

# Frank Starts Prison Work; Noisy Crowd at Governor's Home Dispersed by Militia

## Solicitor General Hugh Dorsey Issues Statement in Which He Says That He Believed That Slaton Was Disqualified to Pass Upon the Case and Declares He Cannot Find in His Statement Single Reason Why Sentence Should Have Been Commuted.

### "I DID MY DUTY," STATES THE GOVERNOR; "INNOCENCE WILL BE PROVED"—FRANK

#### Major I. T. Catron and Lieutenant Arnold Parker Injured by Missiles Thrown by Members of the Crowd at the Governor's Home—Many Arrests Made by Police During the Day—Slaton Hanged in Effigy in Two Cities Monday.

Atlanta passed one of the most exciting days in her history Monday following the exclusive announcement in The Constitution that the sentence of Leo M. Frank had been commuted by Governor John M. Slaton. Some of the most important developments of the day and night follow:

Crowd estimated at 1,200 people marched last night to home of Governor John M. Slaton, near Buckhead, creating considerable disturbance on the way. They were met by battalion of the Fifth regiment, which quickly dispersed the crowd.

During the night Lieutenant Arnold Parker was injured by brick; Major I. T. Catron was struck by bottle; one member of crowd was hit over head with automatic, and several prisoners taken. Many arrests made by police during day.

Mass meeting held Monday afternoon in senate chamber. Sheriff Mangum makes address, telling of his trip with Frank to prison farm.

Frank arrives in Milledgeville and gives out statement, in which he expresses his thanks to governor and asserts his innocence will eventually be proved.

Solicitor Dorsey gives out statement, in which he scores action of governor in commuting sentence.

Governor Slaton gives out statement, in which he analyzes case and tells why he commuted Frank's sentence. "I am confident I did right," he says.

Governor Slaton and Frank burned in effigy in Newnan; governor hanged in effigy in Marietta and Woodstock; Valdosta starts fund for monument to Mary Phagan.

Developments came thick and fast yesterday following the departure of Leo M. Frank to Milledgeville to begin serving a life sentence there.

The prisoner left Atlanta, accompanied by Sheriff Mangum and a number of deputies, at 12:01 o'clock. The party reached Macon shortly before 3 o'clock, there secured an automobile and by 5 o'clock Frank was an inmate of the state prison farm at Milledgeville.

Shortly after being admitted reporters were permitted to see him.

His appearance spoke clearly the tremendous strain through which he had gone. Upon being asked whether he had anything to say, he said in clear and composed language: "I am grateful beyond words to the governor for the way he has disposed of the case. I felt confident all the while that it would turn out as it has. Somehow I just felt confident that I would not hang. Of course, I am unsettled, as you see, from the tremendous nerve-racking experience through which I have been drawn, especially during the last trying hours of this ordeal. No person can know what I have gone through."

**Believes Innocence Will Be Proved.**

"And I am not composed enough at this time to give you an intelligent and connected conversation. Just say that I feel more than I can express in words, and am happy that my life is saved. Time will prove, as I have often told you, the fact of my absolute innocence of the murder with which I am charged."

"I felt in my heart all the time a secret assurance that I should not hang." And with a firm look directly in the face of his interviewer, he paused briefly and added, "I am innocent."

"I had begun to think I wouldn't get to see this place," was the significant remark made by Frank to Warden Smith, just after his arrival with Sheriff Mangum at 4:55 o'clock.

Both Frank and the sheriff appeared very nervous when they reached the prison, and the sheriff heaved a sigh of relief as he delivered his charge to the penitentiary officials. The strain of the trip down from Atlanta had told on both. The sheriff remained here but a few minutes, returning to Macon in the automobile in which he had made the hurried trip out.

Frank was first registered and then dressed in his suit of stripes, after which he was taken to the bunkroom of the main building for a bit of rest before being given his breakfast. Strict orders were issued to permit no one to see him, except on specific order from the prison commission in Atlanta. Also Superintendent J. M. Burke and Warden Smith were instructed by the prison commission to immediately double the force of guards at the prison.

#### DORSEY'S STATEMENT.

Averring that he considered Governor John M. Slaton disqualified to pass upon the Leo M. Frank case, Solicitor Hugh M. Dorsey, who prosecuted the prisoner, Monday afternoon issued a statement denouncing the bestowal of clemency and explaining why he had gone before the governor to oppose the Frank plea for commutation.

The statement, in full, is as follows: "The action of Governor Slaton nullifying the judgments of the state and federal courts and overriding the rec-

ommendation of the state board of pardons was as surprising to me as it was unprecedented.

"No defendant within my recollection has had the benefit of more appeals to the judicial processes, state and federal, than Leo Frank. His guilt was conclusively established beyond a reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of an impartial jury of twelve reputable Georgians and their verdict was approved by the trial judge and affirmed by the supreme court of Georgia. Repeated efforts to have the judgment set aside have been denied by the state supreme court, the United States district court and the supreme court of the United States.

"With the unbroken record of all available courts declaring Frank guilty of the heinous crime with which he was charged, the influential friends of Frank appealed to the state board of pardons elected by the people to pass on applications for pardons and commutations to be considered by the chief executive of the state, and the pardon board sustained the records of the courts of justice and declined to recommend the application for a commutation."

**Satisfied of Verdict.**

"I did not appear before the pardon board because I felt confident that, with the evidence and the court records before them, there would be no interference with the course of justice. When their decision refusing to recommend commutation was transmitted, I felt it to be my duty to plead for the enforcement of the law by the chief executive because I knew the force of the influences at work to upset the judgments of the courts and of the pardon board."

"I knew that the senior member of Governor Slaton's law firm, Rosser, Slaton & Phillips, was the leading counsel for Frank, not only throughout

