Mob Hanging Better Than Judicial Murder Says Joh The Atlanta Constitution (1881-2001): Aug 18, 1915; ProQuest Historical Newspapers Atlanta Constitution (1868 - 1945) pro L hn M. Slaten

Mob Hanging Better Than Judicial Murder Says John M. Slaten

Former Governor Declares There Are Conditions the Frank Case About Which Constitute Tribute to Georgia.

San Francisco, August 17 .--- In an ad-San Francisco, August 17.—In an ad-dress today to the San Francisco cen-ter of the California Civic league, for-mer Governor John M. Slaton of Geor-gla, who commutel the death sentence of Leo M. Frank to life imprisonment, declared he would prefer to have Frank lynched by a mob than to have him hanged by judicial mistake, because "one reached the soul of civilizathe other merely tion, reached the body."

body." Mr. Slaton's address, devoted almost entirely to discussion of the Frank case and the lynching of Frank, was de-livered in the presence of a majority of members of the California supreme court and other prominent persons, members of the league. To big address Mr. Slaton said:

In his address Mr. Slaton said: "I would prefer Frank to be lynched by a mob rather than that he be hanged by judicial mistake. One attacks the soul of civilization; the other merely reaches the body. This has been such a lesson to Georgia that I hope it will never occur again in our has

been such a hope it will never occur age civilization. "There are conditions about the Frank case which constitute a tribute to the state of Georgia. No wonder it is difficult to open the ears of Geor-gians to reason. They forget the iden-

itity of the offender in the magnitude of the offender in the magnitude of the offense. "There were many good people—as good as I—who disagreed with me be-cause, they said, I set aside the verdict of a jury and interfered with the func-tions of a duly exercised court of law. But when these people find out the truth of the Frank case, their general condemnation of me will turn to gen-eral approval and they will know that I saved the state from a stain which never could have been eradicated." "Consummate Outrage."

"Consummate Outrage."

"Consummate Outrage." Mr. Slaton was informed this morning that Frank had been lynched. "The act was a consummate outrage," said Mr. Slaton, "and every man en-gaged in the lynching should be hanged, for he is an assassin. Such an act is contrary to the civilization of Georgia, and one which every good citizen will condemn. "I could use no language too con-demnatory. I believe the governor of Georgia will use all the power of the state to punish the malefactors who disgraced the civilization of Georgia. "Their act was one of cowardice, which beiongs alone to the assassin. Shocked and Horrified. "I am shocked and horrified beyond

Shocked and Horrified. "I am shocked and horrified beyond expression. Any man who approves of this action of this mob of murderers is unworthy to be a Georgian. Any man or newspaper who condones this of-fense ought to be driven out of the state. But the conduct of this misera-ble mob of assassins is the conduct of the same sort of people who shoot peo-ple from vehind a fence or murder a woman from a cowardly heart." Mr. and Mrs. Slaton, in about a week, will go to San Diego to visit the Puna-ma-California exposition, and after-wards will return to their home in

to their return home wards will Georgia. "Of co

Georgia. "Of course I'm not afraid to return to Georgia," he said. "This act of lynch-ing Leo Frank is not that of the good people of my state. It's the act of a few criminals. I'm going to spend the rest of my life in Georgia. I'll be back home by the middle of Septem-ber." be