

RACE FEELING SAID TO PERVADE THE CITY

Reason Ascribed For Removing Al- leged Negro Murderer

OFFICIALS WERE ADVISED

Matter, However, Developed Prior To Brandon Tragedy, Which Still Remains Unsolved.

That there has been more or less race feeling among the residents of Annapolis during the last few weeks was among the points brought to light today in connection with the efforts of the police officials and others to solve the Brandon murder mystery.

Not that it has any direct bearing upon the Brandon murder, for it emanated from another case recently brought before the police officials of the city and which resulted in a dismissal of an assault charge lodged against a white man in an escapade with a negro woman in the west end of the city.

There has been more or less adverse comment recently as to why the negro Snowden, arrested on the charge of the murder of Mrs. Brandon should have been taken to Baltimore City as a precautionary measure, owing to the fact that the county in recent years paid for the construction of a first-class jail here. But it now develops that the primary purpose of the county authorities in spiriting the negro away to Baltimore as promptly as they did, was due entirely to their knowledge of the feeling that had cropped up among the white and colored people of the city. Under the circumstances, they felt that it would be unwise to keep the accused negro in the city over night. That such a feeling existed among the two races has been known by the authorities and many other persons for weeks, but it was deemed best not to let it become a matter of public knowledge. It is known that city and county officials alike, had been advised by the colored ministers of the city and others of their race that a good deal of feeling had been aroused among those of the colored element, because of the outcome of the case, wherein the white man twice knocked a negroess to the ground because she brushed against the white man's wife, and the defense on the part of the negro woman was entirely the result of an accident, and therefore, there was no provocation for the assault.

The situation as regards a solution of the horrible murder of ten days ago when Mrs. Lottie May Brandon, the young wife of Valentine N. Brandon, a stenographer employed at the Naval Experiment Station here, was found brutally slain in her modest home on Second street in the west end of the city, remains about the same today as it has since the day of the tragedy.

As has hitherto been stated, the police officials are inclined to place much weight on the chain of circumstantial evidence that has been woven about the negro, John Snowden, who was arrested several days ago, and who has since been confined to the Central Police Station in Baltimore, where he has been subjected to several grilling examinations. The negro has made a number of conflicting statements to his inquisitors, and this is the basis of the circumstantial evidence that he is probably the man guilty of the crime.

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The authorities fully expected that the negro would eventually break down and make a complete confession of the tragedy, but he continues to maintain his stout innocence of the crime. And while the officials regard the circumstantial evidence against him as quite strong, yet there prevails a widespread sentiment among residents about the city that a negro had nothing to do with the crime. The absence of any motive, however, leaves the case as much "up in the air" as it has been from the start.

Although the authorities feel that the negro under arrest is probably the guilty man because of the chain of evidence lodged against him, yet they cannot account for why none of the neighbors heard any outcries, and the detectives have for the last several days been devoting much time in an effort to fathom this angle of the case. In this connection, it was reported today that Mrs. King, wife of Thomas A. King, a clerk employed at the Naval Academy, will be further questioned by the authorities, probably tomorrow, in an effort to clear up certain points. Mrs. King, who has been spending several days with relative in Washington, was expected in the city on Thursday, the same afternoon that her husband was before State's Attorney Nicholas H. Green. She will, it is understood, return to the city tonight.

Service At First Church

The regular services will be held tomorrow at the First M. E. Church, the Rev. Dr. H. W. Dargan, pastor.

In the absence of the pastor, who is on his vacation the Rev. W. F. Roberts, former pastor of Maryland Ave. M. E. Church will preach.