

PERSECUTED, SAYS LEHON.

Detective In Frank Case Asks Fair Play for Burns and Himself.

Special to The New York Times.

ATLANTA, Ga., May 23.—Aserting that if he and Detective Burns were as willing to resort to questionable methods as they were accused of being by the police it would have been an easy matter for them to announce that Leo Frank was guilty and thereby escape the prosecutions being waged against them, Dan S. Lehon tonight issued a statement to the people of Atlanta, in part as follows:

"The Burns Agency began the investigation to find out the truth about the murder of Mary Phagan. After thorough investigation into the various angles of the case, we became thoroughly satisfied that Leo M. Frank was innocent of this murder, and we had no hesitancy in expressing our conclusion in this respect.

"Of course, we realized at the time that it would meet with greater popular favor if we had announced that Frank was the guilty man; and, if we were inclined to resort to questionable methods, as is charged against us, how easy it would have been for us to have announced, against our own convictions, that Frank was the guilty man and have secured the favor of those now turned against us!

"We have committed no act of which we are ashamed since our connection with this investigation, and our only crime has been, possibly, the public announcement of our belief in Leo M. Frank's innocence, which was only made after the most thorough investigation on our part. To have announced any other conviction would have been to stultify our own conscience, which we are unwilling to do, even for public approval, and, while there may be some who are willing for us to suffer an indignity or persecution because of our conviction of Frank's innocence, I am confident that the fair-minded public will not submit to the continuance of this persecution for such unjust reasons."

Hearings on the motion to set aside the Frank verdict were passed today by Superior Court Judge Ben. H. Hill until Friday next at the request of Solicitor General Hugh M. Dorsey. The contempt case against Burns and Lehon, which also were to have been heard before Judge Hill, were postponed until next week because of the absence of the detectives' attorney.

BOYS AT PLAY FIND SUICIDE.

Was Still Breathing When They Saw His Body in the Bushes.

Two boys playing on Washington Heights at 161st Street near the Hudson River at 6 o'clock last night found the body of a man lying in some shrubbery. There was a bullet wound in his head and a revolver beside him. The man was not yet dead when Policeman Park of the West 152d Street station was called to the spot, a few minutes later, but he died before an ambulance could be called.

In one of the dead man's pockets were found three stamped letters addressed to Mrs. Frederick B. Reeves, 104 Jewett Avenue, Jersey City; A. K. Reeves, at the same address, and Joseph Nott, in care of McCloskey's Drug Store, Jersey City.

The Jersey City police were notified and late last night they found Mrs. Frederick B. Reeves at the address given. She said she feared the suicide was her husband, who was Superintendent for a grain elevator company in Manhattan and who recently had become discouraged because of poor health. Mrs. Reeves started for Manhattan at once to see if she could identify the body.