

FRANK PLEA OPPOSED AT ATLANTA MEETING

Lone Speaker Condemns "Outside Influence"—Anti-Commutation Resolutions Passed.

MILITIA HELD UNDER ARMS

But No Hint of Violence Is Made—
Prison Board May Render
Decision Tomorrow.

Special to The New York Times.

ATLANTA, Ga., June 5.—Resolutions protesting against commutation of the death sentence imposed upon Leo M. Frank for the murder of Mary Phagan were adopted at a mass meeting held tonight on the grounds of the State Capitol. The resolutions also denounced "outside influences" for what was termed an attempt to break down trial by jury in Georgia and to make a "joke of Georgia courts and justice."

The meeting had been well advertised, and there were about 4,000 persons present, representing all walks of life. Governor Slaton, fearing that trouble might follow as a result of the excitement aroused by the meeting, had the Atlanta militia under arms in the armory; but there was no need for troops. The meeting was one of the most orderly ever held in Atlanta; there was not a suggestion looking to violence.

The Rev. A. C. Hendley, Pastor of an Atlanta Baptist Church, was the only speaker. Mr. Hendley knew Mary Phagan, and he has taken a deep interest in the case. In his address he charged that "outside influences" were attempting to dictate to Georgians how they should administer justice, and urged that the alleged attempt be rebuked.

"Georgia cannot afford," said Mr. Hendley, "to allow outsiders to tell her that she must not carry out the sentences imposed by her courts. Leo M. Frank was fairly tried and convicted, and the United States Supreme Court, the highest tribunal in the land, has affirmed the findings of the Georgia courts. If Frank is allowed to escape, we might as well abolish trial by jury in Georgia. To commute Frank's sentence would be an invitation to mob law."

Mr. Hendley attacked certain Atlanta ministers who had asked clemency for Frank. The address was loudly cheered, and the applause was heard by Frank in his cell in the jail, which is only a short block from the Capitol.

The meeting tonight was the first of a series of anti-Frank meetings scheduled to be held in every county in the State.

It is expected that the State Prison Commission will hand down early next week, probably Monday, its decision on the plea of Frank for commutation. The three members of the commission left Atlanta today to spend Sunday at their homes, and, as Chairman Davison said, "to pray over the Frank case."

The commission will recommend commutation. It is said that two of the Commissioners, at the very outset of their consideration of the case, following the hearing last Monday, were in favor of commutation, while the third Commission was in doubt. The opinion of the majority is based largely upon the letter from Judge Roan and that from Judge Roan's brother. Throughout the week the Prison Commission concentrated upon the huge volume of the record and upon the mass of petitions presented at the hearing.

Following the receipt of the Prison Board's recommendation, Governor Slaton will give a hearing to those for and against commutation. It is said that Solicitor General Dorsey will appear before the Governor to make a personal protest against commutation.

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