

ANETA BOY CONFESSES

Sperry Admits that He and Man Who Was Arrested Were Two Who Set Upon the Boy.

Lakota, N. D., Feb. 1.—Evidence connecting Louis Summerfield of Milnor, now under arrest and in this county, with the murder of Kenneth McKenzie of Aneta is contained in a statement that has been made to State's Attorney S. G. Skulason of Nelson county by Clyde Sperry, aged 19 years, son of Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Sperry of Aneta.

Young Sperry declares that he was with Summerfield on the night of the crime; that he saw Summerfield, after having thrown the McKenzie boy to the ground, pour oil from the lantern the lad had carried, over the little fellow's legs and touch a match to it. The affair started as a joke so far, as young Sperry knew, and he was not aware of Summerfield's intention to set fire to the McKenzie boy until too late. Fright has sealed the Sperry boy's lips to the present time.

On the night of Oct. 16, 1908, Sperry states that he and Summerfield had gone to the Aneta opera house. Finding only a few people there and believing that it was still too early to remain for the performance to commence, they left and went through a piece of parked property in the town. As they were about to walk on Kenneth McKenzie, carrying a lantern, came along the path. Summerfield then circled about enough to get on the other side of the lad and pointed to him to go southward, which he did. Several times the McKenzie boy started walking in other directions, but each time he was headed off by either Summerfield or Sperry. The Sperry lad says he had no intention of harming the boy, but merely fell in with the idea of frightening him a little.

When they had gone some little distance to the south, young McKenzie evidently became thoroughly frightened and tried to break away. As he did so he was tripped by Summerfield and thrown to the ground. By this time the boy was crying for help.

Sperry states that Summerfield, holding the boy to the ground, reached for the lantern that he had been carrying, unscrewed the oil receptacle and poured a quantity of the kerosene on the McKenzie's boy's leg. Quick as a flash, and before he knew what was happening, Sperry says a flame burst forth and he and Summerfield ran away.

The McKenzie boy, too, with his clothing aflame, started running his horrible plight being discovered a few moments later, but too late to save his life.

Before he died young McKenzie made a statement in which he recited details that tally exactly with the story told by the Sperry boy.

Sperry says he and Summerfield then went back to the opera house, agreeing as to the story they would tell. There was no evidence to connect them with the crime.

Investigation by Attorney General Miller, as well as other officials, resulted in the declaration that crime had been committed, but no evidence could be found to connect anybody with it. Rewards were offered approximating \$1,800, and are still standing.

Three or four months agoan investigation of the case was taken up State's Attorney Skulason and the sheriff. The confession from Sperry and the arrest of Summerfield are the results.

Young Summerfield will have his hearing the present week. He is being held in Lakota and his mother is with him. She is almost prostrated over the arrest of her son, who is about 23 years old.