

WATSON DENOUNCES PLAN TO TRY HIM

tive. Please show this telegram to the other members of the House delegation from Georgia.

Georgia Editor Denies Right to Indict Him Outside His Own State.

CONGRESSMEN ALSO OBJECT

Send Letter to the Attorney General Defending Their State—Gregory in Doubt of Getting Fair Trial.

Special to The New York Times.

AUGUSTA, Ga., Feb. 3.—Thomas E. Watson, threatened with indictment and trial in a Federal district outside of Georgia on a charge of having incited the lynching of Leo M. Frank by articles in his paper, The Jeffersonian, issued this statement today:

"The Jeffersonian Publishing Company is a Georgia corporation whose place of business has been Thomson ever since it was chartered. I am its President, and the Vice President is J. J. Brown, who is also President of The Farmers' Union. It has a Board of Directors containing such citizens as the Hon. Fred D. Wimberly of Cochran, Dr. C. H. Kittrell of Dublin, E. D. Daniels of La Grange, O. S. Lee of Thomson, and others. My assistants in editorial work are Mrs. A. L. Lytle, formerly of The Brunswick Journal, and J. D. Watson, my son. The mailing has always been done directly from the printing plant.

"In the Frank case a deluge of slanders and falsenoods against the people and the courts of Georgia was poured upon us by the * * * detective, W. J. Burns. Public sentiment was poisoned, inflamed, and almost maddened by this unprecedented crusade against us. In The Jeffersonian I gave the world the facts as they appear of record.

"The Puck magazine, owned by Nathan Straus and his brothers, vilified the State most viciously, cartooned it libellously and cartooned me personally as a man kept by a negro woman. No baser insult was ever inflicted upon any man's wife and children than the Strauses inflicted upon mine. They threatened to have me run out of the State, pictured me as being driven out and pictured a Roman Catholic priest as being one of the bosses of the job. Frank's lawyers declared that I must be driven out and Puck went so far as to say I should be hanged. Slaton, one of these lawyers, not only joined those threats, but held me solely responsible for the execution of Frank by the vigilantes after Frank's own lawyer, Governor John M. Slaton, had prostituted the power of his office to give his client a new trial and block and upset the decisions of the Superior Court, the Georgia Supreme Court, the United States Supreme Court and the State Prison Commission.

"The threat to take me out of Georgia for trial really means that an opportunity is wanted to treat me without a trial in the same way that Frank was treated after he had been tried and convicted in all the courts. If an editor can be indicted in California for publishing an article in Maine, none of us would be safe from ruinous persecution. President Roosevelt was rebuked by the courts when he attempted to bring editors out of their States for trial in the District of Columbia. If President Wilson undertakes to do what President Roosevelt tried and failed at the Democracy of the Republic will be given a rare object lesson.

"There are two questions which will be asked by all fair-minded people, first, Why am I held solely and personally responsible for a publication in which there are many officers equally responsible? Second, why is it that the Government's pretended efforts to purge and purify the mails aimed at no publications excepting those which combat the Roman Catholic Church? Not only the freedom of the press, but the personal liberty of every citizen is at stake in this threatened procedure.

"THOMAS E. WATSON."

W. H. Fleming, one of Mr. Watson's counsel, wired Congressman Adamson Thursday as follows:

"Please call attention of Department of Justice to decision in 25 Federal Reporter, Page 992, showing no jurisdiction to indict Watson where mail delivered—offense not being continuing one from place of deposit to place of delivery. Why does not the Government indict Atlanta newspapers for publishing and mailing same details of Frank case as well as Watson? Looks like a clear case of personal persecution, bad in law, worse in morals, and wretched blundering against the peace and good feeling among the citizens of our State. If a Federal District Judge should be found to sustain jurisdiction outside place of deposit of paper in mails, the Supreme Court would reverse. But in the meantime Watson would be exposed to unjust hardship, physical, mental, and financial. If this last threat of prosecution outside of Georgia is carried into execution it will be difficult for the general public to understand the mo-