

in his intention to mete out due punishment, for it is only in that way that they can free the reputation of the State from the odium which has been brought upon it. Only in that way can the people of Georgia atone for the shame and humiliation they have brought upon the whole country by permitting a mob to override the laws. The bar of Georgia should make itself the leader in the effort to absolve Georgia from the deep discredit of this monstrous act. Many members of the Georgia bar share the very widespread belief that FRANK was innocent. They have a professional interest in putting down the spirit of lawlessness, they have an individual interest and duty as citizens in clearing the name of their State from this shame.

GEORGIA'S SHAME.

The State of Georgia should either apprehend the murderers of LEO M. FRANK and punish them according to its laws, or its people should honor them by election to the chief judicial and administrative offices in their gift. Any half-way course will be a cowardly evasion. Either the lynchers of FRANK faithfully represent public opinion in Georgia or they do not represent it. If Georgia approves lynching, then honors bestowed upon the lynchers would attest at once the shameless courage of the Georgia public and its willingness to defy public opinion in all the other States of the Union. We must assume, however, that the prevailing feeling in the State of Georgia is one of horror and execration of the crime. If that is the case the lynchers will be punished. There can be no question as to the feasibility of identification and arrest. The boldness of the crime and the numbers engaged in its perpetration make it practically certain that every one of the number is known, known to somebody. Every one of them is a murderer, every one of them should suffer the penalty of premeditated murder. If there is in Georgia a will to punish these men they will be punished.

That they must be punished, that their arrest and punishment is a supreme necessity for the people of Georgia, is perfectly obvious. If FRANK had desired to wreak his revenge upon the State of Georgia for its inhuman persecutions and denial of justice he could not by any possibility have devised a more certain and dreadful method for the accomplishment of his purpose. The crime is a stain upon the reputation of the State which can be erased in only one way. Ex-Governor SLATON says that these malefactors have "disgraced the Commonwealth," that the deed "is an attack on civilization." Secretary of the Navy DANIELS, a Southern man, says that "it is the worst possible blot on the name of the State." Governor HARRIS declares that "it will hurt Georgia greatly everywhere," and, what is more to the purpose, he will use every means in his power "to see to it that the members of the mob receive fitting punishment for their crime." It is the most atrocious lynching ever committed in any Southern State. FRANK had been tried for the murder of MARY PHAGAN, he had been more than once condemned to death. On appeal the courts afforded him no relief. Governor SLATON, having before him much vital evidence not put before the jury in the trial court, commuted the death sentence to life imprisonment. The evidence did not convince him that FRANK was guilty. That FRANK was innocent has been the firm conviction of many impartial men who have inquired into the circumstances of the crime. Yet these lynchers, fired with the detestable spirit of the mob that from the time of the murder has raged against FRANK, have overruled Governor SLATON and put FRANK to death. The annals of lynchings in the South record no parallel case. Yet the responsibility must be placed, primarily, not upon the participants in the crime, but upon the conspicuous and well-known men who from the beginning have shown a black-hearted ferocity in their demand for the execution of FRANK. They are the men who inspired the mob to do its work, they are the instigators of the crime.

No law-abiding community, no really civilized community, would consent to live its life with this hideous blot upon it. The punishment of lynchers is extremely rare in the South, but in this case Georgia must punish the lynchers or put up for all time with the obloquy attaching to their crime. Surely, the decent people of Georgia must support the Governor