

# TAMPA MORNING TRIBUNE

TAMPA, FLORIDA

TAMPA MORNING TRIBUNE – FRIDAY, JULY 16, 1909

## STATE RESTS IN FICARROTTA CASE

DAUGHTERS OF DEAD MAN ARE CALLED TO STAND

*This Morning the Defense will Get to Work and Case Will go to Jury in Short Order*

This morning the defense in the trial of Castenge Ficarrotta for the murder of G. Ficarrotta will get to work and evidence will be submitted tending to cast doubt as to the guilt of the accused. Attorneys McNamee and Gordon, who have been making a hard fight throughout, are prepared to make every effort to free the defendant. The state rested at three o'clock yesterday afternoon, nothing of a sensational nature having developed during the day. Court adjourned until 9 o'clock this morning to give attorneys for the defense an opportunity of consulting with their witnesses, and the remainder of the afternoon was occupied by them in this way.

Probably the most important testimony of the day was that given by the two daughters of the dead man, who told of several visits made by the defendant to the house before the murder and during which he appeared to try to get G. Ficarrotta into the street, at the same time nervously glancing over his shoulder in the direction of the palmetto clump from which G. Ficarrotta later was shot. Rafeal Burmudez was recalled to testify that Castenge, a few days after the murder, came to him and asked Burmudez if he had any idea who killed G. Ficarrotta. Burmudez replied that he had not, and Ficarrotta then told him he should have caught the man he chased on the night of the murder.

### Heard Threat Made

During the day, T.W. Brooks, a member of the coroner's jury, testified that he had overheard the threats made to Judge Boyett by Castenge Ficarrotta in which the latter is alleged to have declared that he would kill somebody before he would pay his taxes. The matter of the telephone conversations between Castenge Ficarrotta and Andrew Re was brought up. This was objected to by the defense on the grounds that Re had been exonerated at the habeas corpus trial, but the objection was overruled. One of the young ladies from the telephone exchange was called in to verify the number of Andrew Re, which is "2043." It developed that the wife of Burmudez, during the alleged attempted bribery incident, had called to him in Spanish to speak loud, as someone wanted to hear the conversation. T. Martinez having told her to do so. Burmudez did not know who was listening until afterwards.

It is generally conceded that the state has made out a good case of circumstantial evidence, and it is considered that the case is a much stronger one than was at first expected to prove the case. However, the web of circumstances is not as strong and conclusive as in the case of Orniferio Chiramente, recently convicted of the murder of B. LaBella. Unless the defense springs a surprise, there will be but few witnesses and the case will now to the jury in short order.