The Jeffersonian

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The Truth About the Settlement of the Frank Case.

THOSE of our readers who do not see the daily papers published in other sections cannot be aware of the fact that telegrams were sent from Atlanta, announcing that the mother of Mary Phagan had signed a statement which admitted the innocence of Leo Frank.

Of course, the purpose of these telegrams was, *to put the State of Georgia in the wrong.*

If the outsiders could be shown that Mary Phagan's own mother believed in the innocence of Leo Frank, then the conviction would become confirmed, that Frank had been made the martyr of race hatred.

Telegrams of that sort, published conspicuously in Northern and Eastern dailies, were calculated to leave an indelible stain upon the courts of Georgia, and upon ninety per cent. of our people.

A friend of mine—always ready to defend my honor when it is assailed—was good enough to secure a copy of the paper which was signed by Mary Phagan's mother.

It reads as follows:

GEORGIA—FULTON COUNTY.

Mrs. J. W. Coleman vs. National Pencil Company—No. 32,954, Fulton Superior Court, March Term, 1915.

Whereas, in the above stated cause, **the plaintiff insists that she is entitled to recover upon either or both of the counts** in the petition in said case set out; and,

Whereas, the defendant denies that they are responsible upon the first count, but admit they are responsible on the second count; and,

Whereas, by reason of this said admission the defendant desires to settle said case upon the payment of a sum to be agreed upon between the parties; and,

Whereas, said sum has been agreed upon at Three Thousand Three Hundred and Seventy-five Dollars ($3,375).

Now, therefore, I, the plaintiff in the above stated case hereby acknowledge receipt of the sum of Three Thousand Three Hundred and Seventy-five Dollars ($3,375), in full of all claims that I have or may have had or may hereafter have by reason of the facts and things in said petition in the above state cause set out.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 20th day of March, 1916.

RELEASE.

(Signed) MRS. J. W. COLEMAN.

[SEAL.]

You will see that Mrs. Coleman did not make any admission whatever.

The defendant company *inserted its own contention*, in the receipt, when it paid the money to settle the suit. *But HER contention is stated, too!*

Everybody knows what the *contention* of Frank's kindred has been: to have them say it again, added nothing to the record.

But what was their motive for shirking the opportunity to try the case on the civil side of the court, before another judge and another jury?

They had claimed that all they wanted was another trial.

That was what the Atlanta *Journal* demanded: that was what Mr. Hearst demanded: that was what was demanded by all the folks who got worked up over it.

A calm rehearsal of the evidence, in the usual manner of a civil suit, was the ideal way to vindicate the memory of the dead, and clear the reputation of the living.

Why didn't those who were most concerned avail themselves of it?

WHAT WERE THEY AFRAID OF?

They dreaded that mass of unimpeachable testimony upon which Frank had been convicted.

The attorney of Mary Phagan's mother, in the settlement of her case, is Mr. James L. Key.

He says:

My client not only did not sign a receipt placing the crime upon Connally, but **she refused to make such an admission, and I flatly refused to advise her to thus compromise the case.**

I based the suit on two counts: One, Connally, **he being the employee of Frank**; the other, Frank, he being the agent of the National Pencil Factory, against which corporation I was bringing the civil action. I was not interested in the criminal action. But the attorneys for the defense knew that I believed Frank guilty, and I do not hesitate to say now, that I know he was guilty. **In this belief Mrs. Coleman joins.**

The reason why Mr. Key settled for the small sum mentioned was, that the Pencil Factory had gone out of business, and was threatening to go into bankruptcy.

For many and many a year, the Frank case will come to the surface, in some way, and it is worth while to keep the record straight.

TO REDUCE SIZE OF WEEKLY JEFFERSONIAN AND RESTORE CLUB RATE.

With the steady advance in the price of news-paper stock, including everything used in newspaper work, The Weekly Jeffersonian announced that it would be forced to withdraw the club offer of fifty cents.

Mr. Watson has decided to restore the club offer, and to reduce the size of The Weekly Jeffersonian to eight pages, until normal conditions are restored in the paper mills and other branches of paper supplies.

This change goes into effect with next issue.

J. D. WATSON,
Business Manager.

O, Look and See What We Fool Democrats Have Gone and Done in Georgia!

IT becomes my painful duty to inform you that we Democrats have made a mess of things political and presidential, in dear old Georgia.

We have ignored the people, refused them a chance to vote, violating the highest law of the party and the basic principle of Jeffersonian democracy.

We have undertaken to enthrone Tammany Bossism, which gives to an *appointed* Committee the power to rule an *appointed* convention, without allowing *the people* to vote for anything or anybody.

No such thing was ever before attempted in Georgia.

WILL IT GO?

That remains to be seen.

What was the secret of this unexampled piece of thimble-rigging and chicane?

It was to secure *the appointment* of *A JOHN SLATON DELEGATION to the National Democratic Convention.*

The opening speech to the Macon convention of last Wednesday was made by a member of the State Executive Committee, local attorney for the L. & N. combination, and one of the signers of the petition in favor of Leo Frank.

By the way, he was the only man in his county who *would* sign it.

This member of the State Committee—as reported in the Macon *Evening News*—demanded that every voter be required to take an oath before he should be allowed to exercise *his legal right to vote, in a LAW-MADE PRIMARY.*

Mind you, the Law prescribes the conditions of the State primary, and the condition is that the voter must be *registered.*

The law says nothing about color, nothing about political creed, nothing about previous voting, to the registered tax-payer; but this Hardwick mouthpiece of the State convention demanded that the tax-paying voters—*most of whom pay more than the poll-tax Hardwick pays*—be humiliated, mistreated, and illegally sworn to an oath of allegiance to the Hardwick machine.

Fortunately for the cause of law, justice, and common decency, this arrogant attempt at bulldozing lawlessness was defeated.

But the Convention refused the people a vote on the candidacy of Woodrow Wilson, and the appointed delegates to the State Convention appointed a delegation to the National Convention—a Wilson-Hearst-Slaton delegation headed by James R. Gray, of the Atlanta *Journal.*

The law of the Democratic party is the last national platform, adopted at Baltimore in 1912.

To organized Democrats, there is no higher party law.

To ignore it, is lack of fealty: TO DEFY IT, IS PARTY TREASON.

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