

# ABSOLVE FRANK ON IMMORALITY CHARGE

to-day by Chief Lanford is a severe indictment of the Police Department of this city and of the outrageous methods used in the prosecution of Frank. The admission of Chief Lanford is a complete exoneration of Frank, and may result in his ultimate vindication.

WILLIAM J. BURNS.

Police Retreat May Presage  
Collapse of Murder Conviction,  
Burns Wires The Times.

## AFFIDAVITS ACCUSE CONLEY

Negro Confessed the Crime, Wit-  
nesses Swear—New Revelations  
Startle the Prosecution.

By Telegraph to the Editor of THE NEW  
YORK TIMES.

ATLANTA, Ga., April 24.—The Police Department to-day withdrew the charge of perversion against Leo M. Frank. This is most astounding.

Fifteen days ago I issued through the press a request for any information reflecting on the character of Frank. Receiving no response to this I subsequently offered a reward of \$1,000 for the furnishing of such information. Responding to this request, Chief of Detectives Lanford made the statement to the press that he could furnish me with affidavits reflecting on Frank. Thereupon, my Southern representative Mr. Dan S. Lehon, in my absence, called on Chief Lanford and requested to see the affidavits referred to. Much to his surprise Lanford declined to turn the same over to him, stating that he would only deliver them to Mr. Burns, himself.

On my return I promptly requested to see these affidavits. Chief Lanford replied that he would not turn them over to me because the hearing on Frank's motion for a new trial was about to be heard before Judge Hill, but promised to give them to me after the hearing. I also asked him if he would discuss other features of the Frank case with me, and this also he declined to do."

Falling to get any response to my request for information as to any immoralities on Frank's part, I increased the reward to \$5,000, and up to this date have not had a single response. This morning the defense having concluded its evidence before Judge Hill, I again called on Chief Lanford to see the affidavits and any information he might have reflecting on Frank. He again declined to show them to me, and stated that he would not surrender the affidavits or furnish me with information, adding: "Besides, we have never charged Frank with perversion."

On hearing this astounding statement, Attorney Henry A. Alexander, who was with me, said: "Do you mean to tell me in the presence of these gentlemen that the charge of perversion was never made against Leo M. Frank?"

Lanford replied: "I do. The State and the Police Department does not now and never has contended that Frank is a pervert."

In view of the fact that Frank was convicted of murder and sentenced to hang largely upon the charge of perversion, the attitude of the Atlanta Police Department, speaking through Chief Lanford, who was the individual personally in charge of the gathering of evidence against Frank, is most amazing, and, in justice to Frank, should be given the widest publicity, as I insist that the charge of perversion was the very foundation of his conviction, without which the mass of perjuries on which the State relied would never have been credited for one instant.

Bearing in mind the numerous filthy charges of perversion which saturated the community prior to the Frank trial and aroused public passion, the charge of perversion injected into the case by the State upon the trial and the argument of the Solicitor General as to the accused's perversion, both upon the trial in the court below and in the Supreme Court of Georgia, the statement made