

*Special to The New York Times.*

ATLANTA, Ga., June 20.—Governor Slaton is expected to give his decision tomorrow on the plea of Leo M. Frank for commutation of the death sentence imposed on him for the murder of Mary Phagan.

Governor Slaton has had the case under consideration since Wednesday, and he has been devoting day and night to it. With his private secretary he spent all of Sunday on the case, supposedly preparing his decision.

Interest in the case of the condemned man reached fever heat in Atlanta today. It was the one subject of discussion everywhere, and keen curiosity was expressed as to the probable action of the Governor. So far as the public knows, the Executive has given no hint of the result of his deliberations. Frank's fate is as much a matter of speculation tonight as it was six months ago. It is significant, however, that in all discussion of the matter there is a strong preponderance of opinion that Governor Slaton will commute the sentence to life imprisonment. The delay in announcing the decision is generally interpreted as entirely favorable to Frank.

It is argued that if Governor Slaton had intended to be governed by the decision of the courts he would have filed a decision against commutation several days ago. Frank's friends are convinced that the delay means commutation.

Governor Slaton has said that if his decision was against Frank no respite

would be granted. The friends of the prisoner argue that this means the Governor will show clemency. They refuse to believe that Governor Slaton will delay his decision until the last minute, rule adversely to Frank, and permit him to be hurried to the gallows. They contend that if the Governor had not intended to commute he would have announced his decision last Friday or Saturday and thus would have allowed time for the prisoner to meet death on Tuesday.

Notwithstanding the optimism of Frank's friends, there are many persons who interpret the Governor's delay as adverse to the prisoner. They argue that Governor Slaton is purposely delaying his decision until the eve of the execution so as to escape further opportunities in Frank's behalf. It is contended in some quarters that if the Governor had announced a decision against Frank soon after the clemency hearing was closed he would have been besieged by personal appeals in behalf of the prisoner, which would have greatly embarrassed him. For this reason, it is asserted, the Governor, after deciding against commutation, resolved to hold up the announcement until the last minute. The general opinion, however, seems to be that the Governor will save Frank from the gallows.

In this event Frank will be removed quietly from the Atlanta Jail to the State prison farm at Milledgeville some hours before the Governor makes public his decision. This will be done to avoid the possibility of an anti-Frank outbreak in Atlanta. The feeling in Atlanta and elsewhere in Georgia is undoubtedly high, and Governor Slaton has received several menacing anti-Frank messages in the last few days. On the other hand, he continues to receive a flood of letters and telegrams urging him to commute the sentence.

Whatever the decision, it will be the result of careful study on the Governor's part. He has practically allowed the case to be retried before him, and he is as familiar with the evidence as were the Judge and jury that heard it at the trial.

Frank continues to bear up well. His nerves seem to be of steel. He received scores of friends in his cell today and seemed cheerful. His wife and his parents were with him nearly all day. Several hundred persons, moved by curiosity, sought to enter the jail this afternoon to see Frank, but were turned away by the officials.