

FRANK COUNSEL HOPEFUL.

Will Confer in Atlanta Today as to Their Next Step.

Special to The New York Times.

ATLANTA, Ga., Dec. 13.—“We are far from losing hope in our fight to save the life of Leo Frank,” said Harry Alexander of counsel for the condemned man upon his return tonight from Washington. “We’re going to fight to the last ditch. Georgia is about to put to death an innocent man. I don’t believe the people will permit it. People who once advocated Frank’s execution are beginning to put deeper study upon the case, and to take a more sober attitude, now that they actually realize the inconceivable wrong that is about to be done.

“If Georgia only half comprehended the intense interest that is being taken in the Frank case by every State in the Union—the majority of opinion being in behalf of Frank—I do not believe our present fight would be so difficult. Everywhere I have been there is an interest in this case that is surprising.”

Mr. Alexander made a hurried trip from Washington to confer with associate counsel in regard to the next step to be taken. He was in Washington endeavoring to have the Supreme Court of the United States set aside the verdict. Another attempt to reopen the case in the Washington court has been predicted. Mr. Alexander would not say whether he would advise such a move.

“Do you intend advising that counsel concentrate on the Prison Board and the Governor, instead of trying to bring the case again to the attention of the Federal Court?” he was asked.

“I would rather not state,” was his reply, “until I have conferred with my associates.”

This conference will be held tomorrow. At that time will be decided just what action shall be taken.

Mr. Alexander said that seldom had a criminal case caused such widespread interest and comment in the nation’s capital. Some of the best legal minds in Washington, he declared, were making an exhaustive study of the case.

PASTOR SPEAKS FOR FRANK.

His Execution Will Hinder Law Enforcement, Mr. Reisner Says.

The Rev. Christian F. Reisner, pastor of Grace Methodist Episcopal Church, in West 104th Street, preached last evening on “Helping the Police.” In referring to the Frank case he said:

“If the Georgia authorities permit Frank to be executed law enforcement will be hindered, not helped. Capital punishment at best is uncivilized, but when it is employed on a man convicted on such evidence and under such circumstances as brought the verdict ‘guilty’ to Frank it is barbarous. The prisoner may be guilty, but there is enough apparent doubt in the case to at least commute the sentence that further developments may be possible. When injustice is sowed in any cause it will reap lawlessness in the end.”

Mr. Reisner then went on to say that we were too prone to criticize the police, and that this criticism discouraged the members of the force and encouraged lawlessness.

ASKS CLEMENCY FOR FRANK.

Former Georgian Writes an Open Letter to Gov. Slaton.

An open letter, appealing for clemency for Leo M. Frank, has been sent by David Robinson of this city, a former Georgian, to Gov. Slaton. In the letter he says:

I have followed the case in every detail, including the career of the young man since early boyhood, and firmly believe that a grave error will be committed if the sentence is carried into execution. It will be a stain upon the good name of the State that will be irreparable.

A very great majority of the citizens of Georgia, as well as of other States, await your just and favorable action. You will be upheld by every fair-minded person in the United States. Having served on juries in murder cases in Georgia, I know the severe strain attached to such duty. I can testify also that court trials in Georgia have always been conducted fairly, yet am free to say from practical knowledge that the prejudice which exists in certain sections of Georgia against Jews was in part responsible for the jury’s verdict against Leo Frank. This hatred, so apparent during the trial, was a factor impelling fear on the jury because of the state of the public mind at the time.

In the cities of Savannah, Macon, Augusta, Albany, or Columbus the conservative element would have obtained and no such verdict would have been rendered upon the sole evidence of Conley as presented. I say this notwithstanding the great attachment I have for Atlanta and my friends there.