

BURNS AGENCY QUILTS THE PHAGAN CASE; TOBIE LEAVES TODAY

Dan P. Lehon Holds Conference With Solicitor General Hugh Dorsey and Other Officials and Then Makes Announcement of Severance of Connection With Case.

FELDER TO CONTINUE

*PROBE, HE DECLARES;
NO STATEMENT SOON*

"One of the Girls" in the Pencil Factory Brings Statement to The Constitution Defending the Character of Employees — Bribery Attempts Are Denied.

As a startling climax to the sensational turn of affairs in the Mary Phagan murder investigation, it was announced yesterday by Dan P. Lehon, superintendent of the Burns southern offices, that his agency had retired from the investigation of the Atlanta mystery.

The announcement was made after a conference he held for several hours with Solicitor General Hugh M. Dorsey and other officials promoting the investigation. C. W. Tobie, chief of the Burns criminal department, who has been in command of the Burns men at work on the case, leaves for Chicago this morning.

Tobie Makes Statement.

Tobie was seen last night by a reporter for The Constitution in his apartments at the Piedmont hotel. He was preparing to leave the city, but spared time to give the newspaper man a statement regarding the departure of the Burns forces and their attitude in the Mary Phagan case. General Superintendent Lehon, he said, left Atlanta Monday afternoon.

"The connection of the William J. Burns agency with the Phagan case," he told the reporter, "is now severed entirely. We have nothing whatever to do with the investigation. When these bribery charges were published I immediately notified Dan Lehon, general superintendent of the southern branches of our organization.

"He came to Atlanta Monday morning. After he and I had conferred and he had talked with the solicitor general and other officials interested in the case, his decision was to drop operations and return to Chicago. I will probably leave tomorrow or the following day—just as soon as matters can be satisfactorily arranged."

"What is the principal reason for your severance of connection?" he was asked.

"Primarily, because, in the face of open opposition and efforts to frustrate our work, we cannot successfully operate," he said. "We cannot render service proportionate to the money we are being paid. It is being insinuated by certain forces that we are striving to shield Frank.

Frank Guilty, I Believe.

"That is absurd. From what I developed in my investigation I am convinced that Frank is the guilty man. We were working on the theory that he was the murderer. We were employed to find the slayer. We would have done it, too, and pinned the guilt beyond a doubt, had we remained longer on the ground."

Tobie said the bribery charges of Chief Lanford and the counter charges were unfortunate, in that they create a situation which deplorably hampers the investigation of the murder.

"Solicitor Dorsey told Lehon," Tobie said, "that he possessed evidence to convict Frank, and that the investigation had been so thorough and successful that, really, the Burns men

would not be greatly needed any longer. He praised us for the work we did in the short time we were on the case, and said we had developed new phases which would prove invaluable to his case."

Confidence in Felder.

The Burns agent also declared his belief in Colonel Felder's sincere and honest attitude in the Phagan case. He said the attorney had employed his agent only to apprehend the slayer, and that upon his arrival in Atlanta, he had been told by Felder that, from all appearances, Frank was guilty.

He stated, too, that he had never exerted a single effort toward investigating alleged corruption in the police or detective department, and that he had never anticipated doing so.

Colonel T. B. Felder, foremost figure in the bribery charges and counter charges of police corruption, would make no statement to reporters Monday. He would not commit himself on Lehon's statement that the Burns men had detached themselves from the Phagan investigation.

Mr. Felder says, however, that his individual investigation would continue as in the past, and that he had no intention whatever of ending his efforts. Not until he deems it seasonable, he declares, will he issue additional statements to the newspapers.

Lehon Reaches Atlanta.

Lehon came from New Orleans Monday in answer to instructions given. It is said, from his New York office, sending him to investigate the Atlanta situation. He immediately conferred with the solicitor general and others.

The indictment of Leo Frank has not served to lessen in the slightest the energy of the police headquarters detectives, the Pinkerton men and the solicitor general's staff. Chief Lanford and Harry Scott, of the Pinkertons, both say that they each unearthed evidence sufficient to convict the suspected superintendent. No new developments arose Monday.

Frank maintains his attitude of silence, refusing to see anyone besides his friends and relatives. A stranger greeting him in his cell at the Tower gets only a fleeting glimpse of the prisoner.

Bribery Attempts Denied.

Strong denial is made, however, of rumored bribery attempts to pay witnesses for the prosecution to leave the city. These denials are made by attorneys representing the suspect. Another denial of a published report was

made Monday by Colonel Felder, who declared that the rumor of his elimination from the Phagan case was false to the core, and that his efforts, instead of slackening, would continue with renewed vigor.

It was published that Mr. Felder is eliminated entirely from the case, and that, up until the time he had begun to "bombard" the public with statements of his belief of Frank's guilt, it was generally believed he was in the suspect's employ. Complete denial is made of this report.

The following unsigned statement has been personally submitted to The Constitution by a young girl employee of the National Pencil factory, who champions conditions in that plant and the character of their imprisoned superintendent:

"I wish to speak in behalf of our factory and the girls working there and would like for the public to know that we all thought just as much of little Mary Phagan as we possibly could, and are just as anxious to see the guilty punished as the rest of the public.

"Nothing was ever said about the girls of the National Pencil factory until after the terrible murder, but since, there has been one continual talk just as though we were to blame for the deed.

Good As Any Girls.

"If the public would only interest themselves enough to look into other factories and stores, they would soon find that the girls of the National Pencil factory are just as good as any other set of working girls in the city.

"Of course, it looks rather hard to the public for us to have to work in the building where one of our companions was so horribly murdered. But, even at that, we are all poor girls, trying to make an honest living and we try not to think of the gruesome tragedy any more than possible, and we have the interest of the company too much at heart to desert them in times of trouble.

"We try to look on the bright side of this trouble, and hope it will be only a few days until everything will be all right once more. We all hope and pray that the guilty will be duly punished and the innocent given their freedom, for we all feel that our superintendent was and still is a soul himself so much as to think of such a thing, much less commit such a horrible crime.

"Hoping the guilty man will soon be brought to justice, and that the public will soon be satisfied, I am

"A girl of the National Pencil factory."

Confers With Police.

C. C. Sears, superintendent of the Atlanta branch of the Burns detective agency, communicated with Chief Beavers and Chief Lanford Monday afternoon, telling them of the severance of connection with the Phagan investigation, and notifying them that he would mail letters of explanation to the police department some time today.

According to Chief Lanford, Superintendent Sears gave as the reason for the Burns action the desire to get out of an unfortunate situation. Tobie, he said, would return immediately to Chicago to resume his duties as chief of the criminal department.

Regarding the Burns' agent, Chief Lanford has said:

"Tobie, I believe, is straight and honest. He was victimized by Felder. The Burns man, I am convinced, was working toward the interest of those seeking to clear the mystery. He just boarded the wrong boat, that was all—like the old dog Tray, got mixed in the wrong company."

CHIEF JAMES L. BEAVERS'

REPLY TO MAYOR WOODWARD

"If Beavers and Lanford permitted February, a trusted man, to go out and circulate lies about corruption in the police department in an effort to trap someone, they have debauched their officers, and the sooner they are put out the better it will be for the men who work under them."

Mayor James G. Woodward made the above reply to Chief James L. Beavers in a statement to The Constitution late Monday afternoon. The mayor declared that February's part in the conspiracy has destroyed his usefulness with the department, and he is not fit to serve with honorable men.

"In my opinion, and I believe every decent citizen of Atlanta will agree with me, February is not fit to serve in the department in any capacity," Mayor Woodward continued. "How can Beavers or Lanford, or the members of the police commission, place faith in him. He has dragged the department through filth of his own making. He has cast reflection, by his act, on the blue uniform."

Beavers' Charge Refuted.

Mayor Woodward scathingly denounced Chief Beavers' allegation that he (Woodward) urged the reopening of the Manhattan avenue district. He admits telling Beavers that the district would be opened as a result of public demand for the interest of society, because of the scattered conditions.

He declared that he has never placed a straw in the way of Chief Beavers' vice crusade, and explained that whenever he called the chief to his office it was for the purpose of referring complaints to him—complaints of bad conditions in respectable neighborhoods.

Mayor Woodward said that on one occasion he referred to the chief a letter written by a respectable woman—the mother of little children—who complained that there was an immoral house near her home, and she wanted the police to protect her and her babies.

"This woman told me that she had written Chief Beavers about the house

some ten days before she wrote me, and nothing was ever done," Mayor Woodward said. "All that I have ever heard of the complaint is that the house is quieted down."

Mayor Woodward says that the only time he has called Beavers to task was when he received complaints of women being insulted in the central portions of the city.

Protect Respectable Women.

"I told him of the conditions as reported to me, and urged him to clean up the central portions of the city so that respectable women might be safe."

As to the Eva Clark affair, Mayor Woodward said that the women came to him and explained that herself and her mother wanted to move into a house near the Grady hospital—95 Armstrong street—and that he informed her that she had the right to live wherever she pleased, just so long as she conducted a moral house and lived within the law. He says that he laid the whole matter before Beavers just as the Clark women laid it before him.

Mayor Woodward further stated that the whole affair casts a dirty reflection on the heads of the police department and that the part they played in it branded them as being unfit to guard the lives and property of the people of Atlanta.

"Men who will allow their personal characters and their offices to be dragged through such a mess cannot hope to gain the respect and esteem of the people they serve," he said. "When February came to me and told me that Beavers and Lanford were protecting disorderly houses and blind tigers, I knew that it was either true or that he was lying."

Gave Him Benefit of Doubt.

"I decided, for the time being, to give him the benefit of the doubt. If I had known that that visit to the Williams house would be the last time I would see him I would have shown him up for the liar that he is. But in the interest of the public I decided to give him leeway. I did not expose him, because I did not want to do the police department an injustice."

"I think I have made my position clear to the people. I am just as anxious now as I was at that time to correct any evils in the city government."

FEBRUARY AND THE POLICE ARE ATTACKED BY MAYOR

Chief of Police James L. Beavers issued the following statement Monday morning:

"As for Colyar, I never heard of him until this thing came up. He may be a crook. As far as I know, it seems that Mr. Felder has known him for a long time, but it is no uncommon thing for one crook to turn up another to the police, or turn state's evidence."

"When I heard of this deal that Mr. Felder was trying to make in the Phagan case, I told Chief Lanford to advise with Solicitor Dorsey and get his advice in the matter. He did this, I did not want anything done that would not be perfectly legitimate."

"G. C. February, who is a trusted man in the detective department, was instructed to carry out the deal with him. Now it appears that Mr. Felder has been closely associated with Colyar for a long time and certainly should have known what manner of man he is."

"If he knew him to be a crook, why did he enter into a deal like this with him if he wanted to do the straight thing? I say that I never heard of this man Colyar, but I would have listened to any report or rumor in hunting for the guilty party in a case like that of the Phagan murder."

"It seems that Mr. Felder in his ramifications through the press tries to get eloquent and undertakes to tell about the government of Scotland and the conditions in Ireland, as if that had anything to do with this case he's trying to distract attention from."

"What he has done and as far as his evidence he claims to have about my moral turpitude as chief of police or as a citizen, I defy him to show anything wrong. If he is a good, loyal citizen, which he claims to be, why did he not go to the police commission and lay the evidence before them?"

Would Be in South Carolina.

"Now, Mr. Felder knows well enough that if he had anything that would have been damaging against the police department he would have hurried to bring it to the proper authorities."

"That is what you are hired to do by a gang you are very close to."

"I would say that some one has been misled by Mr. Felder, or no doubt he would be in South Carolina today, where he belongs."

So much for Mr. Felder.

"I see that Mr. Woodward says he has nothing against me personally. Now I don't quite understand his connection with the Felder-Colyar affair. He knew that G. C. February was a trusted employee of the police department and if February knew of crookedness or graft in the department he would have forced him to divulge it or seen that he was turned out of the department."

Would Have Been Guilty.

"If February had known anything of the kind and not made it known he would have been equally guilty."

"Mr. Woodward knows that in the frequent talks with me since he has been mayor there has hardly been a time that he did not bring up the question of the red light district, and he gave me to understand in his first talk with me that these women should be allowed to go back to Manhattan

avenue where they had previously

plied their nefarious trade.

"No longer than last Saturday a week ago he asked me if I was willing for Eva Clark and her mother to move into a house on Armstrong street in front of the Grady hospital, where they had previously lived."

As to Eva Clark.

"I told him I would answer him as I did Alderman McClelland; that it was none of my business as long as she did not violate the law, but that if she did she would have to take the consequences."

"Mr. Woodward also told me the first of the year that if my vice policy continued the police department would be reeking with graft like the New York department."

Graft on Outside.

"I told him that no graft had ever existed and I was satisfied there would never be any."

"I told him that from what I had heard someone outside the police department had been receiving money from the vice traffic that virtually amounted to graft and extortion."

"I am ready and willing to compare my past record both as a citizen and as an official with Mr. Woodward as to which is in the right and which is in the wrong."