

TAMPA MORNING TRIBUNE

TAMPA, FLORIDA

THE TAMPA TRIBUNE, MONDAY, JUNE 14, 1909

GRAND JURY GETS DOWN TO HARD WORK

RESUMES INVESTIGATION OF FICARROTTA ASSASSINATION

After Taking Vacation to Allow Collection of New Testimony, Will Take Up Case This Morning

After being idle since the first part of May pending the development of new evidence in the Ficarrotta assassination case, the grand jury will resume its investigation of the celebrated case this morning in a section of the court house which will be reserved for that body. During the past month officers have been busy on the case and steadily pursuing their work. It is understood that new evidence of considerable importance has been discovered but just what this is those who know decline to say.

It is believed that the matter has been considerably unraveled, however, and that the evidence laid before the grand jury at this session will do much to clarify the killing in the minds of the jury and show the real motive which prompted the crime, something which has heretofore been in doubt. That the plot to kill Ficarrotta is a deeper and more far reaching one than has been generally supposed will probably be shown and also that it involves persons other than those heretofore arrested in connection with the crime.

Case is Extraordinary

The killing of Ficarrotta, the wealthy West Tampa wholesaler and councilman, who counted his friends by the hundred, forms one of the most extraordinary of several similar assassinations which have taken place in this city and forms a serious blot on the name of the city. Shot within a few feet of his own home with his two little children by his side, Ficarrotta died before he could make any statement as to who his assailants were, and then made their escape in the darkness of night undetected. Proceedings of a West Tampa coroner's jury, conducted in the greatest of secrecy, resulted in the arrest of a number of suspects, only one of which Castenge Ficarrotta, distantly related to the murdered man, being now held.

The necessity for the discovery had proper punishment of the parties who committed the fearful crime and the demand of public sentiment that such punishment should be meted out to the guilty ones, has determined the grand jury and State's Attorney Phillips to carry the investigation as far as possible and make every effort toward fastening the guilt on the men who committed the murder and, by bringing them to justice, prevent in future a recurrence of similar crimes.