

Convicts at State Farm Ask Pardon For McNaughton

Milledgeville, Ga., July 24.—(Special.)

Over one hundred and thirty-five convicts at the state farm have signed a petition asking Governor Nat Harris to pardon Dr. J. W. McNaughton, whose prompt attention probably saved the life of Leo Frank last Saturday night, following the attack on Frank by J. William Creen.

The petition reads:

"For nearly two years Dr. McNaughton has ministered to our sufferings. He has answered our calls at any time, day or night, and always cheerfully and willingly. We have learned to love him and feel grateful to him for the reason that he has devoted his life and efforts for nearly two years to relieving suffering.

"He has our utmost confidence and we fully believe in him. We have tried him in the crucible of prison life, and he has not been found wanting.

"We beg of you that you harken to our petition and prayer that you grant mercy and liberty to this Christian man who has done so much to render our lives more endurable while in prison and who has unfailingly answered our every demand with a smile.

"We beg of you that your excellency will grant a full and speedy pardon to Dr. McNaughton, who we believe fully merits it."

Dr. McNaughton, when told of the petition, declared it was purely voluntary on the part of his fellow prisoners and expressed deep appreciation to

them. McNaughton is serving a life term, having been convicted in Emanuel county of the murder of Fred Flanders. There always has been considerable doubt expressed in his case, and for this reason his original sentence—death—was commuted by Governor John M. Slaton to life imprisonment.