

# MARSHALL PRAISES SLATON'S COURAGE

**Counsel for Leo Frank Says the  
Governor Has Saved the  
Honor of Georgia**

**BY PREVENTING A CRIME**

**Frank's Innocence Will Soon Be  
Triumphantly Established,  
the Lawyer Asserts.**

In an interview yesterday Louis Marshall, one of the counsel for Leo M. Frank, made the following statement in regard to the commuting of his sentence:

" Governor Slaton has saved the honor of Georgia. Had the sentence of death pronounced against Frank been executed, it would have been a crime against justice, for I am as firmly convinced of his absolute innocence as I am of my own.

" He has been the victim of poisoned public opinion. The vile aspersions, which were insinuated before Conley's connection with the crime was known, were so industriously and insidiously circulated that it became impossible to dislodge the impression, which gained foothold throughout the State and, fanned by the fires of prejudice, burst forth into a destroying flame.

" Demagogues like Tom Watson, who is the very embodiment of hate, kept unthinking men in a state of continual excitement. From this grew the mob spirit, which was manifested without abatement from the very beginning, and blinded the populace of Atlanta to truth, common sense and probability.

" One who calmly reads the record of the trial and contemplates all that has transpired since Frank's arrest, marvels at the manifestation of the mental aberration of men, naturally just, peaceful and law-abiding, who gave credence to the ridiculous testimony upon which Frank was convicted.

" The trial took place in an atmosphere of avowed animosity. Those who sought to protect him according to law were in the direst jeopardy. Conscientious public officials advised his counsel to arm themselves for their own protection while the trial proceeded.

#### **The Campaign of Prejudice.**

" As it progressed the attitude of the public became more and more ominous. Hostile demonstrations took place of such a nature that the presiding justice was constrained to call into conference, in the very presence of the jury, the Chief of Police of Atlanta and the Colonel of the local militia regiment.

" Frank and all of his counsel were practically coerced to absent themselves from the courtroom at the time of the rendition of the verdict, in order to avoid the outbursts of lawlessness. The press of Atlanta, in expectation of such an outbreak, united in a request to the court that the case should not be submitted to the jury on the last Saturday of the trial. If these facts had not been certified by the court itself, they would seem incredible.

" While the various appeals taken by Frank were pending inflammatory articles appeared in Watson's unspeakable Jeffersonian, attacking everybody connected with the defense, replete with the most unworthy charges and stimulating the most shocking prejudices.

" In spite of the doubts of the Presiding Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia and of the Supreme Court of the United States, under circumstances which led the most judicious and well-poised men and women of Georgia and the entire country to recognize that it would be a disgrace to civilization if Frank were executed, the same malign influences which pursued him called together mass meetings throughout the State in which the public authorities were urged to deliver him to the executioner.

" While the Board of Prison Commissioners and the Governor himself were engaged in hearing the arguments presented in behalf of this unfortunate man, thousands of excited men clamored for his blood under the very windows where these public officials were deliberating.

" It, therefore, required high moral courage in Governor Slaton to perform his duty. He has written his name large in the history of justice in America. His act will never be forgotten, so long as we shall continue to pride ourselves upon the orderly administration of the law without fear or prejudice.

#### **Says Innocence Will Be Proved.**

" Whatever those who sought to consign Frank to the gallows may now think, the time will certainly come when they will show their gratitude to Governor Slaton for having saved the State from the perpetration of a stupendous crime, for it is as sure as truth itself that ere long Frank's innocence will be triumphantly established.

" I also prophesy that the day will come when the dissenting opinions of Justices Holmes and Hughes will become the law of the land."