

POLITICS ENMESHES A MURDER MYSTERY

**Atlanta Police Under Fire as
Grand Jury Sifts Killing
of a Young Girl.**

LEADING LAWYER ACCUSED

**Georgia City Torn by Factional War
as Result of the Tragical Death
of Mary Phagan.**

ATLANTA, May 21.—While the Fulton County Grand Jury to-day was considering evidence of the murder of 14-year-old Mary Phagan, disclosures showed that the case had become entangled in a local political fight involving the war that has been waged against Chief of Police Beavers.

It is alleged the political opponents of Beavers have endeavored to make the investigation of the Phagan case a factor in the fight against him. On the other hand it is charged that police have resented efforts to bring outside detectives to the city to solve the murder mystery.

It also contended that an effort has been made to entrap Col. Thomas B. Felder, a prominent attorney, who raised a fund to bring a detective of international reputation to Atlanta to investigate the murder of the Phagan girl.

An afternoon newspaper printed to-day what purports to be a stenographic record of a conversation between Col. Felder and G. C. February, secretary of N. A. Lanford, local chief of detectives, with a third person present.

A record of the conversation is alleged to have been obtained by means of a dictagraph installed in a hotel room at the direction of local detectives. The device is the one which Col. Felder employed against Gov. Cole Blease of South Carolina during a controversy with that Executive. The stenographic record in the local case was made by George H. Gentry. The newspaper also printed a series of affidavits from local detectives and city employes, which assert that Col. Felder offered to pay \$1,000 if they would place in his hands certain papers in the Phagan case which, he said, would "drive Beavers and Lanford from office."

The detectives say the papers which Col. Felder wanted were in the safe of the Chief of Detectives. They arrest that they told Felder they might be prosecuted if they stole the papers and that he assured them that they could

not be put in the penitentiary so long as "his friend Hugh Dorsey was Solicitor General." They also say that Felder said he could control the Criminal Court Judge and Mayor Woodward. One of the affidavits asserts Felder said he could induce Gov. Brown or Gov.-Elect Slaton to release any of the men involved if an attempt were made to put them in jail.

In denying this charge to-night Col. Felder said:

"I will later make a complete reply to these affidavits, and in addition to this I will undertake to show a condition which exists in respect to the so-called department that will be appalling."

The Grand Jury adjourned until tomorrow for further consideration of the case against Leo M. Frank, Superintendent of the pencil factory where Mary Phagan worked, and Newt Lee, a negro watchman there.

GO OVER GILLEN'S HEAD.

Excise Arrests Made from Headquarters in Old Tenderloin.

Direct activity from Deputy Commissioner Newburger's office in the shape of four arrests last night for alleged violation of the liquor-tax law in the old Tenderloin surprised the men attached to Inspector Gillen's staff who had been handling such cases. Two detectives attached to the Deputy Commissioner's staff made the arrests last night on John Doe warrants issued by Magistrate Levy, sitting in the Jefferson Market Court last Monday, alleging violation of the law on Sunday. They were served on four waiters and bartenders in four saloons in the district.

The men were immediately balled out by their employers and will be arraigned in the Jefferson Market Court this morning.