

SOLDIERS SAVE SLATON FROM MOB

**Furious Crowd Attempts to
Seize Him as He Leaves
Georgia Capitol.**

"LYNCH HIM!" RIOTERS CRY

**Ransack Outgoing Trains to
Capture Him—All Atlanta
Troops Kept Under Arms.**

TRY TO DYNAMITE HIS HOME

**Gang of Twenty Arrested—Organ-
ization Sworn to "Get" the
Ex-Governor and Frank.**

Special to The New York Times

ATLANTA, June 26.—The feeling aroused by Governor John M. Slaton's action in commuting the death sentence imposed on Leo M. Frank for the murder of Mary Phagan culminated today at the Capitol in a demonstration against the Governor when he retired from the Executive office and Judge Nat E. Harris of Macon was inaugurated.

For the first time in the history of Georgia a Governor left office with a crowd hurling epithets at him and crying "Lynch him!" and escaped bodily harm only through the protection of a large force of police and State troops.

After the demonstration at the Capitol, ex-Gov. Slaton entered an automobile, which was accompanied by a heavily armed escort, and drove rapidly away.

John M. Slaton served Georgia for more than two years as Governor. Up to ten days ago it seemed probable that he would retire as one of the most popular Governors that Georgia had ever had, and that the people would gladly grant him any political honors to which he might aspire in the future.

The ferocity of the outburst over his commutation of the death sentence of Frank must have surprised the Governor, for it has surprised even those who opposed the commutation of Frank's sentence.

Last Monday night mobs threatened the Governor's home, and he was forced to call out the troops and declare martial law. Soldiers have guarded his home ever since, and he has ventured nowhere without armed protection.

Atlanta Saloons Closed.

Since Monday night Atlanta has been quiet, and there has been no further attempt until today to attack Governor Slaton. Rumors have been current all the week, however, of secret mass meetings at night and of plans being formed for a great demonstration at the Capitol today when Slaton retired from office. The authorities took these rumors seriously, and they made preparations for coping with any outbreak that might occur. The saloons in Atlanta were closed last night, and a strong force of police was mobilized at the Capitol.

The Fifth Regiment of the Georgia National Guard, of Atlanta, was under arms, and in addition the Second Regiment came in from Macon at 11 o'clock and marched to the Capitol with Governor-elect Harris.

It was well that these precautions were taken, for without the strong force of troops and police it is believed that Mr. Slaton would have suffered bodily injury.

Governor Slaton went to the Capitol early this morning and remained in his office until noon, the hour at which he was to retire from office and Judge Harris to be inaugurated. At that time there was a great mass of people on the grounds about the Capitol, and the corridors of the structure were jammed. The crowd in the Capitol, however, was composed mostly of members of the Legislature and those who were to take part in the inaugural exercises.

At noon Governor Slaton made his way to the hall of the House of Representatives, where he met Governor-elect Harris, and the inaugural exercises were begun. There was no disturbance until Governor Slaton tendered the Great Seal of the State to his successor, and then some hisses sounded through the chamber.

Rush on Slaton's Automobile.

A more serious demonstration came after the inaugural exercises were over, when Slaton, surrounded by troops and police, appeared on the steps for the purpose of taking his car and leaving the Capitol. As soon as he appeared the large crowd began to shout epithets at him and to cry "Lynch him!" These cries were mingled with shouts of "Remember Mary Phagan!"

Several times the crowd surged at Slaton and made efforts to get to him, but these surges were broken against the cordon of police and troops. In close formation, the police and soldiers, with the ex-Governor, pushed their way through the cursing crowd and placed him in his automobile. Just as Slaton was entering the car several men nearly succeeded in reaching him, but they were thrust back by the guards. Once in the car, he was driven rapidly away, accompanied by guards.

The crowd thought the ex-Governor was being taken to the Terminal Station to take a train, and a rush was made for that point. The mob was disappointed, however, for Slaton was not at the station. Some of its members went through three outgoing trains searching for the ex-Governor and crying, "We want Slaton!"

While this was going on Slaton was at the Ansley Hotel, where he remained for a short time at a luncheon given to Governor Harris. He was then spirited from the hotel and rapidly driven to his

Continued on Page 4.

The New York Times

Published: June 27, 1915

Copyright © The New York Times

SOLDIERS SAVE SLATON FROM MOB

Continued from Page 1.

country home. Although the city was full of reports that the ex-Governor had been escorted by guards to a station in the suburbs, there to catch a train, this evening more troops and a strong force of deputies were sent to his home to remain during the night.

Ex-Governor Slaton's baggage was checked on a Southern Railway train that left here for New York this afternoon. Apparently he remains at his home, but he is expected to try to get away tonight or tomorrow.

It is said that the crowds are watching all outgoing trains and will make an effort to take Slaton off if they find that he is a passenger on any one of them.

Wouldn't Be a Pontius Pilate.

At the luncheon given in honor of the new Governor, the retiring Governor referred to the Frank Case.

"Honest people may disagree with me, an honest man," he said, "but we realize that we must be measured by our consciences. Two thousand years ago another Governor washed his hands of a case and turned a Jew over to a mob. For two thousand years that Governor's name has been accursed. If today another Jew were lying in his grave because I had failed to do my duty I would all through life find his blood on my hands, and would consider myself an assassin through cowardice."

Governor Slaton was introduced by the toastmaster, the Rev. Ashby Jones, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Augusta. In the course of his remarks, and while discussing the subject of democracy, he turned to Governor Slaton to say:

"That misguided and irresponsible crowd which swept the streets of this great city toward your home the other night did not typify democracy. Genuine democracy is only when all the people speak at once."

No reference to the Frank case was made by Governor Harris in his speech.

He expressed the hope, however, that "we will have no more trouble."

In the course of the ceremonies at the Capitol there were several tense moments. When Governor Slaton approached the new Governor to deliver the State seal a few hisses were heard. President Persons of the State Senate warned the spectators that unless they were in order the galleries would be cleared. Instantly there was a tumult of applause.

Presenting the seal, Governor Slaton said:

"Governor Harris, I know that during my term of office this Great Seal of the State has not been dishonored."

His words were greeted by another prolonged outburst of applause.

Although there has been no actual violence in Atlanta today and but few arrests have been made, the feeling is tense tonight, and there is an air of expectancy throughout the city. All the Atlanta troops are under arms, and the regiment which came up from Macon to take part in the inauguration of Judge Harris has been held here for the night.

Alleged Dynamiters Arrested.

Reports continue of an oath-bound organization which, formed at a meeting at Mary Phagans grave in Marietta, has spread throughout Georgia, whose purpose is to "get" Slaton and Frank, no matter how long it takes.

That there is some sort of organization whose object is to do harm to Slaton was evidenced at 4 o'clock this morning, when about twenty men, heavily armed and carrying dynamite, were caught by the militia in the neighborhood of Slaton's home.

Before the round-up there is said to have been an exchange of shots between some of the men arrested and the guardsmen. No one was hurt, however.

The prisoners were locked in Governor Slaton's barn and kept there under guard until 11 o'clock this morning, when they were taken to the County Jail and locked up. They will be held there until the excitement subsides.

Reports also tell of much excitement in the country about Milledgeville, where Frank is confined in the State Prison. The prison, however, is heavily guarded, and the authorities are confident that Frank is in no danger.