

Edward A. Hodge

Dear Sir: I thank you for your thoughtful letter. I have not been unmindful of the tendency of which you speak but I do not think it the result of any specific campaign of ^{unwhipped} persuasion. The time is hardly ready for that though events are opening it every fast. Public sentiment is rarely manufactured by intended effort. It grows out of conditions. In my opinion the influences from which ~~the~~ the present hostility and contempt for the government of the United States chiefly spring are

- 1 - The fact that rebellion proved to

(over)

be an entirely safe and even profitable
business. Nine-tenths of the public
men of the south would never
have been heard of but for the
part they took in this ^{the first} struggle.
The great lesson of the war was that, in the
United States rebellion is the safest and
most profitable business a politician can
engage in.

2 - Kluksism with its thousands of
dead and scores of thousands
of striped and mutilated citizens
thought that murder and treason
are the cheapest, surest and quick-
est means to secure power. That
the killing of its citizens is a matter
of no account to the American
Republic.

These lessons read in the light
of Kansas conditions give to-day's
results in that Commonwealth, and
in all probabilities, tomorrow's
war.

Suppose anarchy should become universal in Kansas. Suppose the desperate resolutions should be adopted to destroy all records. Suppose the Governor should refuse to call for troops or ask the assistance of the Federal Government, what would be the result? There could be no impeachment because of the double House.

I see no reason why Kukluxism should not become the only rule in Kansas and either anarchy or civil war the resultant. If there is anything to be guessed from conditions there are what we must expect in that state.