

Rosser Defends Interview Answering Georgia Chamber

Luther Z. Rosser, counsel for Leo Frank, last night gave out the following statement:

"The State Chamber of Commerce seems to resent a statement from me appearing in The New York Times.

"That statement was certainly a conservative one. In detailing the circumstances militating against Frank, I said, in substance, that the fact that he was a Jew, and an employer, and a stranger, were against him.

"Is there any thoughtful, fair-minded man or woman in the city of Atlanta who doubts that statement?

"Here is an unfortunate man, whose friends believe that he was denied a fair, impartial trial. In looking for the

reason, they honestly think that it counted against him that he was a Jew, a Jew employer and a stranger.

"Is there anyone who will say that Frank being a Jew helped him? On the contrary, almost everyone knows that his being a Jew, and a Jewish employer of little girls, would have been against him in almost every community.

"That statement was not a charge against the city; it was the statement of a deplorable condition which exists almost everywhere. To ignore it, is to ignore every-day facts, recognized almost universally.

"The Times' interview stated facts existing in Atlanta at the time of Frank's trial. But it was not meant, nor said, that such conditions were peculiar to the south. They exist, in a greater or less degree, in every community. Often peculiar circumstances may, and do, bring them out to the regret of all conservative men and women.

"Certainly the fact that he was a stranger did him no good. During all ages, the fact that a man is a stranger in a strange land has grown into a proverb of lament.

"That it is unfortunate to be a stranger in times of distress and trial, there will be few to deny. Nor is this peculiar to Atlanta or to the south. In no county can it be fairly said that a stranger is upon an equal footing with an old citizen.

"The citizens of Atlanta cannot afford to be over-sensitive as to the Frank trial. There were incidents in that trial that no man who loves the state, and city can approve, no matter what he thinks of Frank.

"The chamber of commerce can do the state of Georgia much good, but to be super-sensitive about plain, potent facts will not help.

"LUTHER Z. ROSSER."