

# GEORGIA PRESS CONDEMNNS ACT

Lynching of Frank the State's  
Shame, Says The Atlanta  
Constitution.

'GEORGIA HANGS HER HEAD'

Lone Paper, Published at Scene  
of Lynching, Defends It  
as Act of Justice.

*With the exception of a newspaper published at Marietta, Mary Phagan's home town, the press of Georgia, so far as comment was obtainable last night, was practically unanimous in condemning the lynching of Leo M. Frank. In response to a request sent to the principal newspapers of the State for extracts from their editorial opinions THE TIMES received the following:*

## **Calls It "Georgia's Shame."**

*Special to The New York Times.*

ATLANTA, Ga., Aug. 17.—Under the caption "Georgia's Shame," The Atlanta Constitution will say tomorrow:

"Leo M. Frank, a life prisoner in the State penitentiary, where he was sent by conjoint decree of the courts and the Executive clemency power, has been taken from the State prison farm, carried more than 150 miles through the country, and lynched by a mob, which left his body hanging to a tree near Marietta.

"In that act the sovereignty of the State of Georgia has been assaulted, desecrated, raped. No word in the language is too strong to apply to the deliberate and carefully conspired deed of the mob. The assault of the lowest criminal upon the life, person, or property of another affects directly but two persons, the assailant and his victim; that act of the mob which lynched Leo Frank has put a stain upon the escutcheon of a State, which more than 2,500,000 people are trying to preserve untarnished.

"Every man, woman, and child in Georgia will feel the ultimate effect of that act of the law-defying mob which went to Milledgeville and lynched, not Leo Frank, who is only a detail in the awful story, but the State itself. It is Georgia, Georgia law and justice, that was hanged upon that Cobb County tree. The strangest part about it all is that it occurred at all.

"There is not a man, woman, or child of reasonable age in Georgia but could have predicted the possibility of this wantonly unlawful tragedy. Most of all, those State authorities responsible for prison safety should have known the attempt would probably be made. In the well-known state of public feeling, emphasized by repeated threats and rumors of violence to the prisoner, and further incited by a murderous assault upon the particular prisoner by an inmate of the same penitentiary camp, it was the duty of those State authorities, their sworn duty, to go to every necessary extent to prevent that act of violence in which Georgia's shame is now indelibly written.

"They owed it not only to the prisoner, but to the State; they owed it to Georgia, the sanctity of whose law has been the one real issue and now the thing most wantonly violated. And yet that mob of twenty-five men secured a prisoner whom the State was obliged to protect, carried him away and lynched him, took him without the necessity of breaking a lock or firing a shot.

"Georgia cannot retrieve the act for which, through failure of her officials, responsibility rests upon her. There is but one even approximately adequate answer she can make, and that is punishment of the offenders, punishment of the slayers of a State's prisoner, of the assailants of the sovereignty of a State. It matters not how the decrees of a court or courts may be modified through legal process; it is the duty,

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the sworn duty, of those officers charged by law with their execution to uphold them."

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