

# FRANK RAILROADED, E. V. DEBS ASSERTS

**Declares Race Prejudice Made  
His Trial a Farce and He  
Had No Chance.**

**SAYS THE SOUTH IS BLINDED**

**Race Intolerance Traced to Years of  
Injustice to Negro—Real Lynch  
Law in Frank's Conviction.**

*Special to The New York Times.*

TERRE HAUTE, Ind., Dec. 27.—Eugene V. Debs, former Socialist candidate for President, has written the following on the Frank case:

I have followed the Frank case in the press on account of its extraordinary nature, and the conviction was forced upon me long ago that Frank's trial was a farce and that the prejudice against him on account of his race was so intense that, however innocent he might be, he had not a ghost of a chance for his life.

Had this boy been the son of a "first family," instead of an alien Jew, he would not even have been arrested upon the testimony of a "nigger," who was himself suspected of the crime, and, in all likelihood, the case would have been summarily disposed of by lynching the "nigger."

The question at this time is not as to Frank's innocence or guilt, but as to whether or not he had a fair trial, and in that question every American citizen is vitally interested.

Now, no one, least of all those who are thirsting for his blood, pretends that Frank was fairly tried. From the very beginning his fate was sealed. The Court House in which the farce was staged was surrounded by an angry and threatening crowd. Every point scored against the unfortunate victim was greeted with an outbreak, which the court made no attempt to suppress, and when finally the verdict of guilty was brought in by the trembling jury, a demonstration of frenzied jubilation followed, which, even had he been guilty, would have been a disgrace to a civilized community.

Not an editor dared to protest; not a minister opened his mouth, although it was notorious that the lawyers for the defense and the jury were threatened with summary vengeance if Frank was not convicted. If the presumption of innocence is not valid in the case of Leo Frank simply because he is a Jew, then not one of us has any right to the protection of the law. The constitutional guarantees of the accused have been denied him, he has been convicted upon purely circumstantial evidence and this evidence of flimsiest character, and if he is permitted to go to his death under such circumstances it will be an everlasting disgrace to the country.

The South is blinded by race prejudice, one of the inheritances of chattel slavery. There is no law and no justice for the black man in that section, and I have traveled over it long enough to know. The bare suspicion of guilt is sufficient warrant to lynch a "nigger." It is in this atmosphere and environment that Frank, "the damned Jew," has been railroaded.

The prosecution went over his entire past with a searchlight, but was unable to find a particle of evidence against Frank's moral character, and so far as the actual evidence is concerned he stands absolutely innocent before the world.

Just imagine yourself in the place of Leo Frank and innocent of the shocking crime with which he is charged, and for which he is to be put to death. Suppose him to be innocent, what shall we think of our civilization, what shall we think of ourselves?

The law gives him the benefit of the doubt, and if this be denied him, the courts outlaw themselves and civilization itself stands impeached.

This is not a cause that concerns the State of Georgia alone. The Constitution of the United States has been violated, and its protection denied a citizen charged with crime in a prejudiced community, and this of itself is sufficient to make the case of Leo Frank the case of every American citizen.

Let public sentiment be aroused until lynch law is rebuked in Georgia, and Leo Frank given a fair trial and a just verdict.

EUGENE V. DEBS.