

# SUMMERFIELD DISCHARGED

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**Sperry Fails to Testify on Stand to  
Confession Made to State's  
Attorney.**  
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Lakota, N. D., Feb. 4.—The sensational evidence connecting Louis Summerfield with the murder of Kenneth McKenzie of Aneta, failed to materialize at the preliminary hearing here today before Justice Folger. The alleged confession was said to have been made by Clyde Sperry, of Aneta to State's Attorney S. G. Skulason, but young Sperry was not even placed on the witness stand. All the evidence introduced was that of the father of the boy, telling of the dying statement of his son that two men were his assailants. There was nothing in the statement that connected Summerfield with the crime. The only other witness examined was Dr. Darrow, who testified as to the cause of death. The state rested and Summerfield was at once dismissed.

Sperry's story, made public by State's Attorney Skulason, was a sensational one, in which he was alleged to have told all the circumstances of pouring kerosene from the lantern which the McKenzie boy was carrying, over the unfortunate lad. The flames immediately burst forth and inflicted the burns which resulted in the death of young McKenzie. According to the statement made public, fear had sealed the Sperry boy's lips until the time the confession was made.

State's Attorney S. G. Skulason stated this evening that the witness Sperry had "gone wrong." Further than this he had no statement to make and said that there were no further developments in the case in sight.

This dismissal of the action is regarded as a vindication of the position taken by Mayor Gunderson of Aneta. He investigated the affair at great length and finally concluded the story told by the boy was the result of his derangement from pain or from opiates. Senator Gunderson was so anxious to get the real facts that in addition to his official work, it is reported that he personally engaged a detective to ferret out every clue and finally reached the conclusion that there had been no crime and that the name of Aneta was not so black as painted as the result of the sensational stories in connection with the tragedy.