

PRESS OF GEORGIA UPHOLDS GOVERNOR

**Atlanta Journal Says Slaton
Performed a Brave and Manly
Act in Frank's Case.**

REFLECTS CREDIT ON STATE

**Other Newspapers Express the Be-
lief That Time Will Vindicate
Frank in Eyes of All.**

Special to The New York Times.

ATLANTA, Ga., June 21.—The Atlanta Journal says of Governor Slaton's action in commuting the sentence of Leo M. Frank:

"To some the announcement of the Governor's action will carry great disappointment, because there are thousands who have believed from the first that Frank was guilty of the horrible crime of which he was accused. To others, and we believe a vast majority of the people of the State, Governor Slaton's message will carry tidings of satisfaction, because whatever individuals may think as to the guilt or innocence of the condemned man, a vast majority of them recognize in this remarkable case an element of doubt so huge and so staggering that the mind recoils from contemplation of the extreme penalty of the law inflicted upon this unfortunate man.

"The views of The Journal have been so often expressed and are so well known that we need not restate them here. Suffice it that shortly after Frank's conviction, and many times since, whenever proper respect for the courts would permit, this paper urged with all the power and earnestness at its command that Frank should have a new trial, and that there was too much doubt about his guilt to justify his execution as a murderer. The Judge who presided at the trial entertained grave doubt and so expressed himself at the time, and later in a letter to the Governor asked that Frank's sentence be commuted. Two Justices of the Supreme Court of Georgia, and two Justices of the United States Supreme Court and one member of the Georgia Prison Commission, have expressed in the strongest terms their doubts as to his guilt, although the courts were restricted in their consideration of the case to questions of law. Thus, in every tribunal to which this case has been carried, the gravest doubt of Frank's guilt has been expressed.

"That the jury reached the conclusion that Frank was guilty is not surprising in view of the circumstances and conditions that surrounded the trial. They would have been superhuman if they had been able to resist the intense feeling that permeated the atmosphere of the court house during their deliberations. Probably no human court and no jury composed of mortal men could have reached a different verdict under the circumstances of this case.

Governor Slaton has studied the record and weighed the evidence fairly and intelligently, and after doing so has reached the definite conclusion that it is impossible for him or any other living man to say with certainty and beyond a reasonable doubt that Leo Frank was the murderer of Mary Phagan or that he was in any way connected with that terrible crime. That fearful doubt confronts him just as it does every one who studies the records and earnestly seeks the truth.

"Under these conditions it was the duty of the Governor to commute the sentence. In doing so he has risen to the highest appreciation of his obligation to society in circumstances most distressing, and has discharged that obligation without fear, favor or affection.

"The Journal holds no brief for Governor Slaton, neither has it the slightest interest in Leo Frank. Our duty, like that of the Governor, is to the public and to society. We have said from the first, if he is guilty he should be hanged. If he is innocent, he should be set free. If there is grave doubt about his guilt, notwithstanding the verdict of the jury, the sentence should be commuted to life imprisonment. This is evidently the view of the Governor and The Journal takes this occasion to commend his action as a brave, manly, and conscientious discharge of duty.

"The Governor has shown wisdom and courage in his performance of an act of simple justice, and time will vindicate his moderation."