

TAMPA MORNING TRIBUNE

TAMPA, FLORIDA

THE TAMPA MORNING TRIBUNE – JUNE 20, 1909

FICARROTTA MURDER CASE TO BE AIRED

Judge Wall Grants Habeas Corpus Hearing

Forty Witnesses Summoned for Hearing of Case in Circuit Court at 10 O'clock Monday

Various features of the Ficarrotta assassination case which have been puzzling Tampan and which have been kept secret by officials ever since the famous murder took place, will be fully aired in circuit court at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning, when a hearing will be given on habeas corpus proceedings to Castenge Ficarrotta and Andrew Re, held by the grand jury for committing the crime. It will be the first time the public has had an opportunity to view the true facts in the case.

The hearing of Ficarrotta and Re on habeas corpus proceedings was acceded to by Judge Wall at the request of Attorneys McNamee and Larimore and H.C. Gordon, representing the defendants, who will try to get bond for their clients, it being understood that parties with plenty of money stand ready to go their bonds. The attorneys will make a strong fight to get the men released.

Over Forty Witnesses

Deputy Sheriffs George A. Bell and James Keggin have been kept busy at work for the past two days serving subpoenas for witnesses, over forty witnesses being summoned. What developments of a startling and sensational nature may develop it is impossible to say, for during the progress of the case it has been the policy of the officers at work to keep the newspapers as much in the dark as possible.

One reason why the attorneys for the defense desire a habeas corpus hearing probably is that in this way they will secure possession of whatever evidence the state may have against them and be more prepared to meet it at the trial, the habeas corpus proceedings being the usual course followed in cases of this kind and for the purpose names. At any rate, State Attorney Phillips will make a vigorous fight against giving the men bond, and it is possible that the state may hold back as much evidence as possible in order to keep the defense from getting the advantage planned.

Threat to Blow up Jail

The rumor recently circulated to the effect that threats had been made of blowing up the jail because of the incarceration therein of Ficarrotta and Re were yesterday confirmed by R.C. Jackson, nephew of Sheriff R.A. Jackson, who received the threats. At the time it was given out the matter had been merely a joke played on Mr. Jackson by his wife. This Mr. Jackson positively denied, declaring that he received the threats at 6:30 in the morning before his wife had arisen for the day, and added that she knew nothing whatever about it.

Mr. Jackson declared that within the space of a few seconds, three different parties called him on the telephone and informed him that there was a plan on foot to blow up the jail. The first two parties, who were men, rang off before he had an opportunity to ask central whose line the calls came from. Mr. Jackson asked the third party who she was and she stated that she was an employee of the Sanchez Haya factory, but refused to give her name. Although an extra watch was placed at the jail for a few days, no attempt has been made yet.

Another Habeas Corpus

Judge Wall has also granted a writ of habeas corpus returnable Monday morning for Orlando Wheeler, foreman of the Atlantic Coast Line at Orient, who is held as an accessory to the murder of Sam Porchia. He is represented by McNamee & Larimore.