

THE TRIAL OF LEO M. FRANK FOR THE MUR-
DER OF MARY PHAGAN, ATLANTA,
GEORGIA, 1913.

THE NARRATIVE.

Saturday, April 26, 1913, was Memorial Day, a holiday, and there was no work going on in the National Pencil Company's factory at Atlanta. But Leo M. Frank, the superintendent, was in his office when, a little after noon, Mary Phagan, a white girl, fourteen years old, whose duty was to attach metal tips to pencils, and who had not been at work for a week, as the supply of metal had run out, called to get some pay which was due her. There was no one else in the building except two workmen on the top floor. Frank stated that he handed her an envelope containing \$1.20; that she asked if the metal had come and that he replied, "no"; that she left his office, and that he heard her footsteps as she went away. There was no evidence that she was ever seen alive by anyone after that.

Early next morning (Sunday) Newt Lee, the negro night-watchman, found in the basement the body of Mary Phagan, strangled to death by a cord. There was a cloth tied around her head which was torn from her underskirt. There were no external signs of rape. The body was not mutilated, but there were wounds on the head and elbow and below the knee. Newt Lee was arrested, but denied all knowledge of the crime; so did Frank, who expressed a strong desire to find the murderer, and placed everything he could in the hands of the detectives to aid their search. But on April 29, 1913, Frank was arrested, and on May 24 he was indicted for the murder of the little girl.

On the trial, Newt Lee¹ testified that Frank had told him to be back at the factory at four o'clock Saturday afternoon,

¹ *Post*, p. 190.