

# FRANK LYNCHING GRAND JURY MEETS

## Members Charged by Judge to Investigate Fully, but "Not as Detectives."

MARIETTA, Ga., Sept. 1.—The Cobb County Grand Jury, drawn for the July court term, was charged today by Judge H. J. Patterson to investigate the "resent lynching in this county," and at the close of the day several witnesses had been examined for information they might have of the hanging of Leo M. Frank. Indications were that the jurors would conclude the examination of the thirty-five or more witnesses called in time to report tomorrow.

Judge Patterson was emphatic on three points in his charge: That the crime should be thoroughly investigated; that this was not a special Grand Jury, as had been reported, and that the jurors were not "Secret Service men" compelled "to do detective work to perform their duties." He said Cobb County never had needed a special Grand Jury, and that the Frank lynching was not the sole cause of reconvening the jury that served during the July court term.

Soon after the jurymen retired witnesses called in the Frank case went before them, but the majority remained only a few minutes. Tomorrow it is expected members of the Georgia Prison Commission will be examined. The three members of the commission were at the State prison the night Frank was taken away.

Among the witnesses summoned is O. B. Keeler, a newspaper man, who will be asked to tell how he came in possession of Frank's wedding ring, which he says was mysteriously delivered to him with a request from Frank to see that it be returned to Mrs. Frank. Other witnesses are W. M. Swanson, Sheriff of Cobb County; G. M. Hicks, the deputy who took charge of Frank's body immediately after it was found; Mayor E. P. Dobbs and H. L. Looney, Chief of Police of Marietta.

In his charge to the Grand Jury Judge Patterson did not mention Frank's name. He said in part:

"I want to say that you are not a special Grand Jury, drawn by the Judge of the Blue Ridge Circuit, as has been stated, but the regularly organized Grand Jury of Cobb County. Not only in this, but in a great deal more that has been said recently in the press, the facts have been deviated from, and I want to strongly assert that the press generally has done Cobb County a great injustice.

"I have been informed that a murder was committed here in the county the day after the July term of court was adjourned. Of that I do not know, but the information has come to me. It has been published broadcast over the world that a lynching has recently occurred in Cobb County. It is your duty to make a thorough and complete investigation of that, as it is of all charges of crime when brought to your attention. Your oaths bind you to honestly, fairly, and impartially make an investigation of it, but it is not your duty to assume the rôle of secret service men—the rôle of detectives. You were not selected in the capacity of private detectives, but as grand jurors of your county, and your work is that of Grand Jurors, and not the work of secret service men. And yet it is your duty to do what you can to ferret out any crime alleged to have been committed within your county, to do it fairly, fearlessly, and without hope of reward, or the reverse.

"I want to caution you that your oaths require you to keep your counsel and that of your State secret; you are not to discuss on the outside anything that is done within your room; that you gentlemen must keep secret."

Prior to charging the jury Judge Patterson cautioned the balliff to be "especially cautious in the care of any papers or documents intrusted to your care. Any matter delivered to you for transmission to the Grand Jury should have your protection."