

It might not be fitting for New Yorkers severely to condemn the State of Georgia for the mismanagement which made the murderous assault on LEO M. FRANK possible, in view of the even more serious incident lately at Mineola. The carelessness of the officials in the Queens County jail led to an act of vastly more significance to the people of this country than the cruel and unaccountable slashing of the throat of FRANK in the Milledgeville prison. The life of the man MUEENTER, who called himself HOLT, should have been zealously guarded in the interest of the nation. After his first attempt to commit suicide the vigilance of the jail officials should not have relaxed for an instant. When we denounce the shocking attack upon FRANK as a disgrace to the State of Georgia we must also admit that the death of MUEENTER by suicide was equally a disgrace to the State of New York. It was the result of an obvious neglect of duty.

Nevertheless, the latest development in the case of FRANK, who is believed by thousands of his fellow-countrymen to be a cruelly persecuted man, will stir the public sympathy and increase the amazement and regret that the unreasonable show of public feeling against him in Georgia has caused. After struggling against almost insurmountable obstacles, for two years, to save himself from execution for a crime charged against him on the flimsiest evidence, and of which few persons out of Georgia believe him guilty, he obtains the poor relief of a life sentence from a Governor who presumably thought him innocent, but, in the circumstances, could not order his release. Then, while bravely serving his sentence, he is set upon by a fellow-convict, armed with a murderous weapon such as no dangerous prisoner should be permitted to handle at any time. This man, CREEN, has a record of three murders. He was clearly a dangerous convict, one with a passion for killing. That he should have been allowed freedom of movement in prison speaks ill for the discipline at Milledgeville; that he should have had a chance to secrete a sharp knife for use in his premeditated attack seems incredible. The death of FRANK would be a pitiful climax to such a record of cruel persecution as can hardly be paralleled in history. His case was prejudiced by the populace in Georgia on false reports of his habits and there was not sufficient evidence against him to justify the charge, let alone to substantiate it. To look for the motive of CREEN is not necessary. He was a man of murderous instincts, and though a prisoner and nominally under strict surveillance he had an opportunity to gratify them.

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