

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, FRIDAY, JULY 21, 1916.

British Suffragist Here in War on Lynching Due to Burning of Boy at Waco

Miss Elizabeth Freeman, English and American suffragette, twice imprisoned in England for militancy, later famous as the driver of the horse "Suffragette" in the "hike" from New York to Washington, again in the public eye when, with Upton Sinclair, she walked up and down in front of the Rockefeller home as a "silent mourner" for those slain in the Colorado mine troubles, is in Detroit as the field leader of a new campaign, a nationwide movement to put down lynching and to punish lynchers and officers who do not resist them.

Before an audience of white and colored people in the Unitarian church, Thursday evening, and later at a gathering of colored people in the Ebenezer A. M. E. church, Miss Freeman vividly depicted the horrors of the lynching of 18-year-old Jesse Washington before a mob of 15,000 in Waco, Texas, May 21.

This slightly-built young woman with steady blue eyes, her hair tinged with auburn, seemed to have power to rouse everyone who heard her voice, whatever their race.

RESULT OF LYNCHING.

She was hurled rather suddenly out of suffrage activities into this campaign. She was in Texas speaking for suffrage, when she received a New York telegram from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, asking her to go to Waco to investigate the lynching.

She came back with data, interviews, and even photographs. Now she is on a tour of the country raising a fund of \$10,000 to prosecute the

leaders of the Waco mob and the officials who let the Negro boy get into the hands of the lynchers.

"Suffrage is war," said the young militant when she met a representative of The Journal, Thursday afternoon. "That cause has gained such momentum that there is no such crying demand for help as there was. But lynching is growing in our country—there were 65 of these murders in the first five months of the year, and it has become a national problem."

"In this matter I represent the South as well as the North. The better white people of the South are as earnest in desiring law and order as any northerner. But in Waco there was apparently a shameful willingness on the part of officials to curry favor with the lowest elements of the populace by permitting this lad to get into the hands of those fiends."

"This boy was 18. He seems to have been deficient mentally, a type who would have been sent to a home for the feeble-minded in many states. However, he was able to work, and was economically valuable. So he was allowed to work, though he never learned to read or write."

BOY IS SCOLDED.

"His people were tenant farmers on a plantation. Under this system the family work for the land-owner and also have their own patch. The mistress of the house once scolded the boy for beating his mules. Later the colored lad had a fight with a white man and the white man threatened to kill him. I don't know whether that threat put the idea of 'kill' into the boy's weak mind or not."

jaw, hitched the chain to an automobile and started off. The boy was mutilated on the street. He was jabbed with penknives. He was struck with boards armed with projecting nails. When he was rushed into the street he gave one cry, "Haven't I one friend in all this crowd?" It was like a voice from the grave.

"The crowd swept along with him, first to the suspension bridge, and then back to the city hall square. Everyone told me the fire under the tree was lighted until he arrived, but I have a photograph showing the fire burning."

"The boy was well built and strong. He fought to the end. He was dragged to the tree in front of the city hall, and in front of the window of the mayor's office, with the mayor looking on, and the photographic apparatus also installed in the mayor's office."

"Everyone seemed to know what to do. The chain was fixed about the lad's neck and his body, covered with gore from head to foot, was hoisted over the fire. At this time one brute performed unwittingly the only act of mercy during the whole horror. He stabbed the Negro in the back of the neck, and this seems to have severed the spinal cord. But before this was done, the boy grabbed the chain with both hands to hold it free, so they cut off his fingers to make it impossible for him to grab anything."

"The body was roasted over the fire for two hours. Then a man rode up on a horse, though he was in a condition in which he was hardly able to keep his seat. He lassoed the body and dragged it through the streets of the city, out to where the crime took place, and back. He fell from his horse a few times, but was helped on."

"In this horrid ride the head fell off and it was placed on the steps of a notorious house. They say school children jerked out some of the teeth and sold them for \$5 apiece. Links of the chain were sold for 25 cents a piece."

"Now this affair has aroused a new indignation against lynching all over the south. The reputable press and the leading citizens are against it

with one voice. The time has come, I think, to strike against lynching, and strike hard."

WACO A GOOD CENTER.

"Waco is no wild-and-wooly settlement. It is a city of 40,000. It is the seat of a Baptist university, a Catholic college, a state agricultural and military colleges. There are 39 white and 24 colored churches. And undoubtedly a majority of the people are opposed to lynching and ashamed of this outrage, but they were helpless on that occasion."

Miss Freeman will address several audiences during a few days in Detroit. She was introduced at the Unitarian church, Thursday evening, by Attorney Francis H. Warren. After a brief address she went to the Ebenezer A. M. E. church.

At Ebenezer church, Miss Freeman deeply moved her audience, but not to that demonstrative emotion which some would expect. The audience included some of the best-known Negroes in Detroit. On the platform sat the Rev. James Henderson, pastor of the church; the Rev. R. W. Bagnall, rector of St. Matthew's Episcopal church and his father, Rev. Robert Bagnall of Spartanburg, South Carolina, and Mr. Warren.

Before Miss Freeman's recital, Dr. Bagnall called on all the congregation to rise and repeat the Lord's prayer. As her story proceeded many of her auditors trembled, and some shed silent tears, but no one uttered a sound. The silence was like that of a house of mourning.

Mrs. Dean and Mrs. Bernard sang beginning and at the end of

Would Stop Lynchings



MISS ELIZABETH FREEMAN.

Miss Elizabeth Freeman, who is touring the country in the interests of the anti-lynching fund being raised by the Executive Board of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, will speak in behalf of the movement at the Unitarian church Wednesday evening and at the Ebenezer church, Antoine and Erskine streets, Thursday evening.

Miss Freeman is reputed to be an eloquent speaker. Her description of the various lynchings in the south, especially her account of the recent Waco horror, are said to be masterful.

The executive board behind the movement includes Moorfield Storey, former president of the National Bar association; Dr. J. E. Spingar, New York, Oswald Garrison Villard, editor of the New York Evening Post, Dr. W. E. B. Dubois, New York, John E. Milholland, New York, Rev. John Haynes Holmes, New York, Jane Addams and Dr. C. E. Bentley, Chicago, Dr. William A. Sinclair, Philadelphia, and many other prominent sociologists and professional people.