

MURDER TRAIL NOW CLEARER---BURNS

Detective in Frank Case Sure of
Finding Girl's Missing Purse
and Hat Trimmings.

PROMISES TO NAME SLAYER

Not Working to Clear Frank, He
Says, but to Find the Guilty Man,
Whoever He May Be.

Special to The New York Times.

ATLANTA, Ga., March 20.—W. J. Burns, who is hard at work on the Frank murder case, declared to-day that he was already in a position to clear up the mystery of Mary Phagan's missing purse and pay envelope, and the ribbons and flowers missing from her hat.

The disappearance of the slain girl's mesh bag has remained one of the baffling features of the case. Jim Conley, having never before mentioned it in any of his sworn statements, startled the courtroom at the trial of Leo M. Frank by declaring that he saw it on Frank's desk when he went in the latter's office to write the murder notes after the girl had been killed.

Burns was non-committal when he was asked if he actually had found the missing articles or simply had ascertained their disposition by the murderer.

"I will explain everything about the mesh bag, the pay envelope, and the other articles when my final report is made," he promised.

Mr. Burns also announced that he was studying the work of A. S. Colyar in the Frank case. Mr. Colyar is a lawyer who obtained dictograph records for the police. Burns admitted that he had located Colyar in an Alabama city and that his men were investigating every incident of Colyar's connection with the murder mystery, including his alleged effort to obtain testimony defamatory to Frank's character by a \$1,000 bribe.

"If all I hear about this man is true, he ought to be in jail," said Burns. "I imagine he has been successful in escaping much of the imprisonment which he deserves, not so much because he is clever, but because the authorities think he is not entirely responsible."

Burns will find out every detail of Colyar's connection with the Detective Department and with Chief Lanford, for whom, it was generally understood, he was working when he dictographed Col. Thomas B. Felder and Mayor Woodward.

The detective said that his investigation was progressing satisfactorily, and that every day the trail of the murderer grew plainer and easier to follow. He added that his final report would contain evidence that would dissipate the last remaining doubt as to the identity of the murderer, although he would not say whether his report would affect Frank or some other person.

"I intend to prove absolutely the identity of the guilty man," said Mr. Burns. "I will leave nothing to the imagination, nothing to prejudice. That may sound as though I am boasting, but I am just egotistical enough to believe that I know what I am doing, and that I can do what I say I can. I can find the murderer of Mary Phagan, and I will find him and before very long, too."

Mr. Burns also took occasion in conversation with newspaper men to contradict rumors that he was working on the case solely with a view to clearing Frank. This he declared to be ridiculous and absurd.

"I am here to find the murderer, not to shield Frank or any one else," he said.

"I went into this case with the understanding that I should be impartial; that if I found after careful investigation that Frank was the guilty one, I should say so without reservation. There is not enough money in the world to tempt me to thwart justice, or to aid in thwarting it. I came into this case with an open mind, with a contract that gave me liberty to investigate as I

pleased, without the necessity of shielding any one, and I intend to continue making my investigation impartially, and will find the guilty man and prove that he is guilty, no matter who he may be."

Mr. Burns reiterated his intention of seeing Jim Conley and interview the negro, but would not say when he expected to do so.

"Throughout the plot of this murder can be seen plainly the thread of a criminal's mental process," said Burns. "The slayer of Mary Phagan was a criminal of the worst type."

Conley's attorney, William A. Smith, had this to say regarding Burns's plan to interview his client:

"Detective Burns in this matter will at least be taught that he is merely a 'private detective' working for his employers, private parties. He is not even a citizen. Burns has no right in this matter. He is in no way connected with the administration of the law of this State."

Mr. Smith also attacked the detective for the publicity he had obtained in connection with the Frank case. A final paragraph of Smith's statement reads: "Give us facts, give us truth, give us light and eliminate the advertising programme."

Mr. Smith declares that if Burns ever sees Conley it will be necessary for the detective to consult the negro's counsel in a gentlemanly manner and to agree to conditions which the attorney will stipulate. Smith says that Burns cannot affront the laws which govern the rights of a prisoner in the predicament in which his client was.

Further arraigning Burns for the publicity which had followed his connection with the mystery, Attorney Smith said:

"It ought to be to the everlasting shame and disgrace of William J. Burns that he should come here to perform a high service for truth's sake and sacrifice it upon the altar of his desire for publicity."

PREPARE FOR OCEAN FLIGHT

Four English Airmen to Try—Plenty of Ships to Offer Aid.

Capt. T. A. Ross of London, who came here to investigate the opportunities for opening up an American branch of an European aeroplane motor company, informed officials of the Aero Club of America yesterday that at least four British airmen would be competitors in the transatlantic flight for the Lord Northcliffe prize of \$50,000.

He said that Claude Grahame-White had purchased a 225-horsepower Austro-Daimler motor to be installed in an aeroplane built for transatlantic service, and that Lieut. Thomas Sopwith of the British Army, who made extensive flights on Long Island during 1912, had purchased two similar motors, one for himself and one for a friend, whose name he would not divulge.

Capt. Ross said that the aeronautical fever was just beginning to take a firm hold on England and that the country was determined that from now on it would not be left out of the great aeroplane competitions.

Capt. John Black, a seafaring man who has been plying the North Atlantic steamship lanes for nearly half a century, held a long conference yesterday afternoon with Arnold Kruckman, who is in charge of the Panama-Pacific Exposition's plans for an around-the-world aeroplane flight.

The conference took place on board the Anchor Line steamship Columbia, of which Capt. Black is now in command.

Mr. Kruckman was somewhat astonished to be told that fears which had been emphasized in all discussions up to date about the conditions over the North Atlantic were totally groundless. The skipper denied that an airman flying from Newfoundland toward the Irish coast would be out of touch with any possible help at sea should he be forced to make a landing.

Capt. Black called Mr. Kruckman's attention to the fact that so much wheat was now being raised in Labrador that the Canadian Pacific Railroad was building a railroad line to the north-east corner of the North American Continent and from a terminal to be established at Cape York would open up a steamship route to Europe during the coming Summer.

This steamship route will be operating when the flight occurs in 1915. Capt. Black insisted also that fishing smacks from Gloucester dotted the waters all the way from Newfoundland to Greenland, and that in the late Summer months there is comparatively open water with a steady temperature and winds.

To Try Tannenbaum Next Week.

Judge Wadhams in General Sessions yesterday fixed Tuesday next as the date of the trial of Frank Tannenbaum, the I. W. W. leader, for participating in an unlawful assembly. Assistant District Attorney T. Channon Press moved for a peremptory trial. It was said that there would be thirty witnesses for the defense.