

ATLANTANS FAVOR NEW FRANK TRIAL

Four-fifths of City's Population Wants Him to Have Another Chance, Says The Georgian.

RACE PREJUDICE IS DENIED

Newspaper Appeals for Impartial Justice for the Sake of the State's Reputation.

Special to The New York Times.

ATLANTA, April 18.—Under the caption "Atlanta Must Have No Aftermath of Bitterness" The Atlanta Georgian publishes the following editorial regarding the case of Leo M. Frank:

An honest newspaper carries always a very serious sense of responsibility to its community and to the State. It is the duty and the policy of every real newspaper to fearlessly record the facts with accuracy, to interpret fairly the public sentiment, and, when it can do so, to wisely lead the public sentiment of the people who support it. The Georgian feels this obligation keenly, and hopes to illustrate it always.

No greater and more serious issue has confronted the life of this community than has been developed in the case of Leo Frank. When it was the wise policy to cover this issue with the mantle of silence, we have followed that policy. There are reasons now—due respect for justice and for the unity of our people and for the public opinion of the country—why something should again be said by an Atlanta newspaper touching this case. And this period of comparative tranquillity and reason is the time to say it.

It is lamentable past all expression that there ever crept into this tragedy and the question of guilt or innocence of this young man charged with murder any possible feeling between the two races which for fifty years have grown up side by side in full fellowship, in friendship, in progress, and in patriotism, in the City of Atlanta.

No Spirit of Prejudice.

No feeling of prejudice or proscription against the Jewish race was ever representative of Atlanta. The Georgian firmly believes that no feeling or discrimination growing out of the earlier details of the Frank trial expressed the representative feeling of this broad-minded and liberal-spirited capital of the South. If such a feeling was expressed anywhere by the Gentile blood, it was impulsive, unthinking, unwise, and unrepresentative, wherever it had racial flavor. If it was expressed by any representative of the Jewish race, it was equally unwise and equally unnecessary. There has entered into the annals of the Jewish race in America so much less of crime than into the record of any other race that the Jewish race, of all others, could best afford to ignore any racial issue, and view this purely as a civic question, involving the peace and order of society and the State.

The Georgian believes above all things in the majority and fairness of the law. It believes that no cleaner and abler Judges dispense justice in any city or State of the Republic than the judicial officers of the lower and the higher courts of Georgia. Whatever their final decision in this matter is should be received in good faith and in good temper, as the full and fair conclusion of a great issue, and all classes and all races should accept it in this spirit, and resume as speedily as possible that high and cordial interchange of civility and confidence and friendship which has made this a united, progressive, and marvelously successful city.

Having said this much, The Georgian, after a long and deliberate survey of the situation, does not hesitate to express the conviction that four-fifths, if not nine-tenths, of the thinking people of Atlanta would be glad now to see this young man, Leo Frank, have another chance to prove his innocence if the law and the evidence will permit it. If a new trial can be had under the law and under the evidence, it would be good for the city and for the South, and would do much to clear the atmosphere of bitterness and prejudice, that the new trial should be granted, and we feel sure that every Judge in the higher and lower court entertains the same opinion. If it cannot be had under the written law, and under the legal evidence, then no just man and no law-abiding citizen of any race or any condition should want it.

First to Take This Stand.

The Georgian was the first daily newspaper in Georgia to advocate this view. Only recently our esteemed contemporary, The Journal, had an editorial along the same line.

On Nov. 1, 1913, The Georgian's editorial said: "Every accused person under the law must be given the benefit of doubt. That is fair. That is justice as the American people understand it. When Judges and people are in doubt it is time to pause, and if necessary to retry. Better that ten guilty men should escape than one innocent man should suffer, saith the Holy Scripture."

The Georgian on March 10, 1914, said: "The evidence on which Frank was convicted is not clear. Suppose he is hanged, and it should develop that the man was innocent as he claims, the people of this State would stand before the world convicted of murdering an innocent man by refusing him an impartial trial."

At the time of writing The Georgian editorial feeling was so high in Atlanta that The Georgian's stand was misunderstood and criticised as having undue consideration for the Jewish race. But a period of calmer thought and better judgment has convinced our citizenship that The Georgian's attitude was impartial and its advice sound. The Georgian has no personal or racial concern for Frank. This paper does not care whether he is a Jew or a Gentile, a Christian or an Atheist. The Georgian's concern is for the people of this country—for the reputation of this city and State—for unity and confidence among our own people—for exact justice without passion or prejudice.

It is first of all for the supremacy of law and justice—of law that will always be founded on impartial justice, and of exact justice under the law.

DOG CHASE AT THE WALDORF

Fugitive Pomeranian Starts a Hue and Cry in Thirty-fourth Street.

What threatened to be a "mad dog" scare originated in the Waldorf late on Friday afternoon. The trouble started in the foyer as a simple chase for a runaway pet, continued through Peacock Alley, and out by the head porter's desk at Thirty-fourth Street, where the crowd joined in the hue and cry.

A woman who goes to the hotel to tea, slips the lash of her tail-less black pomeranian after she has gone to her table. Only a few days ago the dog got away, and there was a chase after him, but he was caught before he got outside of the building. This time the animal got a good start before his owner missed him. When she did so, she screamed, and ran after him.

Bellboys and porters took up the chase, and the doorman made a dive as the "pom" shot by him. Messengers were sent out the Astor Court entrance in the hope that the dog would turn at the corner, but he kept straight on. Through the tangle of traffic at Broadway the dog slipped easily, while his pursuers were halted by the cars. Boys and men joined in the chase once he had crossed that thoroughfare. Cries of "Catch him!" "Stop him!" arose, and many who saw the animal coming got out of the way, thinking it might be mad. The dog did not halt until midway of the block between Seventh and Eighth Avenue, when a fleet messenger boy from the hotel made a dive after him and rolled over on the sidewalk with his quarry.