

GOVERNOR PREPARES FOR FORMAL INQUIRY

Conference with Prison Board
and a Statement First, Then
Offer of Reward.

AMOUNT LIKELY TO BE \$500

The Statement Will Be "a Word
for the Good Name of Georgia"—
Letters Urging Action Pour In.

Special to The New York Times.

ATLANTA, Aug. 18.—In preparation for a formal inquiry into the lynching of Leo M. Frank, Governor Harris has called a conference with the three members of the State Prison Commission for tomorrow, after which, it is likely, he will offer a reward of \$500 for the capture, with evidence to convict each member of the mob that lynched Frank. The Governor intended holding a conference with the commission this afternoon, but Judge T. E. Patterson was called to Columbus on business, and the conference was postponed until tomorrow. Following the conference, Governor Harris will give out a statement concerning the lynching.

"I want to speak a word for the good name of the State of Georgia," said the Governor, "and I am preparing my statement concerning the Frank lynching now.

"An awful crime has been committed against Georgia," he continued. "The breaking into the State prison, the abduction of the State's ward, and subsequent lynching of him by the mob must be probed to the fullest. I will probably offer the highest reward permitted by the State laws for the capture of each man who had anything to do with the lynching of Frank, which is \$500."

For half an hour this afternoon Governor Harris was closeted with Commissioner E. L. Rainey of Dawson, who came with Judge Patterson on Tuesday from Milledgeville on the first train after Frank was abducted. Commissioner Rainey outlined the story of the assault on the prison guards, telling how each guard was overcome by detachments of the mob.

Chairman Davison told the story of the attack on the prison farm soon after his arrival, and stated that as the State prison was not barricaded to resist attacks by armed mobs, it was impossible to check the assault. He asserted that the officials of the prison could not be blamed for the stealing away from the prison of Frank.

"We kept all the guards on night and day duty at the main building in which Frank was incarcerated for several weeks," said Mr. Davison, "until they kicked so much that two of them quit their jobs, and we were compelled to reduce the night guard to just five men.

"We had not expected an attack from the outside, but feared harm would be done to Frank inside the prison. We had no money to employ additional guards for Frank's defense, and it was simply up to the Governor to furnish protection to Frank. Only the militia could have resisted Monday night's attack."

In reply to the charge that it was his duty to protect Frank from Monday night's mob, Governor Harris said:

"I would have gladly called out the militia for Frank's protection had the proper civil authorities notified me of the danger or had I received any information that such an attack would be made.

"Recently I held the militia in readiness to make a hurried trip to Milledgeville to protect Frank when I was in receipt of information that a mob was organizing at Marietta to go to Milledgeville. The law specifies, though, that the Governor shall be notified by some of the constituted civil authorities of outbreaks before he shall call out the militia."

Numbers of letters were received today at the Governor's office from people in various parts of the country urging Governor Harris to go to the bottom of the lynching.

Michael Heintz, a Cincinnati lawyer, wrote to Governor Harris urging an inquiry, and ended with the phrase:

"It is to be regretted that the Dixie highway is to go through Marietta, Ga."

Deputy Sheriff Hicks of Cobb County, who was on the scene of the Frank lynching about 7:30 o'clock yesterday morning, being one of the first to arrive there, was in Atlanta today and made a statement to a reporter.

"I do not believe that more than seven or eight men, riding in three automobiles, lynched Leo Frank," said the Sheriff. "I am doing all in my power to discover who the lynchers were, and if they can be ascertained I will surely assist."

The coroner's inquest, which began in Marietta yesterday morning, was postponed until next week. Special counsel will probably be employed by the coroner to assist in the inquiry; the county commissioners having authorized such action. A special meeting has been held by the county commissioners, who expressed a determination to sift the tragedy and co-operate with the Governor.

Pictures showing Frank hanging from the tree near Marietta were sold on the streets of Atlanta today, and the vendors did a heavy business. The pictures were put out by a photographer, who reached the scene of the tragedy before the body was cut down. He has sent the pictures to all cities in Georgia.

The sale excited some opposition and Acting Mayor Ragsdale was asked to interfere. Mr. Ragsdale made an investigation of the law on the subject and found that the sale of the pictures, after a person had obtained a license for that purpose, could not be stopped.

Post cards bearing pictures of the Frank lynching, cannot be sent through the mail. The local postoffice is destroying all such cards mailed here.

I Can't Do Anything, Says Warden.

MILLEDGEVILLE, Ga., Aug. 18.--Warden J. T. Smith of the State Prison, said today that he knew nothing he could do to aid the investigation of the kidnapping of Frank from the prison. He went on.

"The mob overpowered me and every one connected with the prison who stood in its way. The work was done too quickly and we were taken too much by surprise to offer resistance. I am very glad the members of the prison commission were here when the attack occurred. Two of them told me that no one at the prison was to blame.

"The public is entitled to all the facts in this case, and if any have been hidden I would gladly give them out. The newspapers have told the story correctly as far as I know, and have covered every detail. There is nothing left in my knowledge to be brought out at an investigation."