

MORE PASTORS URGE RETRIAL FOR FRANK

State and Church Are at Bar,
Mr. Lines Declares in Uni-
versalist Pulpit.

BURNS SEEKS CLUES HERE

Will Visit New York This Week
with Frank's Attorney to Make
an Important Investigation.

Special to The New York Times.

ATLANTA, Ga., March 22.—In two Atlanta pulpits to-day strong demands were made that a new trial be granted to Leo M. Frank, under sentence of death for the murder of Mary Phagan. The Rev. F. A. Lines, pastor of the First Universalist Church, devoted his entire sermon to the Frank case. After charging that mob conditions surrounded the trial of Frank and that the jury in convicting the defendant responded to the mob spirit, Mr. Lines said:

An ever-increasing number believe most strongly in Mr. Frank's innocence. Some of the greatest psychologists in the nation, with no personal bias either one way or the other, after a careful review of the briefs in the case, express the opinion that, in view of the facts, it is impossible that Mr. Frank could have committed the crime for which he has been sentenced to hang. William J. Burns, the greatest detective in the world, says that Frank is no pervert; indicates a belief in his innocence; says that the trial is plain; that he will surely unravel the mystery and discover the guilty man. The trial Judge himself expressed a doubt as to this man's guilt or innocence. Two Judges of the Supreme Court expressed the opinion that he should be given another trial. A vast amount of new evidence which has a direct bearing upon this most remarkable case is daily coming to light.

In the face of all this shall we allow a human being, a brother man, to hang without a fair and impartial trial? Surely the heart and mind of man should answer "No." The State of Georgia is on trial, not Leo Frank. The Church, the Christian people of this city and State are on trial. The eye of the nation is upon us. Shall we be true to ourselves and to our State and to the ideals of democracy in hearing and heeding the demands of justice?

I plead for a new trial for Leo M. Frank in the name of that justice which demands for every man the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; which recognizes the sacredness of human life and zealously guards its forces; which transcends prejudice, vengeance, malice, hatred; which demands that truth shall prevail and that all life shall be conserved to ends of human usefulness and divine service.

Frank's Trial Not Fair.

In the prelude to his sermon, the Rev. G. L. Hickman, a leading minister, said:

"I want Leo M. Frank to have a

new trial for this reason: At the time he was tried it was impossible to give him a just trial under the conditions that prevailed. Give him a chance for his life, is my plea. It is easy to take, but it is impossible to give life. If Leo M. Frank is innocent, give him a fair chance to prove that he is innocent. If he is guilty, let him pay the penalty."

Charles A. Picquet, Member of the General Assembly from Richmond County, ex-Judge of the Recorder's Court in Augusta and a well known member of the Augusta bar, to-day made public this card:

"From what I observed of the trial during the last session of the General Assembly I am thoroughly convinced that the verdict of the jury was based purely on the general sentiment of a misled and prejudiced mass of Atlanta's community; and, under the circumstances which surrounded the accused at the time of the trial, such a trial as the law demands was impossible."

A feature of the case is the increasing number of letters from women demanding a new trial for Frank. Some of the most prominent women in the State are taking great interest in the case.

Detective Burns and Attorney Leonard Haas, representing Frank, are going to New York to investigate an angle of the case. Haas left to-day and Burns goes to-morrow.

The particular angle of the Frank case which exists in New York has been shrouded in secrecy. Detective Burns declared that it would be one of the most important features of his investigation. His inquiry there is expected to last three days or more.

Rumors of a Police "Frame-up."

It is rumored that the New York end of the investigation concerns evidence regarding the tactics of the prosecution in the Frank case. A certain handwriting expert of New York is said to be a principal in the affair. On the other hand, it is said that Burns and Haas go to New York to examine Nina Formby and H. F. Becker, witnesses who have furnished newly discovered evidence for the defense.

That Burns is investigating the rumors of a police "frame-up" is obvious from his course in Atlanta during the last week. Nina Formby is the strongest accuser of the police in regard to the tactics employed. It is said that the evidence Burns expects to obtain on his New York trip will be among the strongest arguments presented in the application for a new trial to be submitted before Judge Hill.

Immediately upon finishing his work in New York Detective Burns will return to Atlanta. The question whether he shall be allowed to see the negro, Jim Conley, has not yet been settled. The negro's attorney, William M. Smith, said to-day:

"Conley doesn't mind facing Burns. The thing I want to be assured of is just treatment of my client and myself. If Burns will agree to this, very well. We can then reach an agreement."