

JOHN SNOWDEN AGAIN ON TRIAL

From Present Indications The Now Famous Case Will Be Bitterly Fought

NO INQUEST HELD

Defense Somewhat at Dis- advantage Because of Unusual Situation

Towson, Jan. 22—John Snowden, the colored ice wagon driver, of Annapolis, who is accused of having murdered Lottie May Brandon, a white woman, last August, was placed on trial here today. Snowden is being defended by former State Senator Brady, of Annapolis; C. Gus Gray, of Towson, and Henry S. Williams, the latter being a colored attorney, of Washington.

That the case is to be bitterly fought is evidenced by the number of challenges of jurors, the defense availing itself of 16 out of 20. One of the peculiar features of the case, and one that puts the defense somewhat at a disadvantage, is that no inquest on the case had been held, no preliminary hearing, and that the nature of the State's evidence, it does not know at all. On the other hand opinion at Annapolis is strong that someone more intelligent and having a greater interest in the Brandon woman committed the crime. Mrs. Ida Burch, who lived but a few doors away from the Brandon's testified that she saw the murdered woman between 10 and 11 o'clock on the fateful morning.

It is admitted that only the most circumstantial evidence exists against Snowden. Dr. William B. Carr, of Washington, who performed an autopsy, is expected to testify that flesh alleged to have been found under the nails of Mrs. Brandon is that of a black person; and certain detectives are expected to testify that Snowden admitted having certain scratches, which, according to the detectives, were received in the struggle with the murdered woman.

BELIEVE SNOWDEN INNOCENT

But in Anne Arundel County, the husband's conduct on the day of the murder, has been a most outstanding and puzzling feature, and it is along this line that the defense is expected to get in its most effective work. The belief among the colored people of Annapolis is universal that Snowden is entirely innocent of the crime of which he is charged and they have backed up this belief by raising some \$288 for his defense.

Rev. Ernest Williams, who lives quite close to the Brandon home, as well as Dr. W. A. C. Hughes, who was a visitor at the home of Dr. Williams at the time of the crime, feels that Snowden had no connection with this heinous offense whatever, but that he is being made a scapegoat for someone who knows more about the matter than has yet been told.

TO REPORT SNOWDEN TRIAL

Mrs. Jennie H. Ross, president of the Day Nursery Association has consented to report the trial of Snowden for the Afro-American. Mrs. Ross, who is one of the most prominent women in the city, is a daily visitor at Towson, where the trial is being held and her impressions will, no doubt, be interesting.