

MOB, VICTIMS INNOCENT.

Woman Declares Negroes Hanged and Burned Were Not Her Assailants.

Mob Members Being Arrested.

Four men were put under arrest at Springfield, Mo., Monday, charged with being leaders in the mob that broke into the county jail Saturday night and lynched three negroes. Two of the alleged mob leaders are in jail and two have been released on bond. One of the men arrested told Sheriff Horner that a collection would be taken to pay for the damage done by the mob to the sheriff's property. The offer was refused.

Judge Lincoln of the criminal court has ordered a special grand jury convened to make a thorough investigation of the lynching and the other acts of the mob and to indict all the leaders that may be apprehended. The better class of citizens are now strong in their demand that the rioters be punished to the full extent of the law and every effort will be made to secure convictions.

After the meeting of the criminal court, Roscoe Patterson, prosecuting attorney, said:

"I shall file information and issue warrants for the arrest of every man I can learn was concerned in the lynchings or the assault upon the jail. These arrests will be made as quickly as possible, without waiting for the grand jury to act."

Warrants for twenty-five persons charging them with being leaders in the mob were issued.

Mabel Edmondson, the white girl who was assaulted, declared Monday that Duncan and Copeland, two of the negroes lynched, were not her assailants.

Notwithstanding the presence of armed troops the fact that a grand jury has been called to indict the leaders of Saturday night's mob; that the county prosecutor has promised to issue warrants immediately, and the best citizens have decried the triple lynching, the streets were full of people who approve the mob's work and who curse all negroes and advise that they be run out of town. Danger of mob violence is not past. Hundreds of men openly curse and jeer the soldiers. Hundreds of men boldly utter the threat that if arrests are made the people will arise and rescue the men, drive the militia as well as the negroes from the city.

Everywhere the threat is heard: "This town is too small for negroes and whites to live. One or the other must go."

An incident showing the trend of the feeling took place near the courthouse where hundreds of people were gathered, walking aimlessly about. A negro, leaning against the court house, with the troops nearby, made the remark in a swagger manner: "Give the colored men the guns and we'll show you."

White men threatened to close in on the negro, but officers hustled him away to jail. In another minute apparently he would have been trampled to death. Conservative citizens, knowing how deep seated is the feeling toward the negroes, fear that some trivial incident may at any time start a bloody riot.