

# SPERRY ASKS A NEW JUDGE

## Boy Charged With Aneta Burning Files a Prejudice Affidavit.

Something of a sensation occurred at Lakota last week when an affidavit was filed against Judge Templeton by Attorney G. D. Kelly, representing Clyde Sperry, the Aneta boy, who faces a murder charge in connection with the burning of Kenneth McKenzie at Aneta in 1909. Judge Templeton sat as committing magistrate in the case last winter and this fact led to the filing of the affidavit of prejudice. The judge showed a disposition to send the case to some other county for trial, but this action is being opposed by the council for the defense and it is probable that the case will be tried at this term of court before some judge called in for that purpose. Nothing further was done beyond the calling of the calendar and Judge Templeton will announce tomorrow what will be done in the Sperry case.

The case against Clyde Sperry charged with the murder of Kenneth McKenzie at Aneta in the fall of 1909 has embodied in its elements of mystery that promises to make it one of the most remarkable cases ever tried in the state.

The McKenzie boy died a horrible death, burned according to his story by two men, who poured the kerosene from the lantern he was carrying over his body and then lighting it. He failed to identify in any tangible manner the two men. An investigation was conducted, but nothing came of it, many people reaching the conclusion that the whole affair was an accident. The father of the boy, however, was convinced that his son had told the truth, and took the insinuation that the boy was mistaken as a libel on the dead boy. He continued his efforts and with the help of States Attorney S. G. Skulason, a confession was secured from Clyde Sperry last fall that he and a chum, Louis Summerfield were responsible.

Summerfield was arrested, denied the whole affair and was released. The state did not put Sperry on the stand. Sperry was given a preliminary hearing at which Judge Templeton sat as committing magistrate, and after a grilling, in which Sperry declared his whole confession to Skulason and McKenzie was false and that it had been forced from him the boy was bound over to district court.

The evidence at the coroner's inquest shows that Summerfield and Sperry were in the park on the evening of the death of Young McKenzie.