

FRANK SENTENCE COMMUTED

Begins Life Sentence



LEO FRANK

Prisoner Taken Under Guard To Milledgeville State Farm To Serve Life Sentence There

The sentence of Leo M. Frank, condemned to die for the murder of Mary Phagan on Memorial day two years ago, was commuted late last night by Governor John M. Slaton to life imprisonment.

Late last night the prisoner was taken out of the jail, under guard of Sheriff Mangum and a number of his deputies and carried to the Terminal station.

He was placed on Central of Georgia train No. 8, which left at 12:01 o'clock this morning for Milledgeville, where Frank will at once begin serving a life sentence.

Every effort was made by The Constitution to get details on the commutation, but all officials were non-committal. Governor John M. Slaton, when seen at his country home early this morning, refused absolutely to discuss the case.

Frank was seen at the Terminal station, as he passed through to take his train to Macon by six or seven employees of the Terminal station and by Officers Carter and Watson, of the Atlanta police force. The policemen state they know Frank, have seen him often, and are certain of their identification of the prisoner.

The governor's action in the Frank case came as a complete surprise to everybody, since it was generally believed that there would be no decision announced until late this afternoon, or possibly tomorrow morning, on which day Frank was sentenced to hang.

With reporters watching at the jail the prisoner was slipped out of some back door to the jail, and was hurried to the station. There tickets were purchased and the party boarded a train.

From Atlanta to Macon there were no developments, the trip being a very quiet one, and few people on the train knowing that the end of one of Georgia's greatest cases had come in commutation.

At Macon the train was met by a number of reporters. Frank and his guards left the train at the Central City and Frank selected an automobile, in which the entire party left at once for the state farm at Milledgeville, where he will probably be given some light work.

The prisoner had little to say about his case or about the action of the governor in commuting his sentence. Sheriff Mangum talked freely of the case. He said that the governor had commuted the sentence early in the night, and that plans had at once been made for taking Frank to the state farm.

The governor will give out his opinion on the case early this morning, telling just why he acted, and why he believed that the sentence should be commuted.