

THE DEAN MURDER.

Two Colored Men Arrested and Held on Suspicion.

DETECTIVES SENT TO THE SCENE.

Suggestions for the Establishment of a Special Detective Force for Work in the Counties—What the Attorney-General Says About the Proposition.

Charles W. Ross, colored, was yesterday arrested by Detective Hogan, charged with the murder of Miss Sallie Dean, the fourteen-year-old daughter of Mr. Jacob Dean, last Tuesday, near the village of Harmony, in Caroline county.

The arrest was made at the request of Sheriff W. J. Duke, of Talbot county, who telegraphed to Marshal Frey to have Ross captured. The dispatch said Ross was on the schooner William Hackett, which is lying in Canton Hollow. He was found there by the detective, who took him and Adam Washington, colored, captain of the schooner, to the office of the marshal.

A short time after Ross was arrested a telegram was received from State's Attorney Robert J. Jump, of Caroline county, which also requested the arrest of Ross. The dispatch of Mr. Jump said that Ross joined the schooner William Hackett about ten o'clock Tuesday morning. Ross was taken before Justice Murray, at the central police station, and committed to jail for a hearing April 5.

Ross's Statement.

Ross denied any knowledge of the murder of the young girl, and said he left his home, which is about a mile and a half from the home of Mr. Dean, early Tuesday morning, and was driven by his mother to the river, where he was rowed in a fisherman's boat to the schooner Hackett. Capt. Washington said Ross signed an agreement on Monday to sail with him the following day. Ross, he also said, went on board the schooner between seven and eight o'clock Tuesday morning, but at a point some distance from the place it was agreed he should join the vessel. Ross is of medium size, of dark chestnut color, wears a mustache and is about thirty years old. He is well known in the neighborhood of Harmony.

Says He Can Prove an Alibi.

A dispatch from Denton says that Jeremiah Bishop, a mulatto, has also been arrested on the charge of the murder. He was placed in jail in Denton, but there seems little ground, the dispatch adds, for associating him with the tragedy. He tells a straightforward story of his whereabouts on the morning of the murder and claims that he has reliable witnesses by whom he can prove an alibi.

Detectives on the Scout.

At the request of the sheriff of Caroline county Marshal Frey has sent Detectives Siebold and Gault to the scene of the murder to assist in hunting down the murderer.

The indignation over the murder is not confined to Caroline county. Everybody in Maryland has been talking about it. As to the possibility of the escape of the murderer a number of suggestions have been made. The most important is the advisability of the establishment of a special detective corps, to be at the disposal of the Governor or the Attorney-General, to be employed on such cases as might be beyond the ability of the counties to properly follow up.

Limited Facilities.

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In most of the counties the police force consists of the sheriff and one or two deputies. These men, though shrewd and intelligent, are not trained in the detection of crime and the hunting down of criminals, and in a case in which clues are hard to find they are well nigh helpless. Skilled detectives are necessary. The expense of employing detectives for any length of time would be a heavy burden for any one of the counties to bear, particularly in a case in which the county is not alone interested, although the crime may have been committed within its borders. In a case such as the murder of Miss Dean the escape of the murderer, people argue, would be a reflection on the whole State. If so atrocious a crime can be committed in the rural districts, and the only machinery set to work for the detection of the criminal is that which can be furnished by the county in which the crime was committed, it will, it is said, be practically putting a premium on crime.

The advocates of a State detective force also urge that the knowledge that a skilled hunter of criminals will be put on the track of a criminal, no matter in what part of the State he does his work, will do much to prevent crime in the counties. Expert law-breakers give Baltimore a wide berth as a usual thing because the city has a reputation of following up cases of crime committed here and punishing the criminals, no matter where they may be found. A similar condition would prevail in the counties if there was a State corps of good detectives.

The Attorney-General's Views.

Attorney-General Poe, when questioned on the subject, said he thought the suggestions which have been made for a State force very good ones, and that the Legislature would do a wise thing at its next session if it would make some provision for the employment of detectives by the State in exceptional cases of crime happening in the counties.

"The suggestion," said Attorney-General Poe, "that such a corps be placed at the disposal of the Governor or the Attorney-General of the State, or both, is a good one, and is to my mind the only way in which such a force could be properly operated. The Attorney-General is the chief legal officer of the State and is often sent by the Governor into the counties to conduct the prosecution of criminals in exceptional cases. It would be a great advantage to the counties and to the State at large if in a case such as the murder of Miss Dean in Caroline county he could at once detail a skilled detective to hunt down the murderer. Such a detail on his part would not be in conflict with the authority of the county officers, as the detective would work in harmony with them. He could report to the State's attorney of the county and would then report progress to both the State's attorney and the Attorney-General.

"A corps such as has been suggested could well be provided in two ways, either by the regular employment of a State detective corps or the setting aside of a special fund for the employment of detectives for work in the counties. If the first course be followed the force need not be a large one—five or six good men would be enough. If an appropriation was made for the employment of detectives in special cases, an appropriation could be made similar in its nature to the contingent fund regularly placed at the disposal of the Governor. It could be a moderate one. Either plan would in my opinion be of great service to the State."