

The Stromme Case

The case State of North Dakota vs. Ener O. Stromme, charged with the crime of rape committed upon the person of Anna Stromme, a 13 year old girl on the 2d day of last May occupied the last two days of the district court. Attorneys Sanford, of Jamestown, and Jacobson and Carleton, of Cooperstown defended the prisoner, with States Attorney Bartlett conducting the prosecution. There was a large array of witnesses on both sides, and as it required the services of an interpreter the proceedings were very tedious. The testimony was all in by 6 o'clock Friday night and the attorneys presented their arguments to the jury after supper, the closing argument being concluded at 9:45. The judge's charge was brief, very fair and to the point, and all through the trial the defendant was given every show for his liberty by the rulings of the court—in fact he had a fair and impartial trial. The jury retired to the jury room about 10 o'clock and it was not until about 5:30 Saturday morning that they arrived at a verdict. The judge was sent for and on his asking the jury if they had arrived at a verdict the foreman responded that the jury had found the defendant guilty and recommended the clemency of the court. There was nothing left for the judge to do but pass sentence and he gave the prisoner five years in the penitentiary, the lowest sentence for the crime allowed by law. Attorney Jacobson gave notice that he should make a motion for a new trial and he has ten days in which to do this, in the meantime the prisoner will remain in the Griggs county jail until the end of ten days after which he will be taken to Bismarck unless a new trial is granted.