EX-GOV. SLATON IN A FIGHT. New York Times (1857-1922); Aug 4, 1917; ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 2008) pg. 4

EX-GOV. SLATON IN A FIGHT.

Exchanges Blows with Legislator Who Criticised Leo Frank Respite.

ATLANTA, Ga., Aug. 3.—Following an attack by Representative J. Seaborn Winn of Hart County on former ex-Governor John M. Siaton on the floor of the House this morning, the two men had a fight in the lobby of a hotel early in the afternoon.

Only a few blows were struck, when friends intervened and separated the men. Both, however, went to the floor before they were separated.

Slaton went to the House this morning under the rule which gives former Governors the privilege of the floor; and on the invitation of Speaker Holder took a seat on the rostrum. At once Winn arcs and began to denounce Slaton for commuting the death sentence of Leo Frank, who was convicted of the murder of Mary Phagan. The House was thrown into an uproar and Slaton went out. Members of the House bitterly criticised Winn for his conduct and adopted a resolution denouncing it.

Slaton and Winn met afterward in the Kimball House lobby, and Winn says the ex-Governor called him a "dirty coward" and struck him.

The ex-Governor says he was in the lobity of the hotel, discussing the affair with friends, when Winn entered. He approached Winn, he said, to ascertain the nature of the attack, which he thought had been in the form of a resolution, and called Winn "a contemptible, lying coward," and struck him.