SLATON HERE, GLAD HE SAVED FRANK

Ex-Governor of Georgia Reviews
His Many Strong Reasons for
Commuting Sentence.

SIMPLE JUSTICE, HE SAYS
His Wife Supported Him in His De-

cision To Hold Result In His Death.

Ex-Governor John M. Brown of
Georgia, who under former Gov-
ernor T. W. Woodruff unsealed the
writ of habeas corpus for John
Wood, the labor leader, in New York
yesterday, afterwards said that if
he could have known of the
Frank case in Paris the result
would have been different.

He wanted it known that he had not
recommended a pardon for Frank.

He said, "I have always stated
that I opposed it, but if it had been
noted that the Governor of New
York approved the action, I would
have done something in regard to
myself, but I have always disapprov-
ed it."

He said it was not for any reason
excepting that it was the right of
the State of Georgia to have a
man in its jurisdiction, and that
he had always held the view that
the man could not have been
brought back without a trial. If there
had been a trial, it would be to the
advantage of the man, and he would
have been in a better position to
get his freedom.

"I am not opposed to a pardon
for Frank, but I want it known that
I opposed it," Mr. Brown said.

He added that he had always
considered the man to be innocent,
and that it was not for any reason
excepting that it was the right of
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mind that the mesh bag was lost, and it is known that Conley wanted money and that his creditors, men to whom he owed fifty cents and a dollar, were after him all the time.

"I left the stone unturned in my investigation of the case. I went over it again and again from every point of view. Conley said the girl was murdered on the second floor of the factory, and yet the experts found only two corpuscles of blood in the room where he said the murder was committed, and there are 80,000 corpuscles in a single drop of blood. Then the experts said they did not believe those strands of hair were from the head of Mary Phagan, and that had there been a fact they would have had no difficulty in proving it.

Hostility in Courtroom.

"Then in those death notices there were certain expressions often used by Conley. Subsequently, when in jail, Conley wrote notes to one of the negro women prisoners, and in those the same identical expressions were used. Those words were the expressions of Conley, not Frank. Furthermore, I want to say that there was not a shadow of evidence to justify the aspersions cast on the private character of Frank.

"And we have heard much of the temper of the crowd that was in the courtroom during Frank's trial. It is not necessary that there should be a demonstration, or even a spoken word, to indicate the temper of a crowd. The looks on their faces will show it, and you or I, or any man with a common sense, could see and understand the feelings of a crowd under such circumstances. The Judge in the case noticed it, and so must the Jury. We also know that Conley is a thief and a forger."

"How do you account for the bitter feeling that was created against Frank?"

"It was a case of 'hue and cry.' Somebody said he believed that Frank committed the crime. The suspicious remark was repeated. It was like some one pointing to a running man after a crime has been committed and shouting, 'there he goes,' although the fact that the man is running is in no way connected with the commission of the crime. Every suspicion, it seemed, was so directed that it pointed to Frank."

No Race Prejudice.

"Do you think the question of race prejudice had anything to do with the case against Frank?"

"No. You will find prejudice against foreigners on the part of some people in Georgia just as you will find the same thing in New England, here in New York, or anywhere else. Georgia is as human as any State in the Union."

"Is there any prejudice against Jews in Georgia as a result of the Frank case?"

"I answer that question by pointing to the fact that one of the Trustees of the Colony of Georgia under Ogelthorpe was Minas, a Jew, whose descendants to this day are among the best and most highly respected of Georgians. The head of the Education Board in Atlanta is a Jew, and so is the Vice President of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce. My own law partner, Mr. Phillips, is a Jew. Some of the best of Georgians are Jews."

A few hours before he signed the order commuting the sentence of Frank Governor Slaton told his wife he had arrived at the conclusion that the man should not be permitted to die on the evidence produced against him.

"I told her that it might mean my death, but that I was convinced that it was my duty," said Mr. Slaton. "And Mrs. Slaton told me that there was only one course to follow, and that was to do the right thing. But I don't deserve any credit for this act. It was justice."

Trying Time for Mrs. Slaton.

When he commuted Frank's sentence at one minute after midnight of the day before the one set for Frank's execution, Mr. Slaton said he had arranged to protect Frank's life, and that had it been necessary every National Guardsman in the State would have been called into service for that purpose.

When asked if her recent experience had been fatiguing, Mrs. Slaton said: "For four nights I scarcely slept at all. It was not exactly the anxiety of the moment that kept me awake, but the frequent calls of 'Halt, who goes there?' that kept ringing out. Every time I was aroused, in spite of myself. We live six miles in the country, and there are woods back of our house. These were full of men trying to get in. The mobs were made up of a rough class, many of them unemployed men, but the mobs were led by relatives of the murdered girl, men who were sure of Frank's guilt, and who thought it their duty to avenge the wrong."

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