

HEARS MOB TRIED TORTURE ON FRANK

Endeavored to Force a Confession, but Their Victim Protested His Innocence.

LYNCHERS' RANKS DIVIDED

Georgia Physician Certain That Slayers Themselves Were Assured of Frank's Innocence.

Special to The New York Times.

AUGUSTA, Ga., Sept. 21.—The assertion that Leo M. Frank was tortured by his captors in an endeavor to make him confess himself guilty of the murder of Mary Phagan before being lynched at Marietta, and that nevertheless Frank died stoutly proclaiming his innocence to the last, is made in a letter written to Thomas W. Loyless, editor of The Augusta Chronicle, by Dr. W. P. Ponder of Forsyth. Dr. Ponder, who is a prominent physician of Forsyth, says he learned this through a mechanic from Atlanta, who heard one of the mob assert it. Here is his letter:

Forsyth, Ga., Sept. 15, 1915.

Dear Sir—Allow me to congratulate you for your Sunday's article. I do most heartily thank you for the manly courage displayed for truth, and for our beloved Georgia. You have said what I would liked you to have said months ago, which, in all probability, would have prevented this great outrage on our mother State.

By the way, I hear through a mechanic from Atlanta, who is doing repairing here, that he heard one of the mob say that every manner of torture was used on Frank to extort a confession, but that he stoutly proclaimed his innocence until the last, when a vote was taken to determine whether or not he should be returned to Milledgeville. All but four of the mob voted to recant, and these four said they would murder him on the spot.

I am satisfied that these brutes are perfectly assured of his innocence, as the record shows beyond a doubt he was not guilty. Go on with your work; you are headed for right and truth. Let not the demoniac of Thomson frighten you in the least. He is powerless against truth.

Yours to honor,

W. P. PONDER, M. D.

Box 27, Forsyth, Ga.

A former adherent of Tom Watson, in a statement to The Augusta Chronicle, charges glaring inconsistency in Watson's present attitude toward the fair-

ness of the Frank trial, with the opinion he expressed in a private conversation while the trial was in progress. This man says that Watson said in his presence during the trial of Frank:

"Why, Rosser and Arnold are bigger fools than I thought they were for risking their client's neck in Atlanta, where there is so much excitement and where public sentiment is so overwhelmingly against him. He has about as much chance for his life as a snowball in hell; or as I would have should I be arraigned in Thomson and tried, not by a jury of my peers, but by my enemies. It would be like trying a rat before the old cat and a litter of her kittens."

The author of the statement is a man who formerly was in very friendly relations with Watson. Watson turned against him on account of his failure to support a candidate favored by Watson.

He is well known and respected in this part of the State. He hesitated about giving out the statement, because the conversation was a private one in Watson's home, but finally consented as he said in the interest of truth and fairness. Watson in his various articles has insisted that Frank's trial was fair.