

SPERRY CASE IS ON AGAIN

The Cause of Death of Kenneth McKenzie of Aneta is Probed Again

Tuesday morning in the Cass county district courtroom Judge Chas. A. Pollock opened the case of the state against Clyde Sperry, who is charged with manslaughter in the first degree. It is alleged he was implicated in the death of Kenneth McKenzie, a youth living with his parents at Aneta in the month of October, 1909.

Simon McKenzie of Aneta, father of the deceased boy is an attentive listener to the proceedings. Clyde Sperry the accused and his father, occupy two seats inside the court circle.

This is the case where young McKenzie was badly burned while delivering meat for his father at a late hour at Aneta, and later died in a Fargo hospital. There were two stories at the time of the tragedy. One was that young McKenzie stumbled and spilled oil from a lantern he was carrying over his clothing and the clothing caught fire.

The other story was that two men caught the lad, poured oil from the lantern over him and set it on fire. An alleged confession said to have been made by young Sperry in which he implicated another man, resulted in the trial of the other man on a charge of manslaughter and this other man was freed, Sperry denying the confession at the trial. It is on this alleged confession he is now being tried.