

TOOK FRANK'S LIFE IN "RESENTMENT"

Nation's Interference with "State's Business" Cause of Lynching, Macon Newspaper Asserts.

Special to The New York Times.

MACON, Ga., Aug. 17. — Under the title "Finis," The Macon Daily Telegraph, in an editorial article which will appear tomorrow morning, treats of the lynching of Leo M. Frank. The editorial, in part, follows:

"The Frank case has come to an end—climatic, catastrophical, stunning in its conclusiveness, its absolute finality. There are, of course, to be investigations, the usual thing, presumably. The shocking ease with which a score of men raped the State penitentiary, the Warden of which had boasted that 'Only von Kluck and his forty-two centimeter' would ever take that bastille, demands instant and vigorous attention."

Concerning the lynchers, the writer says: "Doubtless they can be apprehended, doubtful they will," and then continues:

"The fact that Frank was convicted of a terrible crime and 'cheated the gallows through Executive commutation' is the apparent reason for his falling into the hands of a real Ku Klux band, but that reason is only partly influential that could now inflame a great division of a people and impel such an act two years after the crime had been committed. Not alone.

"Four publications in particular, several Governors, not a few Northern delegations invading Georgia, many editorials in prominent publications outside the State by editors who were not informed, initiated the feeling of resentment in Georgia, a righteous resentment, and kept it up with such vicious energy that defense of the State was demanded.

"The Macon Telegraph and The Augusta Chronicle pronounced, alone of the Georgia dailies, against these onslaughts on the Georgia courts, some time, however, before the case was through the various judicial channels it might traverse under the law and Constitution, declaring that if under the laws of Georgia or the nation there was any door for Frank to go through it would open in the end.

"One did open and we expressed ourselves content. But in the meantime a more fiery, a far bitter fight was on, with Thomas E. Watson, through the medium of his monthly and weekly publications, widely read in Georgia, vigorously contending that the jury was right and that Frank was guilty, that he should hang.

"Attacks were made on him by the outside press, notably by Puck, and because THE NEW YORK TIMES and The New York World, Jewish owned also, made such a tremendous fight for Frank, aided by Collier's Weekly, attacking the State and declaring Frank was convicted because of anti-Semitic feeling rather than the evidence, Watson accepted the Semitic challenge thus thrown down and in a very few weeks the State was seething.

"The Burns escapades and operations in Atlanta, by no means creditable to that organization, the reported dimensions of the funds raised by Jews to aid Frank in his fight for life were dwelt upon at length, the contention being set up that the rich Jew or the Jew with rich connections would never be punished if money could do anything in any way to prevent it. Watson made the issue of one law for the rich and another for the poor, the big issue with the anti-Semitic issue, first raised in this State by critics outside our borders, continually quoting his journalistic critics in the metropolis and all over the nation whenever they attacked Georgia or Georgians. Thus cleverly he used the other side of the controversy to supply fresh and the most combustible fuel for his utterances and appeals, until the climax came near Marietta just at daybreak Tuesday.

"The men who did the work were firmly convinced Frank was guilty, honestly convinced, of that there can be no doubt. All they could see was the body of the murdered girl, the pitiful little corpse, the picture of which has made all Georgia see red. That Frank's commutation was secured by the use of money, and money alone, the majority of the people of Georgia believe. These things in their minds, the thirty-five Cobb County men who lynched Leo Frank went ahead with their work with clear consciences. This is the truth, The Telegraph knows it is, and so should Governor Slaton, despite his assertion that the were all 'cowardly assassins.' They really believed they were avenging angels."

After further reference to the Watson propaganda The Telegraph continues:

"THE TIMES and The World kept up their equally unreasoning fight for Frank, and in the meantime the people of Georgia were growing hotter and hotter because of two fires—one that they believed to be an onslaught on the finality and sovereignty of their jury system by the use of unlimited money to save the life of a man they believed to be absolutely guilty, and the other their intense resentment against the newspaper propaganda, the messages from legislators, the deputations from other sections headed by Governors, and so on, all openly and ignorantly lashing and scoring the people of Georgia, the laws of Georgia, and everything else Georgian, all because most Georgians believed Frank guilty, and, because of the nature of the crime, wanted him hanged for it. The commutation by Governor Slaton was condemned by 90 per cent. of the people of Georgia bitterly and angrily. Some of these think he made a mistake; others think he was in some way purchased, either by the pressure of his law partner or more direct means.

"Thus was Leo Frank caught between the upper and nether millstones—the foolish, calamitous propaganda by alleged friends and the natural and justified resentment in Georgia against this outside interference, allied with the propaganda of Watson, and his life was taken—he was killed as an unclean thing is killed and left for the buzzards.

"Such a thing can never happen again in Georgia. It would never have happened had the rest of the nation left this State to mind its own business, which would have been infinitely better for Frank, better for Georgia, better for the Jewish race in this State. We have spoken and spoken the last word we shall utter on the Frank case."