

Brutal Murder

Near Courtenay

Probably the most shocking and fiendish murder ever perpetrated in this part of the state occurred last Friday near Courtenay, when Dan McDonnell, assisted by his wife, beat their twelve year old girl to death. The man became enraged at her in the morning, threw her on the floor and kicked her into insensibility. After he quit the woman took a board and finished the job, the girl dying in the afternoon. McDonnell then made preparations for burying the child but could not secure a coffin without a death certificate. When he applied to the physician at Courtenay for the certificate, the latter became suspicious and called the coroner, both going to the home where an examination of the girl's body was made. It was found that she had been terribly beaten, the skull being fractured also. Further investigation revealed the fact that the child was almost starved to death, no food being in the stomach.

While the investigation was being made McDonnell left the house and started northeast, being captured near Hannaford by Chester Jackson of that neighborhood, who had been notified by 'phone to watch for him. Both the man and woman were taken to Jamestown to await trial.

McDonnell is well known by a number of our people, as the family lived not far from Sutton a few years ago. He is considered a shiftless sort, and more or less ignorant.