

## Many Editors Differ from U. S. District Attorney, Gregory.

### WHY NOT PROSECUTE ALL?

The prosecution of Thomas E. Watson for publishing obscene matter in *The Jeffersonian* is more in the nature of a persecution than a desire to suppress crime.

The daily press of the country is more guilty than Watson of the offense with which he is charged.

Some of his publications are objectionable, but the daily papers carry stories which reek with indecency.

Let a crime be committed and its details are told in the language of the gutter. Then pictures are daily printed that are unfit to be hung on the walls of a place of shame.

We believe in a clean newspaper but it is unfair to make a scapegoat out of Watson because two religious sects want to get rid of him.

The homes of the country will never be pure as long as they are flooded with unclean literature.

The prosecution of Watson in other States into which his publications has been mailed is the result of his fight against Leo Frank and the war he has waged upon Catholicism. It is an effort to throttle him and will result in a Protestant upheaval. Nothing could be done that would stir up more resentment against the two sects behind the prosecution of Watson in States other than Georgia.

The prosecution will figure largely in the next Presidential campaign and seriously embarrass the Democratic Administration in the election.

The people believe in fair play and will not stand for making fish-flesh of one man and fowl-flesh of another.

Suppress all indecent publications and do not allow the two sects to dictate that the axe shall fall only upon the one man they hate.

An upheaval can be projected that may amount to a revolution.—*Meriwether Vindicator*.

### A DANGEROUS PROPOSAL.

Thomas E. Watson, the fierce-tongued Georgia politician and editor, is threatened with a trial outside Georgia for the publication of articles which are alleged to have incited the lynching of Leo M. Frank. The Government prosecutor who proposes to bring the case does not believe he can get a fair trial in Georgia, and takes the position that a prosecution can be commenced at any point where a subscriber receives a paper containing an offending article.

Irrespective of Watson's guilt, the precedent which it is sought to establish is dangerous. If endorsed by the Federal Courts, it would pave the way to the trial of a publicist in a community inflamed against him, as easily as in one which is merely free from hostility.

Watson calls attention to the rebuke administered by the courts to former President Roosevelt when he sought to bring newspaper men to Washington for trial for alleged offenses committed elsewhere. The case against him is only a technical variation of that which he cites in the Roosevelt administration.

To show the absurdity of the contention brought forward by the Government prosecutor, it is only necessary to observe that he bases his charge upon the reading of the article by a given man in a given community outside the State of Georgia. If Watson's article did incite the lynching of Leo Frank, the inciting occurred within the boundaries of Georgia. Subscribers living outside the State were not incited.

Watson's guilt, if he is guilty, arises by virtue of the printing and putting into circulation of the offensive articles. He should be tried where the deed was done.

If Watson can be tried in Iowa, or Massachusetts, or any State where his weekly circulates, for inciting the lynching of Leo Frank, then it would have been possible to try Horace Greely or William Lloyd Garrison in Georgia or Louisiana

for inciting the slaves to rebel. This is enough to indicate where the course planned with respect to Watson leads. It points straight to judicial tyranny.—*Des Moines (Iowa) Evening Tribune*.

### LOOKS BAD FOR GEORGIA.

There is talk of indicting Tom Watson, the Georgia editor, on a charge of sending obscene matter through the mails, in some other State than Georgia. Government officials claim that Watson cannot be given an impartial trial in Georgia, and for that reason they want the trial in some other State.

Of course the proposed move has raised a great hue and cry. It is denounced as tyrannical, and a violation of State's rights and the Constitution as well, and it is all of that.

But back of it there looms up the question: Is the law administered fairly and justly in Georgia? Why should Government officials make the claim that it is not? Is there ground for the claim?

Georgia's record of recent years is too fresh in the public mind to require much comment. Things have been going from bad to worse over there. It will be a sorry day, and a day full of danger, when the rest of the country loses confidence in the power or inclination of a State to administer justice, to give accused persons honest trials. It looks as if the higher officials of the Government—and under a Democratic Administration—have about reached that attitude as to Georgia. It is a pity, but it is true.

Mr. Watson is guilty, or he is not guilty. A Georgia jury should be able and willing to decide the case just as fairly and as honestly as a jury from any other State. And if all had been right in Georgia within the recent past the question never would have been raised.—*Anderson (S. C.) Daily Mail*.

### PERSECUTION, NOT PROSECUTION.

The prosecution of Hon. Thomas E. Watson by the Federal Government for an alleged violation of the postal laws by sending obscene matter through the mails is beginning to be looked upon as an act of persecution rather than prosecution. Having failed in its effort to convict him at the last term of the United States Court in Augusta, some of the enemies of Mr. Watson have informed the Attorney-General that the Government cannot get a fair trial in Georgia, and he now proposes to indict Mr. Watson for the same offense in another State and force him to trial there. The very suggestion is a base infringement upon our boasted "State rights" and is a stench in the nostrils of every man, woman or child who loves home and freedom. It is a glaring insult to the integrity and honesty of every loyal and patriotic Georgian; a sanction and endorsement to the flagrant slanders which have been heaped upon our State during the past few months; an insinuation, despite the solemn oath to give a fair and impartial verdict in cases in law, that Georgians are not to be trusted.

The sting which comes from such a foully delivered blow is all but insufferable, and the inference from such a stated proposition is that the dignity of our State would be spat upon by mere outsiders to gratify a few personal animosities; the culmination of hatred growing out of political disagreements in years past and gone.

It is, however, with a feeling of pride that we can point to Georgia Congressmen and Georgia Senators, who have, irrespective of party prejudice and personal feelings toward Mr. Watson, made a vigorous protest against such an unfair procedure, and declared it to be an unwarranted reflection upon the name of our "Georgia," our laws and jury system.

We think our Congressmen and Senators did the right thing, and their action is strongly endorsed by both people and press of the State.

The esteemed *Macon News* in an editorial has the following to say on the subject:

"Mr. Watson has repeatedly declared that he would never run for another political office in Georgia, but if the Government persists in its endeavor to convict him, willy-nilly, the result will be the making of a martyr of him and then no power on earth can keep him out of any office in Georgia that he desires. His influence is already an important factor, and his personal equation will be increased all the more if the idea becomes well founded that he is the special object of a persecutive prosecution."—*Laurens (Dublin) Citizen*.

### SIMPLE JUSTICE VS. OPPRESSION.

The threat to carry a citizen of Georgia to another State for trial for publishing an article in a paper published in Georgia, deeply concerns every man in Georgia that loves right and justice.

This threat comes from a Democratic Administration and it must be sanctioned by a Democratic President.

Georgia has the proud distinction of being "rock ribbed" in the Democratic faith, but if this Administration thinks for one moment that we will kiss the hand that smites us, they are mistaken. It is not a question of who the party is that the United States Government seeks to crush, it is a question of principle and this principle outweighs any party. This principle is as sacred as life, for no life is worth living that shall be compelled to surrender all that is sacred.

Surely the Attorney-General did not say that Mr. Watson was guilty and that he could not secure a jury in Georgia that would so find. Who authorized the Attorney-General to make such a statement? The fact is that no prosecuting officer, even if Watson was on trial, that properly regards his oath would make such a statement but would leave it where the law places it: to-wit, to upright and impartial jurors.

If the Attorney-General said that we did not have upright and impartial jurors in Georgia, he ought to do like some others in Wilson's cabinet—tender his resignation at once.

Every citizen in Georgia is entitled to a trial in the county or district in which the crime is alleged to have been committed. This is simple justice and less than this is oppression under the form of law.—*Schley County News*.

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**Still Libeling the State of Georgia.**

AS a part of the Slaton campaign for a "Come back," the papers that were either hired by the Haas Finance Committee, or bulldozed by the Jew banker's and advertisers, have opened up another howl-and-yowl propaganda.

Mankind is told in mournful numbers that the issue in the gubernatorial fight, and all other Georgia scraps, this year is, Law and Order!

It would seem that a few choice spirits are left, the salt of the earth; and that these made-to-order human cigars, are about the only light we can now boast.

A few months ago, a negro in Illinois went into the kitchen of his white lady employer, and demanded money.

When she refused, he took up the fire-poker and beat her life out.

A mob surged around the local jail, and two companies of soldiers escorted the negro to another prison in another county.

During the trial, a mob seethed around the court house, and soldiers were kept on duty, in and around the temple of Justice.

The jury convicted the negro, and he was hanged without delay.

So far as I know, the daily press flung no fits over this Illinois case; and, so far as I know, the Burns Crook Company published no systematic libels about it.

A few days ago, a negro went into a white woman's house in Georgia, and in spite of her resistance and a wound she gave him with a pistol, he choked her into helplessness, and brutally accomplished his fiendish purpose, leaving his victim either to die of her wounds or to drag out a wretched life of grief.

Red Anglo-Saxon blood boiled, as it always has done when such hellish deeds are done against our Womanhood, and the black beast was lynched.

Whereupon, the daily papers, in and out of Georgia, fall into virtuous spasms and, without wasting a tear on the poor, ruined woman, break out into a howl-and-yowl about "Lawlessness."

What makes lawlessness?  
**THOSE IN AUTHORITY MAKE IT, CHIEFLY!**

Did not ex-governor Joseph M. Brown sternly warn Governor John M. Slaton, that if he usurped the power to re-try Leo M. Frank, on the same evidence that had been passed on by the Supreme Court, and abused his office by reversing all the Courts, **HE WOULD BE THE CAUSE OF MORE LYNCHINGS THAN GEORGIA HAD EVER KNOWN BEFORE?**

In substance, that is exactly what Slaton's predecessor told him.

During all the months when the infamous Haas Committee, and the Burns Crook Company had been engaged in villifying the people and the courts of Georgia, what was our Governor doing?

He was colluding with the defamers of his State, ratifying by his silence and acquiescence every vile aspersion cast upon us and every malignant falsehood told about us; and he was personally aiding the crook detectives in their efforts to buy testimony, bribe witnesses, run-off witnesses, silence witnesses, and to defeat the Law which he, Slaton, had sworn to enforce.

Who is primarily responsible for the terrible prejudice that was aroused against our beloved State?

**JOHN M. SLATON, THE GOVERNOR!**

With a single word, he could have silenced his partners, silenced the Haas Finance Committee, silenced the Burns crooks, and left the reptile press without incentive.

As an evidence that the "Come back" cam-

paign of Slaton has taken the definite line which will enlist the rich Jews and the Roman Catholics, I quote from two New Orleans papers, one Jewish and the other Catholic, both howling and yowling within a few days of each other.

The Daily States, in an editorial says:

"Much of the lawless spirit in Georgia dates from the beginning of the Frank affair. Frank was denied a judicial trial. He was tried by a mob and condemned regardless of his guilt or innocence. A brave Governor saved the State the stigma of a judicial lynching; but he could not prevail against the lawless spirit which pervaded the whole State.

This Jew-Catholic paper has conveniently forgotten the "race war" in Louisiana, last summer, in which so many negroes were shot and killed that the papers soon clapped the lid on.

Now, let us see what that venomous old priest Archbishop Blenk, says in his paper, The New Orleans Morning Star.

**ATTORNEY GENERAL SAYS TOM WATSON MUST FACE TRIAL.**

Mr. Gregory, in Open Letter, States That He Believes the Charges Against Watson Are True, and Will Institute Criminal Proceedings Against Him if He is Convinced That Federal Statutes Have Been Violated Outside of Georgia.

An Associated Press Dispatch of February 21st says:

Washington, Feb. 21.—Attorney General Gregory tonight made public a letter to Charles C. McCrory of Ellaville, Ga., stating the position of the Department of Justice in regard to prosecution of Thomas E. Watson of that state for alleged sending through the mails of obscene and indecent matter. The letter answers protests of Georgia members of Congress against reported plans of the department to prosecute Mr. Watson outside of the State of Georgia on the ground that a fair trial could not be had in that state.

Mr. Gregory makes it plain that he will not hesitate to institute criminal proceedings against Mr. Watson in some other jurisdiction if he is convinced that federal statutes have been violated outside of Georgia, or that a fair trial cannot be had there. He says the Department of Justice has data to show that Mr. Watson has violated the section of the criminal code prohibiting the mails to obscene matter, and that neither threats nor slander will affect his duty as a public official in the case.

The above refers to the Frank case, of course; and the passionate interest which Blenk manifests, shows how the rich Jews and the Catholic priests are united.

It was a member of Leo Frank's family who went to Postmaster-General Bureson, and demanded that The Jeffersonian be thrown out of the mails last summer.

Mr. Attorney-General Gregory has not yet published the names of the 20 Georgians who told him, in effect, that a jury of 12 honest men could not be obtained among the 200,000 voters of Georgia.

It was Anthony Maire, Secretary of the American Federation of the Italian pope's secret societies who went to Saint Anthony Comstock, P. O. Inspector, and started the prosecution against The Jeffersonian four years ago.

The rich Jews, the Romanists, and the Rotten politicians are awfully anxious to squelch The Jeffersonian.

It does not necessarily follow that The Jeffersonian will be squelched.

**THE PEOPLE are in no mood to submit to any squelching of that sort.**

Read Foreign Missions Exposed, by Thos. E. Watson. Beautifully printed. Profusely illustrated. Price 30 cents. The Jeffersonian Publishing Company, Thomson, Ga.

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**EDITORIAL NOTES**

By J. D. WATSON

IT took the advocates of the Parcels Post a long time to get any measure through Congress giving them the system, because a Parcels Post system naturally means a reduction in the incomes of the privately owned express companies.

The express companies fought the measure from the time it was first mentioned until its final passage—in fact for a generation the express companies were able to keep such tools as the late Senator Platt, of New York, in Congress for the express purpose of looking after their interests—men whose first duty it was to see that no measure should go through that would cut down the enormous income that the express companies were yearly collecting from the people.

But finally the Parcels Post came, and it has been growing ever since its first trial just as rapidly as the R. F. D. grew, now being a strong and healthy competitor of the express companies.

Apparently the express companies took their defeat cheerfully, nothing more being heard of their Washington lobby, and the majority of people believed that the express people had realized that there was no use in longer fighting. But right there we were fooled.

Right now there are pending before Congress two bills that are designed to kill the Parcels Post, and unless the farmers get busy and put the pressure on their representatives, you will soon see the express companies again with a monopoly, and the Parcels Post discontinued.

The bills referred to are House bills 270 and 4793, which propose to levy a tax of 2 and 3 per cent. on cash value of all goods and merchandise sold within any State by corporations doing mail order business.

Plainly interpreted, this means that Congress proposes to levy a 2 or 3 per cent. tax on everything that you order by Parcels Post—it means that Congress proposes to put the Parcels Post system out of business and restore the express companies to their former position of having a monopoly whereby they can charge you exorbitant rates, and, if you should be brave enough to protest, demand "what are you going to do about it?"

Think of having to pay 2 or 3 per cent. more for goods that come to you by Parcels Post, and you can't help but see what will be the final effect on the system that what will be the final effect on the system that now gives the farmers the privilege of having his package brought to his door, instead of his having to go all the way to town to get it out of the express office.

These two bills look harmless, but the farmers had better get busy at once and see that they are buried too deep to ever be resurrected, or they will wake up some morning to learn that they have been robbed of the usefulness of one of the most beneficial pieces of legislation yet enacted in their interest.

Get behind your Representatives at Washington, and remind them that you have a club that can be used this year.

\* \* \* \* \*

If the people would only wake up and realize their power, there would be an end put to the efforts to put additional taxes directly upon them every time there was need for additional revenue for running our most expensive government.

Each one of the Administration measures designed to raise the extra freight that we will have to pay to haul the present Democratic administration through has been proposed on some necessity that means putting the burden on the people—on those who are already overloaded the extra load will be strapped.

As Hon. Sam Tribble said in a speech in Congress a few weeks ago:

**CRISP COUNTY PEOPLE ADOPT RESOLUTIONS.**

Whereas, Official announcement has been made by the Department of Justice, by and through Attorney-General Gregory, that Hon. Thomas E. Watson is guilty of violating Section 211 of the Penal Code of the United States, for that the publications of the Jeffersonian Publishing Company, a corporation under the laws of Georgia, Thomas E. Watson, president, is making exposure in connection with the Leo Frank case and the Roman Catholic Hierarchy, was in violation of the postal laws of the Government, as being obscene, lewd, lascivious and filthy; and,

Whereas, Attorney-General Gregory, speaking for this great Government, has passed judgment upon Mr. Watson, declaring him guilty of an offense against the Government, without trial by court or jury, thereby denying to him that God-given right guaranteed under the Constitution, a fair and impartial trial by a court of competent jurisdiction and a jury of his fellow-countrymen, within his own State; and,

Whereas, Mr. Gregory, speaking for the Government, declares that, unless the courts of Georgia, presided over by such able and honest men as Judges Emory Speer, W. W. Lambdin and William T. Newman, and the jurors serving in these courts, try and convict Mr. Watson, the Government will attempt to indict and wage a prosecution against him in a foreign State, taking him away from his native State and into a section of the country among strangers and those who are likely his enemies and bitter foes; and,

Whereas, The Government has now pending in the United States Court at Augusta, Ga., a case against Mr. Watson, which has been twice tried, having been ordered thrown out of court by Judge Foster, and having been tried by a jury and a mistrial resulting before Judge Lambdin.

We, the people of Cordele and Crisp County, in mass meeting assembled, appreciating Mr. Watson as Georgia's brilliant son, historian, author, orator, journalist and defender of the rights of the common people and demanding for him his constitutional rights under the laws of the country, a fair trial before court and jury, and that he be not adjudged guilty without trial, or forced by the strong arm of this Government to defend against a prosecution in a State other than his native State of Georgia.

Therefore, we most earnestly protest against the proposed plan of the Government to single out Mr. Watson because he dared to defend the courts and juries of Georgia and the United States District and Supreme Courts, standing for right, honor and justice, without fear of destruction.

(a) We further protest against the plan of the Government and its attempt to prosecute a citizen of the State of Georgia in a foreign State and to try him by his enemies in a section of the country where the Roman Catholics predominate.

(b) We further protest and claim that, to place upon the courts and juries of the State of Georgia the stigma, that of being unfair and unfit to give the Government a fair and impartial trial, as being without any foundation of truth whatsoever, Georgia courts and juries are possessed of the manhood and honor to deal fair and just with every cause and to defend every just principle and will dare to uphold the majesty of the law, both State and Federal.

Read and adopted by unanimous vote, February 25, 1916, at Cordele, Georgia.

**PUBLISH THOSE NAMES!**

Dear Sir: I have finished reading the contents of the best periodical published in America and am so disgusted at the rascality of your persecutors that I wish to suggest that we petition Governor Harris to associate with himself our State delegation in Congress with any outside

Congressmen to assist, and demand of United States Attorney-General Gregory to produce the names of the twenty Georgia citizens that made the alleged report and be allowed to produce a counter delegation of forty Georgians that has names that they are not ashamed to own that will say on oath that they are sure Georgia can produce as upright jurors as any State in the Union, and demand an investigation of the matter. If he is unprejudiced he will agree to that; if he goes on as it is, it may cause much trouble before it is over. No lover of liberty in the United States is going to stand for such vile methods. It is a matter of fact that if the Attorney-General had been acting in good faith he would have given the names of the party and invited an investigation before he would have cast that stigma on Georgia; and if he is a fair-minded man he won't object to it now. It might save much trouble and perhaps the shedding of much blood before it is done. I wish to say further that all Christians of every faith and order will pray for you to be treated fair in the matter. That is all that I believe you desire.

It is also strange that the Government will lend its assistance to the most corrupt band that ever disgraced the face of the earth to prosecute one of the best patriots we have in it.

Mr. Watson, when I wrote you in December last I was in very bad health—did not expect to ever get out of the house living—but the doctor changed my treatment and I am yet living and walk out a little. Yet I am very feeble, but would be glad to live to learn that you get justice done by the courts. I am in my 85th year. Very truly yours,

T. J. CHAFFIN.

P. S.—If Mr. Wilson wants to retain the office of President he had better turn about and undo the rotten work to date and build again on the true principles of democracy and stop his aid of Rome and the Knights of Columbus. T. J. C.

**AN OPEN LETTER TO CLARK HOWELL.**

Hon. Clark Howell,  
Editor Constitution,  
Atlanta, Ga.

Mr. Editor: I have just finished reading your editorial entitled, "Go Slow, Mr. Gregory," and every time I think of the attempted rape of Georgia it makes the Puritan-Salzbarger blood in my veins go up to the boiling point. Three cheers for our noble 12, who have thrown themselves into the breach. I am impelled to ask is Senatorial timber dead in Georgia? Has democracy in the first flush of power lost her bearings? Has she forsaken the old landmarks and no longer stands for states rights? Do the people of the United States realize that this is no longer the attempted trial of a man, but the trial of constitutional government? I ask, Mr. Editor, is the Declaration of Independence dead? Does the shade of Geo. III sit on a "Divine right" throne in Washington?

Let me quote from the immortal document of Jefferson. "He has combined with others to subject him to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his assent to their acts of pretended legislation."

"For depriving us, in many cases, of the benefits of trial by jury."

"For transporting us beyond seas to be tried for pretended offences."

Mr. Editor, Section 211 of the United States penal code was never intended to abridge the freedom of the press, as is proven by the very language of the statute, and if it would be so construed it would then become violative of the first amendment of the Constitution and would be null and void. Oh, Mr. Editor, when our Supreme Court wrote "reasonable" into the Sherman Law, our judicial department began to walk on dangerous ground! The central government was created by the constitution, and has no author-

ity whatever for overstepping the restrictions placed upon it by that instrument. It must be held strictly to the letter of our fundamental law, and each of the three departments must be confined strictly to the bounds conferred upon them. If Democracy was ever called upon to defend the principles of representative government, the time is now at hand.

Mr. Editor, all history shows that the worst form of anarchy is the violation of law in the pretended enforcement of the law. Can the overstepping of constitutional limitations do aught but bring about a disrespect for government? If Mr. Gregory can stretch this law, and give to it a meaning and extent that congress could not give, then he can change all law and nullify all constitutions.

What will this misconception of the Attorney-General bring forth? Let us go to Holy Writ for the answer?

"That which thou sowest, that will thou also reap." Will Mr. Gregory sow the whirlwinds, then the mutterings of the tornado will soon be heard. Will the Democratic party stand for the rape of Georgia? We shall see. The people are aroused as never before, and they are looking to the party leader for the defense of Democratic Principles.

As the executive placed in power by any party, must of necessity become the representative head of that party, Mr. Wilson will be held to account for any violation of Democratic principles.

Will Mr. Wilson permit his attorney general to perpetrate this crime? The Attorney-General and his satellites are a part of the executive department of our Government. All are but the hired henchmen of the executive, placed in power by the suffrage of Democrats, hence the leader can not escape responsibility for what is done. We have been called barbarians by a venial, partisan, press, and now, if what we read is true, we are called perjurers by the Attorney-General, and I, for one hurl the calumny in his teeth. Does Mr. Wilson believe his Attorney-General? Has he forgotten that his noble wife was a patriotic flower of Georgia's soil, loved and honored her native state, and that her dust now mingles with the old red hills of Georgia?

We await his answer.  
W. A. JONES.

**A CHEERING WORD FROM SOUTH CAROLINA.**

Dear Sir: I assume that it is of little interest, socially, politically or otherwise, but it can convey the advice that you have the support of at least one of the club here.

I note the disposition of our learned Attorney-General, that he would set the pace, that he would drag you out of your jurisdiction for trial again on charges which they have failed utterly to prove. As information, would say that I am an old Taylor County boy, and proud that we still have in Georgia such men as you. Best wishes.

Yours truly,  
S. C. J. B. FRASIER.

**J. J. Brown will speak at Jefferson, Jackson county, March 4 at 10 o'clock.**

**For Superintendent of Schools.**

To My Fellow Citizens of McDuffie County: At the request of a number of friends I have consented to offer my services as County Superintendent of Schools, subject of course to the primary election, and respectfully solicit the support of the voters of the county should they deem me competent and worthy.  
A. W. SMITH.

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I am a candidate for Ordinary of Jefferson county, Ga., subject to the rules of the white primary, Wednesday, March 8th. Will appreciate your support and votes, promising if elected the best efforts of my life for a faithful performance of the duties of an Ordinary. Thanking you in advance for any favors shown. I am,  
Yours friendly,  
CHAS. W. MOXLEY.

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