

District Court

The spring term of the District Court convened at Cooperstown May 22, Judge J. A. Coffey presiding.

The matter of hearing applications for citizenship was taken up, and the following were admitted: Christ Tweit of Dover, Elias Hilmer of Tyrol, Rudolph Darros of Helena, John Skei of Pilot Mound, Sophus Holmboe of Cooperstown, Elias Berge of Sverdrup, Harold Nelson of Binford and Olof Vasvig of Hannaford.

Tuesday morning the Court took up the Meyers murder case. The appearance of the prisoner showed the effects of tense nervous strain and it is said that he has lost twenty-five pounds in weight since his imprisonment. However, he was cool and bore up well throughout the trial.

The selection of a jury was accomplished much quicker than had been anticipated, and but eighteen veniremen were examined. Those who served on the jury were: J. E. Wells, Fritz Palm, Julius Knutson, John Huso, Theo. Ethen, Chas. Retzlaff, Robert Pettinger, W. H. Butler, S. M. Watne, O. E. Thoreson, J. P. Vangen and Gudmund Gudmundson.

The jury was completed at 3:45 p. m. Tuesday, and the Meyers case started. George C. Meyers, held on the charge of murder in the first degree, was represented by Attorney Lashkovitz of Fargo, with States Attorney Benjamin Tufte prosecuting. The first witness sworn was George Councilman who testified that Lundmark, the murdered man, was well known to him and had worked for him up to April 17, this year, when Lundmark together with John Sande had gone to Sutton. Dr. Lewis of Sutton was the next witness. He testified to having seen Lundmark lying dead in the gutter at Sutton, and had later examined the body and found a wound in the abdomen about five inches in length and the small intestines out.

Harry Blood and Wm. Anderson both narrated in detail what had taken place in Meyers' restaurant on the night of the murder.

Mrs. Mary Sackett testified that she had seen the defendant outside their residence, near where the killing took place, and had heard him say, "My God, My God, what have I done!"

Christ Greenland testified that it was a moonlight night and that he could see as plain as day. He had seen Meyers come out of his place of business, approach another man at a rapid walk to the south of the restaurant door, saw the man throw up his hands and fall into the mud and water in the street, also saw Myers then go on south and meet another man who fell down.

John Sande was the chief witness and while on the stand told in minute detail of the happenings on the fatal night. He was the man who was stabbed by Meyers immediately after Meyers had stabbed Lundmark. Sande had just come out of the hospital a few days before the opening of the trial.

The case was turned over to the jury Friday afternoon, and that evening brought in a verdict of second degree murder, and the prisoner was sentenced by Judge Colley to 15 years imprisonment in the state penitentiary at Bismarck.