of his conduct that are astonishing. He calls the bill a "graft." The Torrens system, he says, has no advantage over the present system either in cheapness or convenience. And, then, to make his justification of his opposition to the bill complete, he explains that "the blooming innocents" who advocated it in the lower house, after it had passed the senate—got up and howled that there could be no graft because it was optional with the owner of the legal or equitable title to put the land under the system, or not, just as he wished; but the bill requires each county to purchase a large number of books and blanks assumed to be necessary whether any person in the county cared to put his land under the system or not. Then it was disclosed that these books and blanks are known as the "Torrens system," are all patented, and the county using them would be obliged to pay for them either at an outrageously exorbitant price, or pay an outrageous royalty.

As soon as that was discovered, concludes this Oregon statesman, the measure got its quietus.

That Oregon statesman, if not a very simple minded man, must be a rare specimen of "grafter" himself. If the bill he helped to defeat provided no cheaper method of transfers than that now in vogue in Oregon, the Oregon system must be extraordinarily simple and cheap, or the Oregon Torrens bill was badly framed. In Chicago, where the Torrens system is now in operation, it costs \$24 to register a title where there are no adverse interests, plus 1-10 of 1 per cent. of the value of the property to go toward an indemnity fund. After that, each transfer involves the payment of a fee of only \$3; and in two years the title becomes unassailable. In point of cheapness the old system cannot com-

pare with that. And as to convenience, a title once registered—a proceeding which involves no more inconvenience than the passing of a title once—it becomes as easy of transfer as a promissory note.

When the Oregon objector to the Torrens land transfer system asserts that the books and blanks required are patented, and that the system would therefore cost counties adopting it large sums in royalties or exorbitant prices for stationery, he is either imposing upon his constituents or is imposed upon by interests that seek the retention of the present system for the fees that are in it. His statement is manifestly false. The Torrens system is too old for anyone to have a patent on it. Even if it were not old, it is nothing but unpatentable book-keeping.

Upon being consulted upon the subject, Mr. Theodore Sheldon, of Chicago, official examiner of titles under the Torrens system, denied flatly that there are any patents of books or blanks. He himself prepared the Chicago forms, and turned them over to one of the city stationers who now provides the books and blanks at ordinary stationers' rates. Said Mr. Sheldon, further, the system is some 700 years old in Germany, where all land is transferred by the Torrens method; and in England it has existed as a voluntary system since 1875, and been compulsory since 1897. In London it is in universal use. The system prevails also in Australia, and in every province in Canada except Quebec. It has existed so long not only in Germany and England, but in Australia and Canada, as to make the notion that the books and blanks are patented ridiculous.

North Dakota is trying to outstrip all the other states in fool legislation. The lower house of the North Dakota legislature has passed a bill compelling applicants for marriage to undergo an examination before a board of physicians, and forbidding marriage to any who fail to pass.