"Exhibit M" Report of Grand Juny.

WHEREAS, riots have recently occurred in the City of Lect St. Louis that have appalled our good citizens and brought shame and disgrace to our city and done an incalculable injury to the prosperity and future welfare of the city; and,

WHEREAS, these riots and the unlawful acts attending them have brought upon us the severest condemnation from the entire country; and.

WHEREAS, there is a feeling among our own citizens that there may be a recurrence of whese tragedies that is greatly alarming them and reterding the resumption of normal conditions; and,

WHEREAS, we believe it is necessary that the lawabiding citizens of East St. Louis take such action as will reinstate us in the good opinion of our neighbors and friends, and to assure the entire country that steps will be immediately taken for the enforcement of the law and the preservation of life and property, and that assurance be given to all of our law-abiding citizens, irrespective of race or condition, that in the future they will be absolutely secure in our midst.

THEREFORE, the following declaration is promulgated : We, the citizens of East St. Louis, who are in favor of law and order and in the protection of life and property, in a meeting assembled, declare that,

lst. Without undertaking to specifically account for the recent riots that have taken place in the City of East St. Louis, it is necessary to state griefly what has occurred.

About a month ago a riot took place in our city in which a number of citizens, under the pretext of driving from the city all colored people located here, marched down our streets and assaulted every colored person that came in their way, and it so happened that nearly all of the nerroes assaulted were of our old time citizens and most of them law-abiding people. A number of vicious and lawless negroes took advantage of the excitement brought about by this riot and under their leadership and impassionate pleas for revenge, the worst element began to organize and arm themselves for this purpose, and on Sunday night, July 1st, when it was reported among them that someone was riding through the southern portion of the city, shooting into their homes, this lewless and armed band met at a late hour of the night in one of their churches on an agreed signal given. When the police officers learned that the negroes were assembling in the church, believing that a riot was likely to start, a number of officers were sent to dispel them, and as they reached the church these officers, without any warning, were fired upon and two of them brutally murdered. This greatly aroused the white people and was the immediate cause of the riot on July 2d in which so many people lost their lives and so much property was destroyed.

2d. We, in the most emchatic terms, condemn the action of the rioters in the latter part of May. By their action they were defying the law and whre administering punishment to innocent and unoffending people.

In the same manner we condemn the action of the lewless and savage negroes who, on Sunday night, July 1st, armed themselves for the purpose of committing deliberate wurder, and who carried out these intentions by killing two of the officers of the city.

We are at a loss to find language to express our indignation concerning the action of the rioters on July 2d; their unwarranted acts stand without a parallel in the history of our country. These rioters, without the slightest effort to discover the persons who had murdered the East St. Louis officers, directed their wrath against colored people who they knew had had nothing to do with the murder. They in the most savage and brutal manner set fire to their homes and shot them down as they were fleeing for their lives. Some were not

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permitted to escape and lost their lives in the flames of their burning homes.

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3d. We believe that the principal cause of this riotous conduct is the laxity in the punishment of crime that has prevailed for some time past. On account of this indisposition to punish crime there has grown up in our midst an irrespect and irreverence for the law that has brought about the harvest that we have just reaped. Many criminels, both black and white, have found a congenial home in our city, and have carried on their criminal acts without the slightest fear of the pains and penalties of the law. For all of this the police department of our city and those officials charged with the conservation of the law are the most to blame. They have not taken the steps that should have been taken to rid our city of this lewless element, and they are to be condemned in the severest terms for the helpless and inefficient manner in which they permitted these disgraceful riots to take place in our city. We believe that this is largely due, not from a diposition upon the part of our various police officers to fail to enforce the low, but from a lack of an organization and an understanding on the part of the heads of the police department that all violators of the law, irrespective of race, politics, conditions or associations, should be apprehended and punished.

While we commend the action of Adjutant-General Dickson for the able and efficient manner in which he and the men under his direction are handling the present situation, and for which we feel extremely grateful, we cannot help but condemn the action of the militie who were in our city on the second day of July pretending to give to the city aid, but who were wholly inactive and, in come instances, aiding and abetting the rioters.

It is said that a municipality usually receives the government that it merits. We believe that the good people

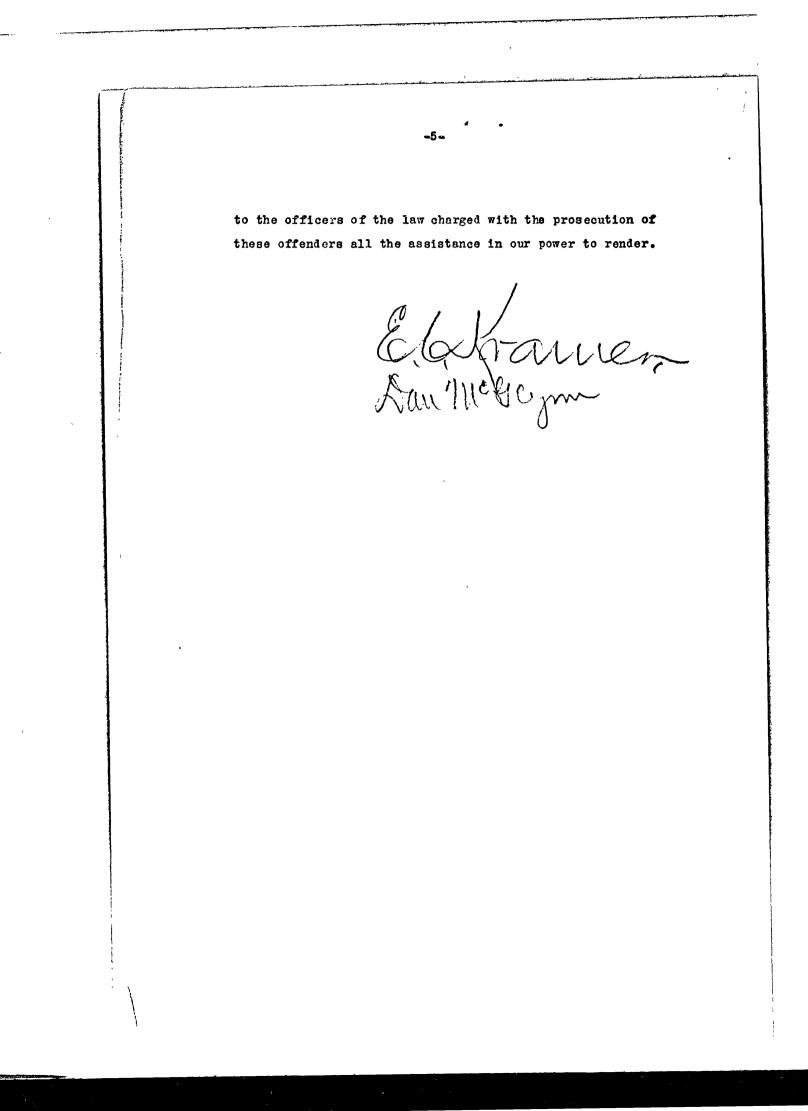
of the city of East St. Louis are not without blame for the terrible experiences through which they have just passed. They have not been ignorant of the reign of crime that has been going on in the city and the failure on the part of the police officers and other officials to punish offenders, and yet they have been so engrossed in their individual affairs that they have entirely overlooked and neglected to perform a public duty, and it has taken this terrible tragedy to arouse them to a sense of the responsibility they are under to the community in which they live.

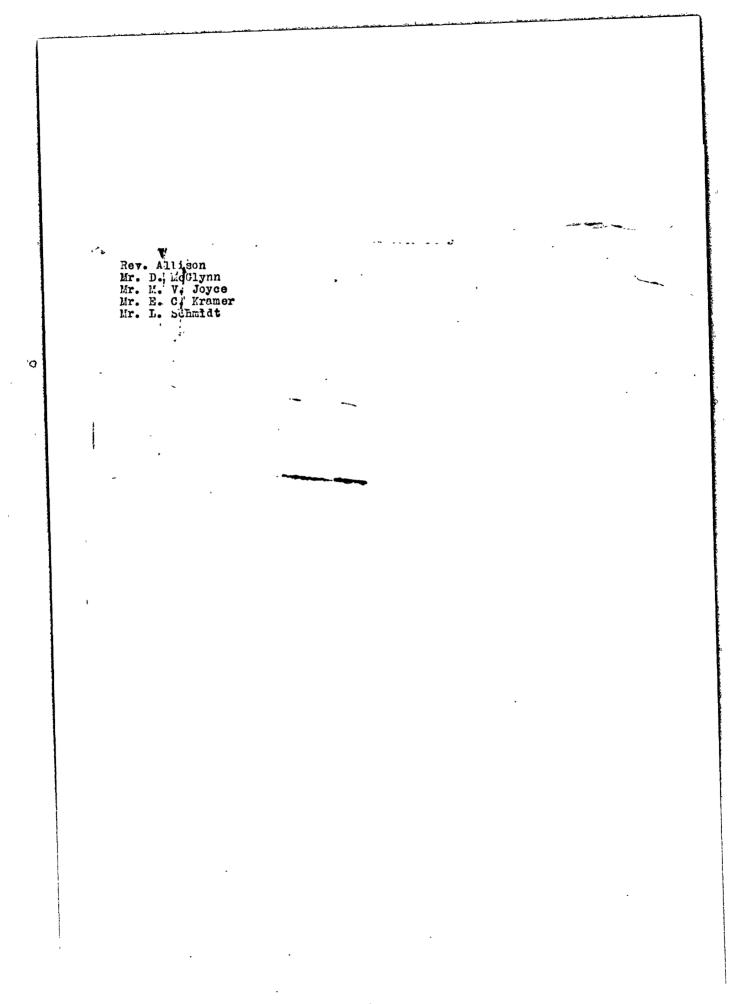
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4th. The good people demand that our city be rid of the criminal class that has recently infested it; that the law be strictly enforced, without fear or favor, and that there be no influence in the city that can screen or immune any offender; that all law-abiding persons in our city, be they ever so humble, white or black, rich or poor, be absolutely secure in their lives, liberty, property and the pursuit of happiness; that all persons, hereafter, who have a grievance, be it real or imaginary, must resort to the law for redress, and we pledge that we will see that nothing be spored to punish persons, white or black, who attempt to take the law into their own hands.

5th. We demand that the police department of the city be reorganized upon such a basis that the law will be enforced as hereinabove stated. And we pledge to the Mayor our entire support in so reorganizing the police department of our city and in bringing about every reform that tends to peace and good order.

6th. We demand that every effort possible be out forth to punish the persons who murdered the officers Sunday night, July 1st, and to vunish all of the persons guilty of murder and arson and assaults on Monday, July 2d; and we bledge





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