

## W. J. BURNS CONFIDENT.

### Declares He Will Solve Frank Mystery—Starts Thorough Inquiry.

*Special to The New York Times.*

ATLANTA, Ga., March 16.—Detective William J. Burns is going to question every detective at Police Headquarters who had anything to do with the investigation of Mary Phagan's murder and the conviction of Leo M. Frank. He is likewise going to interview Solicitor General Hugh M. Dorsey and private investigators attached to the Solicitor's staff. He is planning to confer with every man in Atlanta who was connected in any manner with the Phagan investigation.

Mr. Burns had a long talk with the prisoner in the Tower to-night. This afternoon he was closeted with Leonard Haas, counsel for the defense, and went thoroughly over the brief showing new evidence submitted by Frank's counsel in applying for a new trial before the Supreme Court. The detective probably will seek a conference with Chief of Police Newport A. Lanford to-morrow. Among those he intends to interview are Detectives P. A. Campbell and John Starnes, who were named as prosecutors in the bill of indictment returned against Frank, and Detectives J. A. Chewning and W. H. Norris, accused by Nina Formby of having coerced her into swearing in an affidavit to a false story against Frank.

"I have no doubt that my associates and I will be able to name the murderer of Mary Phagan," Mr. Burns said to-day. "I am bringing my most expert assistants to work on the case."

The detective said he was convinced that Frank was normal. There was no sign of perversion, he said.

Albert McKnight, a negro who repudiated his testimony against Frank and who recently was found badly injured near the tracks of the Southern Railway, was slightly improved at the Fairhaven Hospital to-day. He is barely able to talk, however, and is still in a critical condition. C. W. Burke, the private investigator for the Frank defense, sought to question the negro to-day, but to no avail.

Suspicion that McKnight was assaulted instead of injured while leaping from a train at Roseland has arisen in the minds of members of the defense. One member frankly stated that he believed that McKnight had been attacked for some unknown reason.

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