

# NEWS OVERCOMES

## FRANK'S PARENTS

**Aged Father in a Serious Condition—Mother Stands the Shock Better.**

**WIFE BEARING UP WELL**

**Receives Message of Husband's Death as if Mob's Act Was Not Unexpected.**

Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Frank, the parents of Leo M. Frank, were overcome with grief at their home, 152 Underhill Avenue, Brooklyn, on hearing that their son was the victim of a Georgia mob. Early yesterday morning they received the news of his death from newspaper men. The shock prostrated both of them. With the aged parents live their daughter, Mrs. Otto Stern, her husband, and their two children.

Otto Stern said last night that no arrangements had been made yet for Frank's funeral, nor would any be made until after the body had reached Brooklyn. No word had been received from the authorities in Atlanta as to when the body would be shipped. Mr. Stern said Mrs. Frank, recovering from the first shock, was bearing up well, but he feared the effect on Mr. Frank because of his age. He is 72 years old, some fifteen years older than his wife.

"The family have no statement to make at this time," said Mr. Stern. "But we are preparing one and we shall have something to say after the funeral. I know my brother-in-law was innocent and you can depend on it he did not flinch even when they dragged him out of jail. He was as calm as you are, you may feel sure, even when they put the rope around his neck. He was a good, religious boy and he did not fear to face his Maker."

For several hours after the first word of the lynching reached the Frank home, the parents anxiously awaited official information from the Georgia authorities in the vain hope that their fears for the worst might not be true. It was shortly before 11 o'clock that Mr. Frank and Mr. Stern were seen leaving the house.

The two men were immediately surrounded by newspaper men. Both plainly showed the effects of their grief, and the father of Frank was evidently struggling to bear the ordeal. Leaning on the arm of his son-in-law, he tried to walk away from the reporters.

"I can't talk, I can't talk," he said when he was asked if he had anything to say. "Please, please don't ask me anything," he begged, and he began to weep.

"My poor boy, my poor murdered Leo," he murmured.

"But there is a God," he remarked and he suddenly straightened. His face assumed a determined look, and in a voice broken with emotion he said:

"If there is any force left in the laws of this land, these men will be brought to justice."

As Mr. Frank and his son-in-law started to walk away, some of the reporters stepped behind them, and Mr. Stern, turning to them, pleaded:

"Please don't follow us, boys. We are on our way to the telegraph office to make arrangements."

Another effort was made to see one of the members of the family, and this time, Mrs. Frank, the mother of Leo, came to the door. Her eyes were red from weeping, and she begged to be excused when she was told that it was true that her son was dead.

"Is it true? Is it true that Leo is dead?" and her voice shook.

"I can't say anything. I can't. It's terrible," she exclaimed when told that there was no hope of hearing anything to the contrary. "There is nothing I can say."

It was learned that when Mrs. Frank became resigned to the truth of the report of her son's death, she said:

"Thank God, he is dead, and through with his troubles. If he had lived, his life would have been a torture to him, and they might have killed him in a worse way."

Mrs. Otto Stern, the sister of Leo, who answered most of the inquiries at the Frank home, has been the chief consoler of her parents in their sorrow. She was annoyed by the repeated inquiries early in the morning at the Frank home about news of the death of Leo. She became indignant after some reporters had stayed near the door of the house for several hours.

"They got us out of bed about 4 o'clock this morning to tell us of this horror," she said, "and since then we have lived in the fear of hearing the worst. Not a soul has been able to leave the house because of those reporters waiting in front. And to make things worse we are being called on the phone repeatedly and asked to say something."

"What is there for us to say? Mother is half dead from the shock, and father is prostrated and in the care of a physician. The only thing that enables me to bear up is that some one of us must remain calm."

Rabbi Alexander Lyons of the Eighth Avenue Temple, in Brooklyn, said, when he heard of the lynching:

"This tragedy fills me with painful horror. I knew Frank for years. The crime with which he was charged was as foreign to his nature as sin is to saintliness. In the name of the highest Americanism I call upon all self-respecting Americans to hold Georgia to account and to see to it that nothing is left undone to discover and punish the perpetrators of this dastardly tragedy."