

FORCE SMALL SAY OFFICIALS

Chief Lanford Reports to the Mayor on Murder Convic- tions Past 18 Months.

Chief of Detectives N. A. Lanford has made a report to the mayor of the convictions for murders in the past eighteen months. According to the chief, the report covers only murders that have been traced down and the guilty parties convicted. He does not include seventeen of the twenty cases mentioned in the petition presented to the mayor by a delegation of negroes a few days since.

In the twenty cases that the petitioners mentioned, according to the report of Chief Lanford, there has been one indictment by grand jury, the indicted party escaping; two negroes bound over to the superior court and one convicted of assault and battery. He does not mention the remaining seventeen unapprehended murderers, but says: "Our men are working very diligently endeavoring to find out the perpetrators of these crimes and are doing everything that lies in their power to bring them to justice."

The report follows the mysterious conference held Tuesday in the mayor's office, when Chief Jennings, of the police; Chief Lanford, of the detective department, and Chairman Carlo Mason, of the police board, were present and talked with the mayor concerning the situation. Exactly what the mayor said is unknown, but there is a strong suspicion that he put it up to the police and the detectives in no uncertain terms.

The mayor states that the official excuse their failure to stop the existing lawlessness in the city to the fact that most of the murders were committed in lonely, out-of-the-way sections of the city; that several were not discovered until days afterward, and that the police force was entirely too small to patrol the city properly.

A recommendation was a reward be offered in each of the cases mentioned in the petition of the negroes will be sent to council next Monday, when the body holds its regular meeting. The mayor will not ask for any specified amount, but will leave this to council to settle. It is probable that council will follow the recommendation and offer the rewards.