

SLATON, IN ADDRESS, DENOUNCES LYNCHING

Ex-Governor Declares He Will Return to Georgia to Condemn Frank Mob's Work.

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 17.—In an address today to the San Francisco centre of the California Civic League, former Governor John M. Slaton of Georgia, who commuted the sentence of Leo M. Frank from death to life imprisonment, devoted himself almost entirely to the Frank case and the lynching. In his audience were a majority of members of the California Supreme Court and other prominent persons, members of the league. In his address, Mr. Slaton said:

"I would prefer Frank to be lynched by a mob rather than that he be hanged by judicial mistake. One attacks the soul of civilization; the other merely reaches the body. This has been such a lesson to Georgia that I hope it will never again occur in our civilization.

"There are conditions about the Frank case which constitute a tribute to the state of Georgia. No wonder it is difficult to open the ears of Georgians to reason. They forget the identity of the offender in the magnitude of the offense.

"There were many good people—as good as I—who disagreed with me because, they said, I set aside the verdict of a jury and interfered with the functions of a duly exercised court of law. But when these people find out the truth of the Frank case their general condemnation of me will turn to general approval, and they will know that I saved the State from a stain which never could have been eradicated.

"The act was a consummate outrage, and every man engaged in the lynching should be hanged, for he is an assassin," continued the ex-Governor. "Such an act is contrary to the civilization of Georgia, and one which every good citizen will condemn. The English language is not strong enough, or broad enough, to describe this outrage. The men who would do this sort of thing are of the sort that kill women and children and men from behind fences.

"No language is too condemnatory for this case, and the words that I speak here I shall speak when I get home. I repeat that every good man and good woman in Georgia will resent this outrage, and will demand the speedy punishment of those who have perpetrated it.

"I believe the Governor of Georgia will use all the power of the State to punish the malefactors who disgraced the civilization of Georgia. I am shocked and horrified beyond expression. Any man who approves of this action of the mob of murderers is unworthy to be a Georgian. Any man or newspaper which condones this offense ought to be driven out of the State.

"Frank was well guarded, but the attack was made at a time least expected. Only twenty-six miles away there was a company of militia in readiness to protect Frank, but the plot was too deeply laid and too quickly executed to be circumvented."

Mr. and Mrs. Slaton will go to San Diego in about a week to visit the Panama-California Exposition, and afterward will return to their home in Georgia.

"Of course I'm not afraid to return to Georgia," Mr. Slaton said. "This act of lynching Leo Frank is not that of the good people of my State. It's the act of a few criminals. I'm going to spend the rest of my life in Georgia. I'll be back home by the middle of September."