

## Lynch Law

The Indianapolis News, a strong advocate of war measures against Germany, refers to the lynching of a man accused of pro-German sentiments in Illinois, and described it as murder.

"This crime came as the climax of a series of lawless acts, all of which must be greatly deplored. There could be no worse way for an American citizen to show his patriotism. We are in this war very largely for the purpose of upholding law against a Government that has shown the utmost contempt for it. We can no more justify private 'justice' under the plea of State necessity than Germany can justify her invasion of Belgium for that reason. The laws of our States and nation are as sacred as international law."

This is sound reasoning, and is as applicable to Canada as to the United States. The law should be as strictly observed in cases of alleged offences committed by alien enemies or sympathizers as in other cases. If, for instance, Spade, who was attacked by a mob in Toronto, had committed any offence, against his neighbor, he should have been arrested or summoned, and tried in exactly the same way as any other offender. There is no excuse for violence. Our courts are not slack in the treatment of charges against offenders of this kind.

There is, as the Indianapolis News points out, a special reason for the solemn and regular trial of all who are accused of offences in the nature of **sedition**. The trial should be conducted so that we may feel a pride in our courts as parts of our free institutions. It should afford a bright contrast with the lawless violence which we condemn in the Prussians. There should neither be mob law nor loose and irregular procedure in the courts.