

St. Croix Avis.

75TH YEAR.

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St. Thomas News.

ONE MAN STABBED TO DEATH AND ANOTHER SEVERELY INJURED IN ROW ABOARD S. S. POLAR STAR.—GUILTY SEAMEN CAPTURED.

Thursday evening at about 10.45 the town was startled by signals of alarm, which came from the s. s. "Polar Star." Soon the report that the ship was on fire got started, and crowds hastened on foot and in machines to the wharf of the West India Company to view the supposed conflagration.

It was soon found out however, that the cause for the alarm was not fire, but murder. A most dastardly act had been committed aboard the vessel. Two members of the crew had been attacked by two sailors, also members of the ship's crew, with the result that the one was killed and the other seriously injured.

It appears that ill feelings had started between the Latin speaking members of the crew and the others, through the discharge of the deck engineer, a Spaniard, who had drawn a knife at a mess hand when the ship was at Newport News, the culmination being a quarrel between Jose Soto and Jose Lopez, Latins, and Donohue and Dougherty, Irish, on Thursday evening. What was the immediate cause of the quarrel has not yet been ascertained; but it happened that as Donohue and Dougherty left the crew's quarters to go on deck, they were fallen upon while going up the ladder by Soto and Lopez.

A very short and unequal struggle followed, as the two victims were unarmed.

Dougherty fell, his heart pierced by Lopez's knife. Donohue, though not killed, fared badly. Three slashes given him by his adversary were of telling effect—his right eye was cut out and two other severe wounds inflicted—one on the shoulder and another in the side.

Meanwhile, where were the other members of the crew? In their quarters, most of them drunk thru the effects of liquor.

Just before the stabbing, one man called aboard the ship Paddy, going to call a friend of his, came upon the men and witnessed the crime. He says that after Lopez had knifed the two men, he slashed at him, saying, "That's for you Paddy." He saved himself, however, by jumping into a room and closing the door. He then ran and gave the alarm.

The deed accomplished, Soto and Lopez gained the docks and moved in a southerly direction. It was then that the chief officer and Policeman Anduze, seeing the men trying to escape, fired several shots. Searching parties were soon sent in the direction taken by the men.

One of these, a party consisting of six men organized by Mr. Moorehead, of the Labor Union, succeeded in capturing Jose Soto, Jose Soto fleeing along the rocks succeeded in reaching Poumee, and luckily the party organized by the president of the Labor Union took that direction.

Moving warily along they came upon Soto, just before dawn, lying fast asleep in the bush with the ugly instrument of his crime at his head. One of the men nabbed it and the posse then surrounded and secured the sleeping man. "All right, Mr. policeman," said Soto, and, denying his guilt, was marched into town and delivered at the Police station. Meanwhile, where was Jose Lopez, the man whose unerring aim had brought Dougherty's career to so sudden a close? The searching parties could not find him, and not until a late hour yesterday morning was any clue given the police, as at 10.15 o'clock the Chief of Police was notified by Mr. Pekam of the Shipping Board that a man answering to the description of the slayer had been seen at an early hour resting in a disused shed just back of the old tanks. The Director of Police Morningstar immediately upon receipt of the message sent over a party to capture the fugitive.

The party consisting of about four men was led by District Chief of Police Lantz and Inspector Geraux. On landing at the Navy Dock they at once in-

vestigated the report which showed that Lopez had been seen on two occasions during the morning. Upon learning the accuracy of this, a vigorous search was started. Thru the thick bushes went the policemen, unheeding of the clusters of "suckers" and other thorns that stood in their path; or of the fierce sun that blazed down. They cared for neither so bent were they on securing their man.

At about 1.30 p. m. the District Chief ordered them back to the town, while he remained until relief arrived. This was reluctantly obeyed by the tired and disappointed policemen. They were willing to remain on the scent the whole day, but this was unnecessary as it was not believed the man could escape the trap laid for him.

During the whole evening a guard consisting of one policeman and two civilians continued the search.

The "Polar Star" in the meantime at the request of Director of Police Morningstar, kept playing her searchlight at intervals of half an hour on the lurking place of the murderer. Nothing turned up during the night, and the men were just wondering at the possibility of his having eluded their vigilance, when he was spied picking his way along the beach facing Water Island. He surrendered without giving any trouble, and was at once brought across the harbor and lodged in jail.

At the investigation conducted by Judge Thiele today (11th) the evidence strongly pointed to the guilt of the two seamen, although they denied knowing anything of the affairs. Lopez declared he was too drunk to know anything, but witnesses stated that though he might have had in something, he was not too drunk to have known what he was about. Moreover, it was ascertained that they were looking for other members of the crew.

A report of the investigation will be published later.—St. Thomas Mail Notes, Sept 11th.

The "Polar Star" is of 2623 tons, and belongs to the New York Argentine Steamship Company.—*Ibid.*

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good digestion use
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Readers, No 20-17.