

TAMPA MORNING TRIBUNE

TAMPA, FLORIDA

THE TAMPA MORNING TRIBUNE – WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 1909

FAMOUS MURDER CASE TOMORROW

CHIRAMENTE TO BE TRIED FOR MURDER OF LABELLE

Greater Interest Centers in This Case Than in Any Other Except the Assassination of Ficarrotta

Tomorrow the famous case of Orniferio Chiramente, charged with the murder of B. LaBella, the wealthy New York commission merchant, will open in circuit court and promises to be the most interesting and sensational murder trial so far this term. Greater public interest attaches itself to this case than to any other except the assassination of G. Ficarrotta, in which no indictment has yet been rendered, the grand jury having recessed until June 14.

It is believed that the state will, in this case, present perhaps the strongest array of circumstantial evidence ever presented in a murder trial in this county. It will be proven that Chiramente knew that LaBella was a rich man, that they were seen driving out of the city together returning from the place where the body was later found, that blood was found on Chiramente's wagon, that he sawed the top off to disguise it, that Chiramente was seen to have been scratched and scarred up as if in an encounter, that Chiramente's pipe was found near the grave and that there was also found near the grave a broken jug in which Chiramente is known to have purchased wine from Phillip Licata.

Lured to His Death

It is the theory of the state that LaBella was lured to take a ride out of the city with Chiramente and another man on the promise of being shown an orange grove he being interested in orange growing. It is supposed that Chiramente and his accomplice got LaBella to drinking heavily of the wine, that he went to sleep and that they attacked him with a blunt instrument, a wagon standard, the standard being found in the bushes some time later.

About a week after the crime, a hog raiser happened to pass and investigated the mound, thinking that the offal from some of the hogs which he had been missing might be buried there. He was horrified to find there the body of a man and immediately reported it to the sheriff's office. The stranger seen with Chiramente escaped and has not been located. Chiramente will be ably represented by Macfarlane & Davis.