

## CLEMENCY IS URGED FOR LEO M. FRANK BY GEORGIA SOCIETY

The Georgia society of New York, composed of well-known Georgians who are now residents of New York, has, through its board of governors, forwarded to the state prison commission an appeal for the commutation of Leo Frank's death sentence.

The letter follows:

"To the Honorable Members of the Prison Commission of the State of Georgia: Through its board of governors, the Georgia Society of the State of New York, Incorporated, an association located in New York city, whose membership is composed exclusively of Georgians, the descendants of Georgians, and persons who have been educated in Georgia or shall have married a Georgian, wish to present to you this statement:

"Now that the courts have passed upon the Frank case and the fate of Leo M. Frank is in the hands of the prison commission and the governor of our state, we deem it fitting to express our belief that the ends of justice would be best subserved by the commutation of the sentence of death of Leo M. Frank to that of life imprisonment. We are led to this conclusion as the result of an examination of the facts of the case and the circumstances of the trial, as revealed in the public press, and more particularly in the opinion of Justice Holmes, and in view of a widespread sentiment throughout the United States indicating a general belief that the evidence against him was by no means conclusive, and that the very horror of the crime with which he stood charged must necessarily have inflamed the sentiment of the community against the accused so that the merits of his defense may not have been adequately weighed by the jury. Our recommendation is made in the hope that during a prison sentence, and later when public sentiment shall have subsided, a careful examination of the facts may be had to the end that, if guilty, the prisoner shall justly serve his life sentence, and if guiltless, be given an opportunity to prove his innocence.

"In stating this expression of our views we beg to assure your honorable commission that we are actuated by no motive beyond a desire that our state shall show to her sister states that Georgia administers an impartial justice, and, while strictly enforcing her laws, gives to every accused man within her borders a due measure of mercy accompanied by the hope that his innocence may be ultimately established.

"Powell Crichton, secretary; Robert Adamson, P. C. Magnus, president; Ernest El Malcolm, Christed Alexander, A. N. Atkinson, Will Gash, Frederic A. Williams, vice president."