

MEMORANDUM.

R. O. Eldermire began duty with me as Chauffeur in June, 1912; my understanding being that he had then been in town about two months. He was recommended to me by Mr. James Cravens, in whose family at that time his wife was working, taking care of the children, and has so worked the most of the time since, and is now so engaged. Mr. Cravens' address is 3410 Garrett Street, a short distance from my home, which is 5 Courtlandt Place.

Eldermire worked for me continuously as Chauffeur from said time until about January, 1915; part of the time with his wife living on my place. He is a German, and his wife is a Jamaican, and both speak rather broken English.

From January, 1915, until September, 1915, he was engaged in selling and repairing cars, and had a small shop part of the time on Fannin Street, just south of McKinney.

He began duty the second time with me about September 19, 1915, and is now in my service. About April *March 30* 4, he came to me, saying that a man named W. C. Miller was claiming a Ford car that he had bought. I went to the courthouse, and there saw Lawrence Lipper, who was attorney for Miller, and heard their statement. They said they wanted to examine the car, and I sent Eldermire up home to get it,

whilst they sent to the Ford plant for a man to examine it. All met a little later at the court house, and the Ford man, after examination, declared that the motor number did not appear to have been changed, as Miller claimed; this being one of the points of alleged identification.

I told Lipper that I would investigate further, and would see to it that Eldermire did what was fair in the premises, according to my view of such, and that, meantime, I would be glad for him to develop all pertinent facts and to submit them to me and I instituted some ^{inquiries} afterwards myself.

Herewith is my correspondence with Lipper. My last letter to him, which practically broke off negotiations, is dated April 18. This was mailed to him, and he doubtless got it on the morning of the 19th. On that day his man swore out a warrant, charging theft; copy of the warrant herewith. Officer Fife made the arrest on the morning of the 20th, and we made bond for him, Judge Ray setting the examining trial for Monday, April 24th, at 2:00 P. M.

Herewith is a statement made by Eldermire at my request, and addressed to me. It is entirely consistent with the facts, which I understood in a general way at or near the time of the occurrence of such; and accordingly I believe it to be perfectly true. I am convinced that Eldermire is incapable of such a crime, and intend to see him through with it. From the file and from the statements, I believe these facts will probably be shown to be true:

- (1) That the 4 tires were bought by Miller from the

Houston Motor Car Company, and were probably stolen from him;

(2) That the body, which is at the Winafee Garage, as I understand it, is probably his, though of this I am not so sure;

(3) That the wheels are probably his; of this I am not sure;

(4) That the chassis is not his, and never was. He depends for identification, as I understand it, on his statement that there is a spliver off the steering wheel, and a hole, which he says he had drilled in the left end of the rear axle.

I think these points of identification of the chassis were all made by him after he had examined it very recently.

Geo. L. Autry.