

# MAY FIND MOBBERS BY THE HANDCUFFS ON BURKE'S WRISTS

**Prison Commissioners Believe That Owners Can Be Found by Appealing to Retailer and Manufacturer.**

## **GOVERNOR HARRIS WILL ISSUE STATEMENT TODAY**

**Commissioner Davison Declares That State Department Did Not Have Money to Guard Frank Properly.**

### **RAGSDALE'S STATEMENT.**

I. N. Ragsdale, acting mayor of Atlanta in the absence of James G. Woodward, last night sent the following telegram to The New York World, in answer to a request from that newspaper for a statement:

"The daily and the weekly press of Georgia is practically unanimous in condemning mob law and urging the governor to take action in the Frank case at once. He is investigating now, and will probably offer a reward tomorrow that will bring the guilty parties to justice. While a large percentage of our people believed Frank guilty, yet they are law-abiding, and heartily disapprove of the action of the mob.

I. N. RAGSDALE."

The identity of at least one member of the mob that lynched Leo Frank is likely to be disclosed through a pair of nickel-plated handcuffs which were left Monday night on the wrists of Superintendent J. E. Burke, of the prison farm, at Milledgeville, when the mobbers sped away with Leo Frank in one of their automobiles to a point near Marietta, where Frank was hanged to a tree.

These handcuffs, according to a statement made by Chairman R. E. Davison, of the state prison commission, Wednesday afternoon, when he arrived in Atlanta from Milledgeville, have distinguishing marks, and the chairman states that he has been reliably informed that the purchaser can readily be ascertained through the aid of the manufacturer and retailer.

### **Will Hold Conference.**

Governor Nat E. Harris has called a conference with the three members of the state prison commission this morning, after which, it is likely, he will offer a reward of \$500 for the capture, with evidence to convict, of the first five members of the mob that lynched Frank. The total fund at the disposal of the governor is only \$3,000, so Governor Harris will offer practically all the fund in this one case.

The governor intended holding a conference with the three members of the prison commission Wednesday afternoon to probe into the details of the abduction of Leo Frank from the prison farm. However, Judge T. E. Patterson was called to Columbus on business for the commission, and the conference was postponed until this morning.

Following this morning's conference, Governor Harris will give out a statement concerning the lynching of Leo Frank.

"I want to speak a word for the good name of the state of Georgia," said Governor Harris, "and I am preparing my statement concerning the Frank lynching now.

"An awful crime has been committed against Georgia," continued Governor Harris, "the breaking into the state ward, the abduction of the state's ward, and subsequent lynching of him by the mob, must be probed to the fullest.

### **Will Offer Reward.**

"I will probably offer the highest reward permitted by the state laws for the capture of each man who had anything to do with the lynching of Frank, which is \$500."

For half an hour Wednesday afternoon Governor Harris was closeted with Prison Commissioner E. L. Rainey, of Dawson, who came to Atlanta with Judge Patterson Tuesday, leaving the state prison farm at Milledgeville on the first train after Leo Frank was abducted.

Commissioner Rainey outlined in detail the assault on the prison guards, telling the governor how each guard was overcome by detachments of the mob.

Chairman Davison told the story of the attack on the prison farm to a Constitution reporter shortly after his arrival in the city from Milledgeville Wednesday afternoon, and declared that as the state prison was not barricaded to resist attacks by armed mobs, it was impossible to check Monday night's assault.

"We kept all the guards on night and day duty at the main building in which Frank was incarcerated for several weeks," said Chairman Davison, "until they kicked so much that two of them quit their jobs, and we were compelled to reduce the night guard to just five men.

"We had no money to employ additional guards for Frank's defense."

Governor Harris Wednesday was in receipt of telegrams from many New York papers and other papers requesting a statement concerning the lynching and the steps to be taken to discover the lynchers. The governor will give out his statement today.

Numbers of letters were received at the governor's office from people in various parts of the country urging Governor Harris to probe to the bottom of the lynching.

### **Sheriff Is Probing.**

Deputy Sheriff Hicks, of Cobb county, who was on the scene of the Frank lynching about 7:30 o'clock Tuesday morning, being one of the first to arrive there, was in Atlanta Wednesday, and made a statement to a Constitution reporter.

"I do not believe that more than seven or eight men, riding in three au-

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tomobiles, lynched Leo Frank," said the sheriff. "Marietta is the quietest place in the world, so far as rumors going about of the lynching. I will say, though, that the best information I can gain points to there being only about seven or eight men present when Frank was lynched.

"I am doing all in my power to discover who the lynchers were, and, if they can be ascertained, I will surely assist."

### **Coroner's Inquest.**

The coroner's inquest, which had begun in Marietta Tuesday morning, was postponed until next Tuesday. Special counsel will probably be employed by the coroner to assist in the probe, the county commissioners of Cobb having authorized such action.

A special meeting has been held by the county commissioners, who expressed a determination to sift the tragedy and co-operate with the governor. But there will be no action taken, it was stated Tuesday, until some definite procedure has been decided on by state authorities.

Regardless of the proposed investigation into the state prison regarding the ease with which Frank's liberators were able to capture him, Warden James Smith said Wednesday that he knew of nothing he could do to aid in the investigation.

"The mob overpowered me and everyone connected with the prison," he said. "The work was done too quickly and we were taken by surprise.

"So far as I know there is nothing left to be brought out at an investigation."

### **Rap Lack of Resistance.**

Editorial comment of many southern papers criticised the lack of resistance on the part of the state prison officials.

The body of Frank reached Washington, D. C., at midnight en route to Brooklyn, where the funeral and burial will be held. Newspaper men who have sought to speak with Mrs. Frank on the route have been denied an audience with her. Members of the train crew stated that the funeral party did not excite unusual attention, and that there had been no untoward incident to mark the last journey of the south's most famous prisoner.

The party will reach Brooklyn this morning. No definite plans have been made for the funeral services.

### **Patterson Silent.**

Columbus, Ga., August 18.—(Special.)—Prison Commissioner T. E. Patterson is here on official business and when seen by local newspaper men and questioned concerning the abduction from the state farm of Frank, said he had absolutely nothing to say concerning the incident. Judge Patterson will be here until Thursday.

### **Passes Through Greensboro.**

Greensboro, N. C., August 18.—Only a few persons gathered around the car in which the Frank funeral party traveled during the train's stay of ten minutes here this afternoon. Mrs. Frank, who was said to be almost prostrated, remained in her stateroom, with curtains drawn.