TAMPA MORNING TRIBUNE

TAMPA, FLORIDA

TAMPA MORNING TRIBUNE – SEPTEMBER 22, 1910

QUIET AGAIN REGINS; PROTEST OF ITALIANS BRINGS INVESTIGATION

STATE TROOP READY, IF NEEDED TO MAINTAIN ORDER

Governor Gilchrist Telegraphs Sheriff Jackson – Victims of Double Lynching Buried

Quite reigned yesterday, following the exciting events of the evening before, in which two Italians, Castenge Ficarrotta and Angelo Albano, were lynched by a mob of unknown men, and there was hardly a ripple of disorder or uneasiness which indicated that anything unusual had happened. Officers deemed the quietude remarkable and were convinced that all trouble for the present is over. The lynching was widely discussed in all sections of the city. The well-known reputation of Ficarrotta divorced all sympathy, while the fact that Albano is known to have fired the shot which struck Easterling convinced many that the summary treatment handed him was more effective than that usually given through the courts.

The coroner's jury, which had been empanelled the night before, met yesterday morning at 9 o'clock with Coroner J.J. Boyett, at the place where the lynching occurred. The bodies were still hanging just as they had been left. A number of photographers also put in an appearance, taking views which found a ready sale at various down-town stands during the day. During the morning hours, and previous to the time the bodies were cut down by the coroner's jury, the place was thronged with hundreds of people, eager to see the work that had been accomplished by the mob, which had been graphically told them through the columns of the Tribune.

Necks were Broken

County Physician Hamblin made a minute examination of the bodies at Albano and Ficarrotta. He declared that the necks of the two men had been broken, the members of the mob having allowed the bodies to drop the necessary four to six feet. Thus death was instantaneous, and did not come from strangulation, as is first supposed. A wound caused by a pistol shot was discovered in the abdomen of Albano when the two bodies were stripped of clothing in the offices of the Tampa Undertaking Company. It is supposed that the wound was received by Albano because of his vigorous resistance. Ficarrotta had not been shot.

Not having heard of the lynching early yesterday morning the young son of Ficarrotta appeared in the sheriff's office, in the court house, and asked permission to visit his father in the county jail, where he believed him to be. The child was overcome when informed of the tragedy. Several members of the family of Ficarrotta and relatives of Albano were at the scene of the hanging during the inquest. Whey they beheld the horrible spectacle, they were prostrated, a grown daughter and a young son of Ficarrotta appearing most affected. It was hard for the lad to realize that his father had been taken from him.

Probe Resumed Today

Having heard the testimony of County Physician Hamblin and viewed the bodies, the coroner's jury adjourned until 2 o'clock this afternoon, when the investigation will be resumed. Eight witnesses have been summoned to appear before the body. Judge Boyett declared last night that so far there is absolutely no clue as to the identity of the members of the mob, but that is will be the endeavor of the jury to ascertain this if possible. He admitted that hope of ascertaining the identities of the person was slim.

The bodies of the two men were turned over to their relatives, and a double funeral held late yesterday afternoon. The interment occurred in Woodlawn Cemetery, in charge of the Tampa Undertaking Company, was attended by several hundred people, both friends of the men and morbidly curious. Short services were said at the graves. Although some indignation was expressed by Italians over the lynching, there is believed to have been a great deal of relief felt, as it is alleged that Ficarrotta and Albano were generally regarded as assassins and were feared by the Italian people.

Italian Officials Protest

Consul General Cav. C. Papini, representing the Italian government, yesterday read of the lynching in the Associated Press dispatches sent out by the Tribune. He at once telegraphed Consul John Savarese, of this city, instructing him to make a formal protest to Governor Gilchrist and to ask that protection be furnished for Italian subjects. Consul Savarese was ill, but the matter was attended to by Vice Consul R.A. Scotti. Consul General Papini also telegraphed the Italian ambassador in Washington. The matter will be taken up officially, with the possible result that a formal protest will be made by the Italian government.

Governor Gilchrist replied to Vice Consul Scott at once, informing him that measures would be taken to protect Italian citizens and that a full investigation of the affair would be made. To Sheriff R.A. Jackson Governor Gilchrist at 2:57 o'clock yesterday afternoon sent the following telegram:

Tallahassee, Sept. 21, 1910

"R.A. Jackson, Sheriff, Tampa, Fla. – It is reported to me by the Italian consul that two Italian citizens were lynched in Tampa last night and that the lives of Italian citizens are menaced by mob rule there. Answer as to this by wire, and report fully on situation by mail. You are instructed to use every resource at your command to preserve order and protect lives. Telegraph me immediately if necessity arises for military assistance."

A.W. Gilchrist, Governor

Sheriff Sends Reply

To this telegram Sheriff Jackson sent the following reply:

"Governor A.W. Gilchrist, Tallahassee – Two Italians lynched last night. Everything remarkably quiet today. Have situation in hand. Prominent Italians little disturbed. Will keep you informed. Full particulars by mail."

R.A. Jackson, Sheriff

Later Sheriff Jackson sent another telegram, as follows:

Tampa, Fla., Sept. 21, 1910

"Governor A.W. Gilchrist, Tallahassee – Two Italians lynched last night were American citizens."

R.A. Jackson, Sheriff

The information that the two men lynched were American citizens was gained by Sheriff Jackson from Constable James Keaggin. The constable declared that during the trial of Ficarrotta for the murder of G. Ficarrotta he had occasion to see Castenge's naturalization papers. He stated that he was reliably informed by men who knew Albano that the latter was born in this country, and was a native either of New Orleans or of some other city in Louisiana.

Passed as American

State Attorney Phillips, who prosecuted Castenge Ficarrotta in two trials, was asked whether he had ever seen Ficarrotta's naturalization papers. He replied that he had not, but that Ficarrotta had claimed to be an American citizen, and that he had participated in elections. He knew nothing about Albano. Mr. Phillips declared that he had not received a telegram from Governor Gilchrist. He had not heard hat the latter had ordered an investigation, and stated that he did not know what the line of procedure would be: Mr. Phillips stated that he supposed that the next grand jury summoned by Judge Wall, at the fall term of the Circuit Court, would be charge to make an investigation, but that his experience was that such investigations usually prove fruitless. He deplores the lynching of the two men and declared mob rule to be a dangerous tendency.

Vice Consul Scotti stated last night that the relatives of the two men lynched had come of him and represented Ficarrotta and Albano as Italian citizens and subject to the protection of that government. The records of the local United States Court will be investigated to ascertain whether the men were naturalized here or not; but if they were naturalized, it is believed probable that they secured their papers in New Orleans before coming to Tampa. It was stated as a precedent that in the New Orleans lynching of Italians some years ago, the Italian Government interested itself in behalf not only of Italian citizens, but of Italians who had been born on their native soil and later been naturalized.

Statement of Sheriff

Asked yesterday if he had anything to say for publication in regard to the lynching, Sheriff Jackson replied in the negative. He stated that when he first heard that the men had been taken away from the officers, he thought the plan was merely to deport them, and was surprised when he later received the news that they had been lynched. He stated that, although he anticipated no further trouble, he was prepared for whatever might turn up and would keep order at all costs.

"Have you any clues as to the members of the mob?" he asked.

"I do not think it advisable to discuss that," he said.

"But you will bring the guilty parties to justice if you can?"

"Most assuredly."

No More Arrests

Constable James Keaggin, who arrested Ficarrotta and Alban Tuesday afternoon was asked to discuss the case.

"We have no clues that we can discuss" he said. "The men who did the job were Americans. The attack was entirely unexpected. Had we known of it we would not have attempted to move the prisoners. We will not make any more arrests at present. We have a number of men under suspicion."

Mr. Keaggin would not say whether the number was seven, as suggested on the note attaché to Albano's feet and declared himself at a loss to know why the members of the mob stated the number of suspects to be seven and how they gained that information.

Whether they were present physically or not at the lynching, a prominent Latin citizen yesterday declared that the summary treatment of the guilty parties had the moral support of a large number of Latin people, who, he declared, are opposed to assassinations.

Marshal Logan last night reported everything quiet in West Tampa and stated that no more trouble was anticipated there. He stated that the police force had been greatly increased.

Ficarrotta's Famous Pipe

The manner in which the breaking of the necks of the two men was brought about by the mob was widely discussed yesterday afternoon, as it takes a drop of from four to six feet to accomplish the result. State Attorney Phillips suggested that the men might have been made to stand on the top of one of the automobiles, which was then driven from under them. Later they could have been strung up higher and the pipe placed in Ficarrotta's mouth.

A pipe, alleged to have been the property of Ficarrotta, was found on the scene of the assassination of G. Ficarrotta and figured in the two trials of Castenge. The pipe which Ficarrotta was smoking when lynched was either the same one, or a similar one to that which figured in the murder trial. State Attorney Phillips declared he could identify the pipe if he saw it again.

Were Expecting Assistance

According to the statement of Will Lowe, who was driving the hack from which the Italians were taken, he believed, when he first saw the mob in front of him on the road, that it was a scheme to release the prisoners, and was being participated in by their friends. The prisoners also seemed to believe this, for they sat watching the mob complacently while the trouble was going on. Later all parties found out the difference. Lowe declares himself and officers were covered by pistols from all sides, and that the members of the mob disguised themselves by some kind of paint on their faces. He declared he considered it the narrowest escape of his life, but that is all happened too quickly to frighten him.