

KEEP AN OPEN MIND

Notwithstanding all that has happened since the finding of the murdered body of Mary Phagan, nothing has yet been developed that in any way fixes the crime on any individual.

Several arrests have been made and in the excitement incident to the affair suspicion has been directed from one person to another as the kaleidoscope has turned on the investigation.

All of which goes to show that the public is often constrained to reach hasty and frequently unwarranted conclusions. It is certain that all of the parties against whom suspicion has, in one way or another, been directed cannot be guilty; under the evidence yet developed none of them can be said to be guilty of the atrocious crime.

Sooner or later the "murder will out," but the verdict must come in an orderly and a legal way, and until something more definite develops than has yet been ascertained it is the duty of the public to keep an open mind.

Nothing can be more unjust nor more repugnant to the popular sense of justice than to convict even by hearsay an innocent man.

The Constitution, therefore, takes this occasion to call upon the public to suspend judgment and not to endeavor to convict, even by indirection, any one who has not had the full and fair showing guaranteed by the constitution of the state and of the United States, not to speak of the all-pervading guarantee that the public's sense of justice should throw around any man who, by law, is presumed to be innocent until he is proven to be guilty.

We say this without reference to any individual, but in justice to all who are even indirectly under suspicion.