

## FRANK WITNESS RECANTS.

Negro McKnight Now Repudiates Denial of Testimony for State.

*Special to The New York Times.*

ATLANTA, Ga., April 19.—Declaring that he had repudiated his testimony against Leo M. Frank, convicted of the murder of Mary Phagan, under the promise of a better job, made by a representative of the defense, Albert McKnight, a negro witness for the State, to-day recanted his repudiation.

"The story I told at the trial was true," he said. "There was absolutely no truth in the affidavit which I gave to Capt. Burke, in which I denied my testimony. There was no truth in the statement in the affidavit that R. L. Craven, one of my bosses, wrote the testimony for me and that I memorized it."

McKnight appeared at a police station last Wednesday and asked for protection. He said he would rather be in jail than at home and "pestered" by Capt. Burke, who is connected with the office of one of Frank's attorneys, and by other friends of Frank. He was locked up. Chief of Detectives Lanford says the negro was afraid to stay outside.

The story told by McKnight on the stand helped to shatter the time alibi of the defense, which sought to prove that Frank was not in the factory at the time Conley said he was helping to dispose of the body of the girl. McKnight said Frank came home on the day of the murder, went to his sideboard, apparently took a drink, and then rushed out again, whereas his family said he took dinner at home.

This is the story the negro told at Police Headquarters: "Capt. Burke came to me after the trial and asked me if I didn't want a Pullman job paying \$40 a month and tips, which would bring it up to \$100. That was the way he got around me. I told him of course it was better than \$28 a month and no tips. He came to me two or three times and I made that affidavit, saying Mr. Craven told me what to say. I told Capt. Burke that Mr. Craven didn't get me to tell the first story. But he said that was all right, and I wanted the \$100 job, so I swore to the affidavit. Then he told me it would not be necessary to quit the job I had right away and I kept on working. Later I got hurt by a train."

While he was in the hospital, McKnight says, Burke visited him and promised him several jobs, but none of them a \$100 job, so finally McKnight went to Solicitor Dorsey's office and recanted his repudiation.

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