

DEPLORES THE ACT.

Mayor Cravens of Salina, Kan., Talks Concerning Thursday Night's Lynching.

R. P. Cravens, Mayor of Salina, Kan., where a negro was lynched Thursday night for a murderous assault with a razor on Troy Shout, night freight agent at the Union Pacific depot, is in Kansas City on a business trip. He left home a few hours after the lynching and will return tonight. Mayor Cravens speaks of Salina as one of the best and brightest cities in Kansas and deploras the unlawful act of the mob. Salina is 185 miles from Kansas City on the Union Pacific railroad. The Mayor is a pleasant, fine-looking man, and in his lapel he wore a fragrant button-hole bouquet when seen by a TIMES reporter at the Blossom House last night, and seemed to be enjoying life thoroughly.

"The negro was named Dana Adams, not Dan, as the newspapers have had it," said the Mayor. "His parents live in Salina and he was less than 20 years old, but had a bad reputation. I regret the affair, but so far as the city is concerned it was unavoidable. The man was a State's prisoner and in charge of a State official. Of course the city officials were willing to prevent the lynching, but it was done almost before any one knew what was going on. I was at the time in consultation with the city marshal over the affair and other matters of the kind and was surprised at the occurrence. The situation in Salina is not as bad as it appears. Of course this matter, coming on the heels of an attempt to lynch Hudson, has attracted much attention to us. Had it not been for the Hudson matter Adams would not have been lynched. Either of these events are liable to occur at any place. I hope the country will not take the work of the mob as a discredit on the Salina people in general. We have an especially well-behaved community and an unusually larger number of schools and colleges for the size of the town.

"I suppose the lynching was the work of railroad men, who thought a good deal of Shout. Everything is probably quiet today, else I would have received some advices to the contrary. No, I do not think the mob was the same that tried to lynch Hudson. Some persons may have been in both mobs. As soon as I heard of the affair I began an investigation. Phillips, the deputy sheriff from whom the prisoner was taken, said he didn't recognize any of the lynchers. I was getting ready to come to Kansas City and didn't have time to make a thorough investigation. The sheriff and coroner took up the matter, announced an inquest for today and began immediately summoning witnesses.

"The sentiment of the people of Salina is that the hanging was not right. Of course there are some who will say Adams got what he deserved. But they are very few. The mob, I believe, was a small one, but it did its work quickly. Adams was taken just two blocks and hanged outside the freight office where he butchered Shout. The rope was pulled across a pin half way up a telegraph pole.

"There was little excuse for the hanging. Swift justice had already been meted out to Adams. Scarcely had twelve hours elapsed until he was on his way to the penitentiary under a sentence of seven years. Whether the men who composed the mob will be discovered is doubtful. I suppose the sheriff's force and State authorities are working on the matter.

"The lynching was unexpected, the perpetrators profiting by the incidents attendant to the attempt to hang Hudson. Then there was noise, bluster and open talk among the men who wanted to take the law into their own hands. Yesterday there was no such talk, and a lynching was not even whispered. Hudson has left the city, having been acquitted, and will probably never return. His life was saved by the people who didn't want the fair name of Salina besmirched."