

CORROBORATES ROAN LETTER ON FRANK

**Plea for Clemency Made by
Judge's Brother Now Pub-
lished in Georgia.**

JUDGE HAD DOUBTED GUILT

**Brother Relates Conversations of
Same Import, Combating Charge
That Letter Was Forged.**

Special to The New York Times.

AUGUSTA, Ga., Sept. 27.—It has been charged that the letter in which Judge Roan of the Fulton Superior Court expressed doubt as to the guilt of Leo M. Frank and which was written shortly before his death, was a forgery. J. T. Roan, a prominent citizen of Jesup, Ga., and a brother of the late Judge Roan, was among those who appealed to the Governor and the Prison Commission for commutation of Frank's sentence, Mr. Roan basing his appeal on a conversation he had with his brother in March, 1914, in which Judge Roan said the murder of Mary Phagan did not impress him as a white man's crime, but as that of a negro.

The Augusta Chronicle will print tomorrow the Roan letter to the Governor and the Prison Commission for the first time. Here is the letter:

Jesup, Ga., May 23, 1915.

To his Excellency, the Governor of Georgia, and to the Prison Board, Atlanta, Ga:

Gentlemen: In re application of Leo M. Frank for executive clemency.

In the exercise of my prerogative as a citizen of Georgia I appeal to your Excellency and to the Prison Board to extend executive clemency to Leo M. Frank, now under sentence of death.

Judge L. S. Roan, who presided at the trial of Frank, was my brother, and during March, 1914, visited me in my home at St. Petersburg, Fla., where I was then living. He discussed the case and the trial with me, and my request for executive clemency is based upon the impressions I received from him during our conversation. I will not undertake to quote his words, but the following are a few of the impressions which were made upon me by his conversation:

The impression conveyed was that a spirit of mob violence permeated the whole atmosphere of Atlanta and even entered the courtroom and manifested itself in various ways: that it was totally beyond the power of any man to stop or stem its spirit, and that the

trial was had under these conditions which were wholly unusual.

The impression also that I received from him was that Frank had accounted for every moment of his time on the day of the murder, except for a few minutes, and that in the morning and afternoon Frank kept a very intricate set of books in perfect shape, and he could not conceive that a man of Frank's disposition could have done this had he committed the crime.

I got the further impression from him that Conley was there that morning and was drinking, and that as the little girl came downstairs the negro could have killed her and hidden her body; and, further, that the crime, taken as a whole, did not impress him as being a white man's crime, but more likely the crime of a negro.

He further left the impression upon me that the statement which he made at the time the motion for a new trial was refused did not explain fully his feelings on the subject, but that, since the jury had passed upon the evidence, it was not his duty to do so, but that the evidence itself, taken as a whole, left grave doubt in his mind as to Frank's guilt and that in passing upon the motion for a new trial he only considered the errors of law and did not pass himself upon the evidence, but that he was very sure that the Supreme Court would grant Frank a new trial, and that this would be better for Frank than for him to do it.

He also made the impression upon me that the case rested upon circumstantial evidence furnished by a negro by the name of Jim Conley, and that Conley had made four different statements, all very different from each other, any of which the jury could have believed.

Taking my brother's conversation as a whole, I am sure that he must have entertained grave doubt as to Frank's guilt.

My own person belief is, taking all the circumstances surrounding the case as I learned them from my brother and others, it would be a calamity to the honor and dignity of the State of Georgia to hang Frank, and in my opinion it would be a blot from which the State and all law-abiding citizens would suffer immeasurably.

For these reasons I sincerely trust that the Prison Board will recommend and that the Governor will commute the death sentence imposed upon Leo M. Frank. Respectfully submitted.

J. T. ROAN.

FIRE IN PACKING HOUSES.

**Entire Block in Jamaica Threatened
In High Wind.**

Fire early yesterday threatened the block at Rockaway Road and Division Street, Jamaica, where the meat houses and other industries have their headquarters. The fire started in the barn back of the Armour packing house. The firemen and watchmen managed to get all of the horses and wagons out, but the barn was destroyed.

The flames spread to the Armour building, and the roof and walls were damaged. The flames leaped to the Sulzberger plant and the outside of the storehouse was burned and charred for a distance of eighty-five feet. There was a stiff wind blowing, but Chief Stone managed to keep the flames under control. The loss is about \$4,000.