

# GOV. SLATON SEES MOB'S ANGER DIE

**But Troops Still Mark a Dead-  
Line About Georgia Execu-  
tive's Home.**

**ATLANTA NOW IS CALM**

**And Fear of Outbreaks Has Dis-  
appeared—Governor Keeps  
His Poise.**

**FRANK NEAR A BREAKDOWN**

**Suffers from Reaction at the Prison  
Farm—Press Praises Action  
of the Executive.**

*Special to The New York Times.*

ATLANTA, Ga., June 22.—Martial law is still in force at Governor John M. Slaton's country estate five miles from this city. Two battalions of infantry, with machine guns, have formed a cordon about the estate, and the Governor's Horse Guard is doing patrol duty. The Governor's proclamation fixed the radius at a half mile in every direction from his home, and the troops stop any one who attempts to cross the dead-line.

After 2 o'clock this morning the soldiers had little to do except sentry duty. By that time the last of the crowd which marched out from the city and besieged the Governor's home had disappeared. There is no indication that there will be a renewal of the attempt to molest the Governor because of his action in commuting the death sentence of Leo M. Frank, but the troops are kept on duty as a precautionary measure.

Governor Slaton left his house this morning for the first time since Saturday. Guarded by twenty soldiers he rode for about an hour for exercise in the neighborhood of his home. The Governor's appearance shows that he has been under a great strain. He seems to have aged, and is wan and haggard. Much of this, of course, is due to loss of sleep. Despite the ordeal which he has undergone, the Governor maintains a courageous attitude.

"I am sure I have done right," he said, "and time will vindicate me. When the people of Georgia become calmer and study my decision they will realize that I would have been unworthy of the position I hold if, believing as I do, I had allowed Leo Frank to go to his death."

Later in the day Governor Slaton went to his office in the Capitol, but remained only a few minutes. The Governor was carefully guarded.

**Atlanta Outwardly Calm.**

Atlanta was quiet today after the turbulent scenes of Monday and last night, and the authorities express the hope that there will be no further outbreaks. The feeling, however, is still tense and there are rumors that those who object to Governor Slaton's action are planning to show their disapproval by a great demonstration next Saturday when the Governor retires from office and Judge Nat E. Harris is inaugurated.

Plans have been laid, it is said, to have anti-Slaton delegations in Atlanta on Saturday from all parts of Georgia. These delegations will come ostensibly to take part in the inauguration of the new Governor, but really, it is asserted, for the purpose of joining in a demonstration against Governor Slaton at the Capitol. His enemies say that Governor Slaton will be forced to visit the Capitol to turn over the Executive Office to Judge Harris, and they hope to take advantage of his presence to make a spectacular demonstration of their disapproval. So far the demonstrations have been directed entirely against Governor Slaton.

The chief criticism that is directed against the Governor by his enemies is that he has broken down trial by jury in Georgia, and taken a step toward destroying respect for the courts, and in consequence really has encouraged the rule of the mob. Many persons doubt whether the crowd that besieged the Governor's home last night intended to do him personal harm. The general opinion apparently is that the intention was merely to show disapproval of the Governor's action. The crowds, however, appeared menacing, and so the troops were called out.

It was the first time in the history of the United States, it was said, that a Governor had been forced to declare martial law in order to protect himself. Governor Slaton called attention to this while the crowd was besieging his home last night.

Considering the size of the throng there were few persons injured when the troops deployed, and, with the bayonet, drove the dissatisfied ones away from the Governor's home. The crowd threw bricks at the troops, and several soldiers were injured, among them Major I. T. Catron, commanding; Lieutenant Arnold Parker, and Private W. W. Foote.

Several persons in the crowd were injured slightly by prods from the bayonets of the soldiers. After repulsing the crowd in front of the house, Major Catron was informed of the approach of 200 men from Marietta at the rear of the premises. He at once assigned soldiers to that point, but the Marietta rioters did not appear. In several Georgia towns there was more or less animated discussion of the Frank case on Monday. At Marietta, Newnan, Ringold and West Point there were demonstrations, manifesting disapproval of Governor Slaton's action.

Reports received today from all parts of the State indicated that the excitement had subsided and that the people were settling down to business. Those who approved the Governor's action and those who disapproved apparently tired of the discussion and began devoting their minds and energies to other things.

While those who disapprove of Governor Slaton's action have been making their opinions known by demonstrations, those who feel that the Governor acted in the interest of justice have not failed to manifest their approval of his course by messages of congratulation. Since the announcement of Frank's commutation on Monday morning an avalanche of telegrams of congratulation from peo-

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ple in all walks of life and from all parts of Georgia and the Union has poured into the Governor's office.

The police arrested in all thirty-four persons for participation in the disorders in this city last night. All had hearings today in the Police Court. They were charged with failure to "move on." Nominal fines were imposed in eleven of the cases, eight were dismissed because of inability of the policemen to identify the accused, and the other cases were continued. The heaviest fine, \$15.75, was imposed on J. A. Bozeman, a policeman, who, it is alleged, said he would lead a crowd to the Governor's home.

## Praise for Slaton's Action.

Under the title, "The Governor's Fidelity to the Promptings of a Clean Conscience," The Atlanta Georgian said today:

"The Georgian believes that Governor John M. Slaton deserves the commendation of the people of Georgia for commuting the sentence of Leo Frank to life imprisonment.

"The Governor has risen to the demands of many trying occasions, and it has been the pleasure of this newspaper to commend him before for courageous acts well done. We have no hesitancy in commending him for this supreme act of fidelity to his conscience.

"The Governor of Georgia studied painstakingly, carefully, and exhaustively the records in this case. In his remarkable statement, setting forth his reasons for extending Executive clemency to Leo Frank, the Governor enters minutely into details. He admits that suspicion did fall upon Frank, but he found, nevertheless, that there was, as he viewed matters, sufficient doubt of Frank's guilt to warrant modification of the death sentence.

"Had the Governor desired to proceed along the line of least resistance and do the easy thing rather than the big and manly thing, (although the difficult thing,) he might have resisted his conscience, and let this defendant go to his death upon the scaffold, but the Governor could not in good conscience do that.

"He believed that Frank was entitled to the doubt the Executive mind honestly entertained, and he gave it to him. He ought to have done this, and the people of Georgia ought to sustain him for doing so courageous a thing.

"It was not for him to weigh the political consequence of an act of this sort, and be it said to his credit, he did not. It was only for him to do his duty.

"John M. Slaton is nearing the end of his term. He has not committed, so far as we know, one official act of which he need be ashamed. He leaves the Governorship without a stain upon his escutcheon, an honest gentleman and a manly chief magistrate.

## Says Time Will Vindicate Him.

"Believing that the Governor was moved by the promptings of a clean conscience and an upright character, and looking back over his many years of public life in Georgia, there is no compelling reason to suspect that time will not vindicate whatever present misunderstanding or misconstruction there may be placed upon the Governor's act in the supreme crisis of his career. There will be honest and sincere Georgians who will always believe, perhaps, that Governor Slaton made a grave mistake in commuting Leo Frank and in substituting for the death penalty a life term in the pen, but as time wears on and the people have had opportunity to consider this case calmly, dispassionately and in the light of intelligent fairness, there will remain few people in Georgia, we think, who will doubt that the Governor was prompted by the loftiest of motives and the most enlightened sense of humanity and justice.

"His ordeal has been a trying one, and the test of his manhood has been searching and exhaustive; but the Geor-

gian would not be true to itself and it would not be true to the ideals it entertains, if it did not, in this hour, express to the Governor and concerning the Governor its abiding confidence and its approval of his conscientious disposition of this overshadowing act of duty he has just performed.

"Georgians have never in all the long and glorious history of this State desired to have in the Executive Chair a man who was afraid to follow the dictates of his conscience. Georgia does not want such a Governor now, and Georgia does not want to face the future believing that she ever will have such a Governor.

"After all, if one be true to himself in every act and impulse, it follows, as has been said, as the night the day, he cannot then be false to any man."

The Macon Telegraph says of "The Governor and Frank":

"Leo M. Frank has run the gamut of the courts and tribunals of the State and of the nation, and his life has been saved. Today he faces a lifetime behind prison bars unless there shall come a day when new evidence may show that he did not kill the girl, when it shall be the duty of the Governor to pardon him outright.

"Through every channel, every avenue provided by law and safeguard of law, this man has been taken by his attorneys, and the last one, just under the shadow of the gallows, led him to life—a life worse than death. If Frank is innocent he has the comfort of hope; if he is guilty, he lives with a cancer eating his heart, a lifetime of suffering hardly preferable to the quick and merciful end on the gibbet.

## Action Based on the Record.

"As to Governor Slaton's action, The Telegraph believes now that a thorough and conscientious perusal and study of the record of the case created in his mind an element of doubt as to the absolute guilt of the accused. Governor Slaton's decision convinces us that there was that in the record, else how can his decision be explained?

"Outraged and righteously angry and indignant as Georgians were, outside of Atlanta newspaper offices, at the campaign of abuse and villification of the courts of this State, of its institutions safeguarding the life, liberty, and right to justice of every human being within its borders, as the Governor refrained, so must they not let this passion, just and well founded as it is, blind them to the individual merits of the Frank case.

"The Telegraph has counseled long since that the activity of Frank's foolish and often erratically vindictive friends should not be allowed to have a bearing on how Georgians should treat the case of Leo Frank. No matter how the outside might exhortate us, no matter how unjustly, how cruelly—that could have no bearing on what should or should not be done to Leo Frank. So much have we believed this that we have refrained from even saying a word on the inside, or allowing to be printed in The Telegraph expressions as to Frank's guilt or innocence. Only have we denounced the villifiers of this

State, only have we declared that if there was a door of justice through which this man might enter to save his neck from the rope, a door he might enter because of right and justice, because of fairness and doubt as to his guilt, that door would open for him in Georgia. This State does not hound men to death.

## A False Issue Raised.

"Many of our people have been deluded by an issue that is false. It has been said that the jury system of Georgia was on trial before the Governor of this State. This was an issue raised by those who would show the State's contempt for outside interference by hanging the central figure in the cause célèbre, willy nilly, come hell or high water. This was the real issue behind the leaders who raised the cry that the jury system of Georgia was on trial. And this was an issue that had no place in the consideration of the rights of Leo M. Frank before the judgment bar of the people of this State.

"Only the crime he was accused of, the evidence tending to show he did or did not do it, only the bare record, the man and the case itself might be looked upon in that clear white light which is thrown on such supplicants from the desk of the Chief Executive of the State.

"John Marshall Slaton is the Governor of the State of Georgia. When he takes his seat in the room at the Capitol each morning he becomes, not John Marshall Slaton but the Governor of the State of Georgia. The same law which created the trial by twelve men gave the power to the Governor of the State of Georgia to pass on the verdict and the sentence of the trial Judge in such cases as may be brought before him. And any case may be taken to him. Thus, when the Governor to some extent nullifies the verdict and sentence of the trial court he only does what our own sacred law intended, in the creation of his office, he should do if deemed advisable and necessary by him.

## Was Highest Tribunal.

"The people of the State of Georgia elected the man who finally ruled on this case. He was their choice to do these things for them for a certain number of years. The people placed this discretion in his hands. He is a Georgia institution, just as much as our Georgia jury was. He has ruled, after delving into the case. He was in a better seat to judge than you or I. There lies the crux, Georgians.

"Today there are ugly stories going about as to what influenced the Governor to commute Frank's sentence. One is that money had its way. The Governor's family is worth millions beyond the need of any man. Politics? Look about you and see the immediate effect of his decision. You even hear talk of lynching, not of Frank but of Slaton.

"What, then? What caused him to commute? There is but one answer left; because he found there was a reasonable doubt as to the guilt of that man, a doubt in his mind, and with the recognition of this doubt there was but

one thing for him as an honest, fearless man, remembering his oath of office as he took it looking toward the throne of his God, as a man who must answer to his own soul and to the last great tribunal on that day for all his acts, both in and out of office, and that answer was to commute this sentence, just as if, had he felt no doubt, he must have let him hang.

"The last tribunal in Georgia has ruled on the Frank case. It has ruled one way. We are content. As Georgians, we needs must be. We would have been, either way he made it. The same law which set up the jury set up, too, the Governor. The responsibility is as heavy on the former as on the latter; infinitely more so, in fact."