

BURNS SAYS FRANK WILL NOT HANG

Quoted in Chicago as Saying He
Knows the Real Slayer of
Mary Phagan.

TELLS OF WORK ON CASE

Did Not Start to Establish Inno-
cence of Accused Man, but to Es-
tablish Identity of Murderer.

CHICAGO, April 4.—The Tribune will print to-morrow this statement on the Leo M. Frank case:

"Detective William J. Burns told a reporter for 'The Tribune to-night that he knows who killed Mary Phagan, the Atlanta factory girl. Mr. Burns says he will reveal the identity of the slayer to the Atlanta authorities Monday.

"Mary Phagan was murdered in a pencil factory at Atlanta almost a year ago. Several weeks later Leo M. Frank, a Jew, Superintendent of the pencil factory, was arrested and charged with the crime. He was tried and convicted. The Supreme Court upheld the decision and Frank was condemned to die April 17.

"'I did not take the job to prove the innocence of Frank,' declared Mr. Burns. 'I made it understood that my duty was to find the murderer, whoever he should be. Well, I began to investigate. I had been in Atlanta but a few hours when I realized that the "mystery" was not a mystery.

"'The tracks of the slayer are as plain as day. There is and never was any mystery about the case. It required but a little investigation to fasten the crime on a certain man in Atlanta. He is under surveillance and his conviction is certain.

"'I make no positive stand about the guilt or innocence of Leo M. Frank. I am not supposed to reveal the results of my investigation until I make my report to the authorities. In my opinion Leon M. Frank will not die on April 17.

"'Crimes like the murder of Mary Phagan are not natural crimes. The motives in this case are clear. It was upon this basis that I made my investigation.

"'The crime was not the result of greed, love, hate, or desperation. A man commits murder for some reason—either premeditation or natural. There was none of these elements in this crime. Therefore I concluded that an abnormal reason prompted the murder of this girl. This was clear, so I looked for a pervert.

"'I found him. I traced his actions on that day. I fastened the crime, in my opinion, on this man. Then I set about to prove my theories. Now I have established my theories into facts. It was an easy matter to discover the persons addicted to abnormalities. They can't get away from it. Something in their manner betrays it, whether they are millionaires, tramps, lawyers, or business men.

"'After rounding up persons placed in this class I discovered the man I was looking for by a process of elimination. Then later investigations proved my theories beyond doubt.

"'The man cannot escape. The people of Atlanta will realize their awful mistake when I lay the evidence before them. It will cause a shake-up in the Police Department.

"'Such a blunder as they have made of the case is excusable, because the people of Atlanta clamored for the conviction of Frank. Stories of his perversion were rife. It was my first duty to disprove these stories of Frank's alleged perversion. The authorities started right, but they couldn't keep their feet on the ground.

"'They used the Police Department but very little common sense. Common sense beats dictographs and finger prints. Elemental facts are the first essentials, and then investigations along common sense lines are the things that count. Apply this rule to such cases and the mystery is found to be no mystery after all. Just a clear case, with everything pointing to a real murderer.'

Mr. Burns was extensively quoted in the Chicago papers yesterday afternoon as saying that he had found Mary Phagan's murderer, who was still at large, but under surveillance, thus implying that a third person, and not either Frank or the negro, Conley, was the murderer.

THE TIMES received early this morning this telegram from Mr. Burns, who is on the way from Chicago to Atlanta:

DANVILLE, Ill., April 4.—I never

made any such statement.

WILLIAM J. BURNS.