



Smithsonian Institution

National Museum of African American History and Culture

The Crisis, Vol. 13, No. 5

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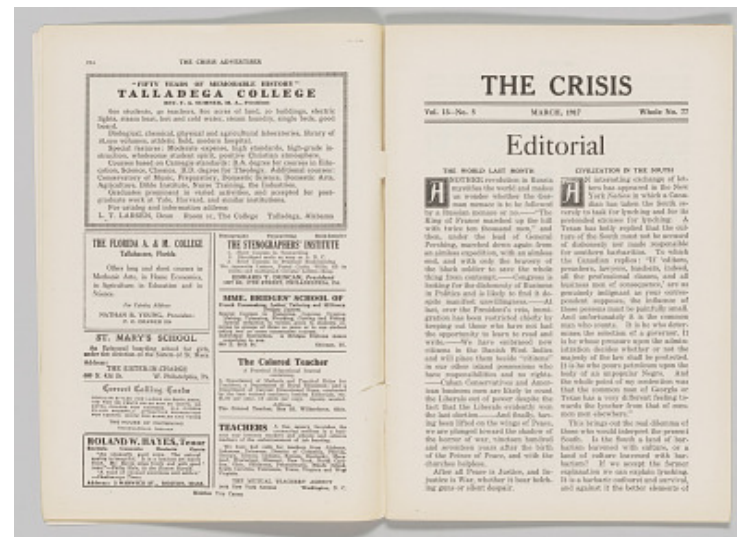
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Mention THE CRISIS

THE CRISIS
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Editorial
THE WORLD LAST MONTH
ANOTHER revolution in Russia mystifies the world and makes us
wonder whether the German menace is to be followed by a Russian
menace or no. "The King of France marched up the hill with twice ten
thousand men," and then, under the lead of General Pershing, marched
down again from an aimless expedition, with an aimless end, and with
only the bravery of the black soldier to save the whole thing from
contempt. Congress is looking for the dishonesty of Business in Politics
and is likely to find it despite manifest unwillingness. At last, over the
President's veto, immigration has been restricted chiefly by keeping out
those who have not had the opportunity to learn to read and write. We
have embraced new citizens in the Danish West Indies and will place
them beside "citizens" in our other island possessions who have
responsibilities and no rights. Cuban Conservatives and American
business men are likely to count the Liberals out of power despite the
fact that the Liberals evidently won the last election. And finally, having
been lifted on the wings of Peace, we are plunged toward the shadow of
the horror of war, nineteen hundred and seventeen years after the birth

of the Prince of Peace, and with the churches helpless.
After all Peace is Justice, and Injustice is War, whether it bear belching
guns or silent despair.

CIVILIZATION IN THE SOUTH

AN interesting exchange of letters has appeared in the New York Nation in which a Canadian has taken the South severely to task for lynching and for its pretended excuses for lynching. A Texan has hotly replied that the culture of the South must not be accused of dishonesty nor made responsible for southern barbarities. To which the Canadian replies: "If 'editors, preachers, lawyers, teachers, indeed, all the professional classes and all business men of consequence,' are as genuinely indignant as your correspondent supposes, the influence of these persons must be painfully small. And unfortunately it is the common man who counts. It is he who determines the selection of a governor. It is he whose pressure upon the administration decides whether or not the majesty of the law shall be protected. It is he who pours petroleum upon the body of an unpopular Negro. And the whole point of my contention was that the common man of Georgia or Texas has a very different feeling towards the lyncher from that of common men elsewhere."

This brings out the real dilemma of those who would interpret the present South. Is the South a land of barbarism leavened with culture, or a land of culture leavened with barbarism? If we accept the former explanation we can explain lynching. It is a barbaric outburst and survival, and against it the better elements of

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