OFFICERS SAY IT WAS MURDER

Declare that the Killing of Mead Was Not Accidental.

NECK AND FACE BONES BROKEN.

Deputy Sheriff's Hard at Work On the Mystery of Thursday Night—Have a Closely Guarded Theory on Which They Are Working—No Arrests Made—No Witnesses Yet Examined By the Coroner.

That Charles M. Mead was murdered and not killed by a locomotive at the point in the Rio Grande yards where his body was found Thursday night, became yesterday to the officers working on the case more of an assured belief than on the night of the occurrence when their first theory was murder. They claim to have a fairly good clue to work on but decline to discuss the case except in the most general way. No arrests have been made however.

Their actions seem to attract particular importance to the lack of harmony in the Mead family which it is said has resulted in several rather loud quarrels at the home on Ash street. It was developed yesterday that Mead had not been living at home for a month, that he roomed and boarded on Eleventh street. Mrs. Mead, says, however, that he was at her house Thursday night. Whether there was any disturbance of any sort there is now a question about which much interest hinges. Mrs. Mead says there was none.

So far as the officers will admit there were no new developments in the case yesterday and the most important facts brought out were at the autopsy, which the coroner's jury ordered as soon as it was impanelled by Coroner Gale with the following membership: Andrew Park, C. C. Richardson, C. Z. Mark, J. C. Overmeyer, F. McDougall, and J. I. Pearson. The examination was made by Dr. A. L. Fugard and Dr. W. O. Patterson. They found that Mead's neck was broken at the second vertebra which was ground to bits. The lower jaw was broken on each side and the upper jaw was split up the middle of the front. A fragment of bone was broken loose from the arch reaching from the eye to the ear.

About the trunk of the body and on the shoulders were several bruises and one collar bone was broken. The face was somewhat scratched from side to side and some few cinders were imbedded in the skin. Otherwise there were no superficial injuries to the face except the cut under the chin and a slight bruise on the right side. The full report of the autopsy has not been prepared by the surgeons but will be submitted by them to the jury when it re-assembles at 9 o'clock Monday morning. No witnesses were examined yesterday.