

GEORGIANS URGED TO PLEAD FOR FRANK

Members of Society in New
York to Ask Gov. Slaton
for a Pardon.

COMMITTEE TAKES ACTION

Convinced of Condemned Man's
Innocence, Many Have Al-
ready Written to Executive.

A committee of the Georgia Society took first steps yesterday in a general movement on the part of Georgians in this city to secure executive clemency for Leo M. Frank, who, thought stoutly maintaining his innocence after a conviction on circumstantial evidence, has been sentenced to die on Jan. 22, 1915, for the murder of Mary Phagan, a young factory girl in Atlanta.

With many of the most prominent members of the Georgia Society firmly convinced of Frank's innocence, a committee which met at the Waldorf on Thursday night, composed of John Hart Gress, President of the Society; Percy C. Magnus, Vice President; Powell Crichton, Secretary; William Harman Black, an ex-president, and Fire Commissioner Adamson, a member of the Board of Governors, agreed yesterday on a letter which is being sent out to every member of the Society. The letter, which was drafted by Mr. Black and signed by the President and other officers, follows:

The Georgia Society of the City of New
York.

Dec. 11, 1914.

To the Members of the Georgia Society in
the City of New York.

Gentlemen: At an informal meeting in the Waldorf-Astoria yesterday afternoon we decided to recommend to our fellow-Georgians in New York that they write Gov. John M. Slaton requesting him to pardon Leo Frank.

We do not intend by this suggestion to express any opinion at the course of the trial because we assume that it followed the rules of law. We feel, however, that the jury may have been mistaken in their verdict, and the evidence was so largely circumstantial that to refuse to pardon Frank might amount to a denial of justice; and that we believe the benefit of every doubt should be given to a man charged with a crime the penalty for which is death.

In response to a request of the editor our views on the position appear in today's NEW YORK TIMES.

If you intend to intercede in Frank's behalf, please do so at once, as the date for the execution is set. Faithfully yours,

J. HART GRESS.

P. C. MAGNUS.

WILLIAM HARMAN BLACK.

ROBERT L. ADAMSON.

Percy C. Magnus said yesterday that he would write a letter to Gov. Slaton, with whom the final decision in the Frank case now rests, since the lawyers of the condemned man feel that all means of obtaining his vindication through the courts have been exhausted. Gov. Slaton has stated recently that he would go over carefully every scrap of evidence that was presented by both sides at the Frank trial, as well as everything in the line of proof that was brought forward in support of the various motions made before the Georgia courts with a view to getting a new trial. It will rest with Gov. Slaton either to let the decree of the courts stand or to pardon Frank or commute his sentence. Mr. Magnus said he would urge the Governor of Georgia to grant a full pardon to Frank.

"I am a business man, and do not profess to have a grasp of the legal technicalities involved in the various motions and court decisions in the Frank case since the trial," said Mr. Magnus. "As a former Georgian I have followed the case with a certain amount of interest and I have read a great deal of the evidence.

"Without any desire to reflect on

either the Judge or the jury, I venture to express the opinion that it must have occurred to others as it has occurred to me that the evidence was not presented to the court on the trial of Frank in the light justified by the facts. Frank was convicted on circumstantial evidence which was verified by an ex-convict. On the other hand, the evidence on behalf of Frank came from sources that could not be suspected. Under the circumstances I find it difficult to become reconciled to the verdict.

"All legal means for Mr. Frank's vindication having been exhausted, I believe that the Governor of Georgia undoubtedly would be doing the right thing by granting him a pardon."

"My talks with people from Georgia have convinced me that the Frank case undoubtedly was tried in the newspapers before it was tried in court," said Powell Crichton, Secretary of the Georgia Society. "If the newspapers are guilty of creating an atmosphere about this case which led to a miscarriage of justice, it is their duty now to do what they can to undo the evil. If there is the slightest doubt about Frank's guilt the Governor is in duty bound to give him the full benefit of that doubt."

President Gress of the society wrote a letter to the Governor yesterday urging him to pardon Frank.

PRESS PLEAS FOR FRANK.

Southern Newspaper Says There Is
Too Much Doubt to Permit
His Execution.

Additional protests against the execution of Leo M. Frank for the murder of Mary Phagan are voiced by the newspapers of the country. Here are two extracts from the editorial comment on the case:

Expects a Commutation.

From The Waycross (Ga.) Journal.

The friends of Frank may rest content in the belief that he will never be hanged. There is too great an element of doubt in his case to permit his meeting such a fate. Even if he loses his case in the United States Supreme Court, (and we venture the guess that he will do so,) he will not die on the gibbet. The final appeal will, of course, be to the Prison Commission and the Governor, and no matter whether that Governor is Jack Slaton or Nat Harris, or some man yet unnamed, the sentence will be commuted to life imprisonment. That, in our opinion, is to be the final determination of the Frank case, so far as the result of his trial is concerned.

And when he has served a few years in the State Penitentiary there will be started a movement for his complete pardon, which will be successful. This is the way we read the future of the Frank case.

On a Level with Russia.

From The Portland Oregonian.

If, in the face of these facts, Georgia should execute Frank, it will put itself on a level with the Black Hundreds of Russia who hunt Jews in their pogroms and with the hate-crazed Frenchmen who for years hounded Dreyfus. No State which under the forms of law executes a man at the dictation of the mob can cast a stone at the murderous fanatics of Turkey, who slaughter Armenians in hope of winning a place in the Moslem paradise.