

CASE AGAINST FISHER IS SET FOR WEDNESDAY

Man Who Created Sensation in Phagan Case Faces Mur- der Charge.

Dalton, Ga., January 4.—(Special).—Whitfield superior court will convene here tomorrow for the regular January term. Among the criminal cases to be tried will be that of Ira Fisher on Wednesday, who recently gained notoriety in the Marv Phagan case, when he offered testimony against an Atlanta citizen, which was later discredited.

The reappearance of Fisher in the public eye revived an old case here, and he was indicted for the murder of Dug Steele, who met death here in a mysterious manner November, 1908. Owing to some threats of Fisher, who was a brother-in-law of Steele, some suspicion was aroused against him at the time of the death of Steele, but he left here shortly afterward and the matter was dropped until last October, when the relatives secured an indictment charging Fisher with murder, and he was brought here from Atlanta, where he was furnishing bold headlines for the papers as a sensational witness.

On the night before Steele was found dead on the tracks of the Southern railway, at the northern limits of Dalton, Fisher and he were together and quarreled. Some witnesses for the state testified before the coroner's jury that they heard Fisher threaten to kill Steele, and even as late as 3 o'clock on the morning the body was found, excited voices were heard near where the death occurred.

A number of circumstances indicated that Steele was not killed by being run over by a train, although the Southern railway afterwards paid about three hundred dollars for his death. When found there were wounds on the body evidently made by some sharp instrument, and, although the head was severed from the body, there was practically no blood where it lay. There was also a stab in the left breast which appeared to have been made with a knife.

The coroner's jury, however, remained empaneled for several days and finally rendered the following verdict:

"We, the jury empaneled to inquire into the death of Dug Steele, after viewing the body and hearing the evidence, and seeing the place where the body lay, from the circumstances as detailed, find that the deceased was killed by a train, either while trying to board the train or while trying to alight from the train. This November 30, 1908."