

BOY SLAYS SETTLER

Minneapolis Youth Deliberately Murders Homesteader Near Mora and Rifles His Pockets.

Confesses Crime and Coolly Narrates Details of His Atrocious Deed to County Authorities.

Eugene Thomas, the 16-year-old Minneapolis boy arrested for the murder on Sunday, March 17, of R. N. Winters, a homesteader, in his cabin near Mora, and who was taken to Grasston and placed in jail last Friday, has confessed to the commission of the cold-blooded crime. To county Attorney J. C. King and Sheriff Alman of Kanabec county he told the story of the shooting down of the unarmed homesteader; he also gave to them the history of his life, in which he related that he had been a reader of dime novels and from such books had received an impulse to become a bandit, to go west and to murder and rob in order to accumulate wealth.

It was not until after photographs of the cabin in which the settler was murdered, with the victim lying on the floor, had been shown him, that he consented to tell the story of the crime. He told how the determination to leave home grew upon him and how he finally purchased two revolvers and left Minneapolis. He had visited with his uncle, near Mora, before, and decided to stop at his place before proceeding west.

The boy told of a quarrel with his uncle and his wanderings until he arrived at his victim's cabin on March 17. Then he narrated how he determined to rob the cabin, how he entered it and ransacked the trunk, how he heard someone approaching and drew his revolvers. He stated that presently the door opened, a man appeared and he fired; that he rifled the homesteader's pockets, left the cabin and made his way to Mora. This, and how he went back home to Minneapolis, was told by the boy without even a break in his voice. He showed no sorrow, no remorse. His story was a calm, connected narrative.

Eugene Thomas, who gave himself up to the Minneapolis police on Thursday, March 21, after he had learned that the authorities were looking for him, acted upon the advice of Rev. Johnson, and M. C. Brady, his attorney, both of whom accompanied him to jail. Circumstantial evidence, including assertions that the lad had previously shown a desire to become an outlaw, was responsible for the verdict of the coroner's jury, which was as follows: "We find that R. N. Winters came to his death from bullet wounds received from a weapon in the hands of a person believed to be Eugene Thomas." An autopsy revealed that Winters had been shot in the head three times.

The boy, according to the Kanabec authorities, arrived in Mora late on Thursday, March 14, armed with two revolvers. He remained at the home of relatives that evening and the next morning, when urged to return home by his uncle, flourished his revolvers and threatened to make use of them if interfered with. He then backed out of the house and proceeded north from Mora along a road passing near the Winters' cabin. He reappeared in Mora the following Sunday, much fatigued, and explained that he had spent the time since Friday in an abandoned shack on his uncle's homestead, eight miles from Wahkon. On Monday he agreed to return home, purchased a ticket to Minneapolis and boarded a train.

Winters was last seen about 10 o'clock on the morning of March 17, when he left the home of a neighbor to walk to his cabin. An hour or more later, according to the findings of the Kanabec county investigators, young Thomas appeared at this neighbor's home, ate dinner and endeavored unsuccessfully to hire a rig to drive to the nearest railroad station. It was later learned that a youth answering his description visited other farm houses along the road and tried to hire a rig. As an indirect result of these visits to farmhouses, the investigators brought to light probably the strongest link in the chain of circumstantial evidence that was coiling more and more tightly about the wayward Minneapolis boy.

Upon his arrival at Mora, it was said, he missed one of his mittens. He was positive he had left it in one of the farm houses. He was so certain of this that he left a letter to be mailed to one of the housewives asking that the mitten be forwarded.

The mitten—or one just like it in every way—later was found in the Winters' cabin near the body of the slain homesteader.

The tragedy was not discovered until the following Tuesday. Evidence indicated that Winters had been shot while standing in the doorway of his home, as he was about to enter, by someone inside the cabin. Officers worked on the theory that the murderer was ransacking the cabin when the homesteader, returning from a neighbor's home, disturbed him.

Yesterday, in district court at Mora, Thomas pleaded guilty to murder in the second degree and was sentenced to the reformatory on the indeterminate plan.

County Attorney King of Kanabec county is entitled to credit for the able manner in which he handled this case.

Murderers and Burglars Abound. Murderers and burglars continue their nefarious work in Minneapolis with impunity—the police appear to be unequal to the task of capturing the criminals.

A young woman named Alice Matthews was attacked and murdered late on Saturday night on the sidewalk within a few feet of her home, 3547 Twentieth avenue S., and, notwithstanding the fact that people living across the street notified the police by telephone that a struggle was in progress, the officers failed to discover anything amiss. A policeman on a bicycle and another on horseback were sent out at different times, in answer to the calls, but their sphere of investigation did not include the place where the murder was committed. They kept half a block away, probably for the reason that the street where the unfortunate girl was struggling on the sidewalk in the throes of death was unlighted—the "brave" officers of the law were apparently afraid to get out from under the electric light on the corner for fear that they, too, might come in contact with the assassin. While a reward has been offered for the apprehension and conviction of the murderer, that is but small consolation for the parents who lost their daughter in so tragic a way.

Another big burglary was added on Monday to the list committed in Minneapolis within the past few weeks and the perpetrators of which have escaped detection. Cracksmen entered the Miles theater, directly across the street from the Radisson hotel, blew the safe doors off and carried away a collection of elk teeth valued at \$3,500, besides cash and stamps. No one heard the explosion although the police are supposed to be on the beat continually in the downtown district.

If reform is needed in one Minneapolis municipal department more than another it is in the police department, where cowardice and neglect of duty seems to be prevalent.

A Woman School Superintendent.

J. B. Johnson has resigned the superintendency of schools of Isanti county, the resignation to take effect September 3, and the county board has appointed Mrs. Minerva B. Hixson to succeed him. Mrs. Hixson's father, the late Hon. H. F. Barker, was at one time superintendent of schools of Mille Lacs county, and her aunt, the late Mrs. Olive R. Barker, was the first woman county superintendent of schools in the state and filled the position acceptably in this county for 16 successive years. Taking into consideration her hereditary environments, together with the fact that she is a college graduate, Mrs. Hixson ought to make a capable superintendent.

Don't Throw Your Money Away.

If you want to save money go to Wm. Neely's harness shop for everything you need in the horse furnishing line. All goods guaranteed at this well-known establishment. Don't let people cajole you into believing that a factory-made harness is made by hand. I carry both factory and hand-made harness and will show and explain to you the difference.

Don't miss the reduction sale which will begin in my store on Saturday next, March 16, and last two weeks. During that time a discount of 10 per cent will be given on all cash purchases. Wm. Neely, 13-2tc The Harness Man.

Fifteen Injured in Wreck.

A Soo line passenger train, running from Portal, N. D., to Minneapolis, was wrecked three miles east of Belgrade, Minn., at 7:45 o'clock on Tuesday morning and, as a result, 15 persons received injuries. Six of the seven cars which made up the train left the track and were either hurled down a 20-foot embankment or left at right angle on the steep grade. The wreck was caused by a broken rail.

MARCH SETTLEMENT

Apportionment of Taxes for County of Mille Lacs as Computed by the Auditor and Treasurer.

Settlement Aggregates \$30,112.75, of Which School Districts of the County Get \$12,244.10.

The tax apportionment of the March settlement aggregates \$30,112.75. Of this sum \$2,197.60 is apportioned to the state, \$7,009.10 to the county, and \$4,865.11 to the town funds. To the village of Princeton is apportioned \$1,610.68 and to the village of Milaca \$2,008.97, while the school district distribution aggregates \$12,244.10 and the farm school tax \$174.23. The details of the distribution are given below.

STATE TAXES.

Revenue..... \$1485.98
School..... 731.62

Total..... \$2217.60

COUNTY TAXES.

Revenue..... \$2975.77
Revenue, (re-surveys)..... 404.56

Revenue, (% of penalty interest and cost)..... 387.08

Current School, (% of penalty interest and cost)..... 387.08

State Loan (county)..... 494.36

State Loan (districts)..... 72.94

County Poor..... 739.44

Ditch No. 1, Road and Bridge..... 1152.09

Ditch No. 2..... 25.82

Ditch No. 3..... 2.45

Ditch No. 4..... 2.97

Ditch No. 5..... 122.50

Ditch No. 6..... 8.13

Ditch No. 7..... 1.69

Ditch No. 8..... 122.50

County Poor Farm..... 533.57

Total..... \$7009.10

VILLAGE TAXES.

PRINCETON.

Road and bridge..... \$789.37

State loan..... 353.66

Special..... 63.70

Bonds and interest..... 78.18

Total..... \$1610.68

MILACA.

Road and bridge..... \$943.57

State loan..... 311.45

Special..... 5.93

Bonds and interest..... 645.62

Total..... \$2008.97

ONAMIA.

Revenue..... \$2.46

Total..... \$2.46

FORESTON.

Revenue..... \$.50

Total..... \$.50

TOWN TAXES.

State Revenue..... \$1610.68

Road and Bridge..... 38.83

Del. Land..... 46.42

Bogus Brook..... 38.75

Borgholm..... 26.04

East Side..... 71.33

Greenbush..... 311.67

Hayland..... 57.20

Isle Harbor..... 126.72

Kathio..... 453.94

Milo..... 112.96

Milaca..... 84.66

Onamia..... 54.20

Page..... 35.85

Princeton..... 131.52

South Harbor..... 68.64

Total..... \$486.67

Total township taxes..... \$486.67

This total includes \$32.69 for building tax in town of Bogus Brook and \$6.08 for special tax in town of Kathio, and 54 cents bonds and interest in Milaca township.

SCHOOL DISTRICT TAXES.

No. of State One mill Special Building

1..... \$630.47 \$166.20 \$51.05

2..... 7.17 81.02

3..... 31.55 21.03 213.33

4..... 12.18 12.18 311.55

5..... 6.08 35.54

6..... 5.16 11.26 166.56

7..... 4.47 44.47

8..... 4.87 9.17 219.62

9..... 10.31 129.54

10..... 11.99 73.67 37.80

11..... 23.19 235.19

12..... 3.54 137.50

13..... 68.65 3440.19

14..... 21.64 964.35

15..... 17.33 15.33 64.96

16..... 12.12 177.67

17..... 7.30 58.62

18..... 24.12 209.54

19..... 10.57 28.30

20..... 22.92 8.82 218.11

21..... 5.94 56.37

22..... 22.94 22.94

23..... 4.78 94.97

24..... 4.05 3.32 32.02

25..... 10.70 13.32 127.01

26..... 10.04 4.87 87.53

27..... 28.57 11.56 122.80

28..... 29.95 8.05 140.51

29..... 4.61 67.65

30..... 45.33 8.43 53.32

31..... 25.90 4.50 96.64

32..... .09 4.20 45.88

33..... 26.84 26.84

34..... 39.70 21.93 460.38

35..... 8.30 6.09 61.55

36..... 7.82 3.71 32.92

37..... 14.01 4.74 56.51

38..... 19.65 19.65

39..... 10.22 2.22 17.55

Totals..... \$907.75 \$501.52 \$10380.82 \$323.44

Total school district taxes..... \$12,244.10

This total includes bonds and interest in district 13 of \$32.38, in district 15 of \$4.88, and in 38 of \$5.01.

Farm school tax district 13..... \$174.23

Total settlement..... \$30,112.75

Those Who Have Contributed.

Sometime ago the Union made an appeal to the real estate men and others interested in the upbuilding of Mille Lacs county for funds to assist in maintaining the bureau at 39 South Third Street, Minneapolis, where the products of the counties affiliated with the Northern Minnesota Development association are on display in charge of the energetic W. R. Mackenzie, and where every effort is being put forth to induce newcomers to settle on northern Minnesota lands. Mille Lacs county was assessed \$100 for the maintenance of the bureau. That amount has been raised and forwarded to Mr. Mackenzie and his receipt for the same has been received by the publisher of the Union. A small additional sum is needed to pay

Mille Lacs county's membership fees in the Northern Minnesota Development association—\$10.00 contributed by Mr. W. S. Foster of Milaca, and \$7.50 turned over by Archie Taylor as treasurer of the Mille Lacs county branch of the association, is on hand for that purpose. Ten dollars more is needed.

The following are the names of the contributors and the amount contributed by each:

First National Bank, Princeton..... \$10.00
Security State Bank, Princeton..... 10.00
Princeton State Bank, Princeton..... 10.00
McMillan & Stanley, Princeton..... 10.00
First National Bank, Milaca..... 10.00
Osterberg Land Co., Milaca..... 10.00
First State Bank, Onamia..... 10.00
Soo State Bank, Wahkon..... 10.00
Trask & Gilbert, Minneapolis..... 10.00
A. E. Johnson & Co., Minneapolis..... 10.00

Total..... \$100.00

Good work is being accomplished by the Minneapolis bureau. There are thousands of acres of good farming lands in northern and central Mille Lacs county awaiting settlers, and no county offers better inducements to settlers than Mille Lacs county.

A Brutal Crime in Minneapolis.

In a few terse sentences the Minneapolis Tribune graphically depicts a beastly brutal crime perpetrated in that city last Saturday night:

"With people around to hear her despairing cries for help, but no one ready and willing to render assistance, Alice Matthews, 21 years old, daughter of Harry Matthews, 3547 Twentieth avenue south, gave up her life late Saturday night in a desperate attempt to save her honor. Her disfigured and mutilated body was found in the street, less than half a block from her home, by a neighbor at 6 o'clock Sunday morning.

"Her lips were swollen from a blow in the mouth, her neck and throat were scratched and torn, her clothing was in tatters—everything bore mute testimony of the terrible struggle she had made against her brutal assailant, to whom she did not succumb until life was nearly or quite extinct."

If the perpetrator of the horrible crime is ever brought to justice, something highly improbable, the extreme penalty that can be inflicted upon him is imprisonment for life! Hanging would be too easy a death for such a brute to die.

Isanti a Dry County.

Our sister county of Isanti is the first in the state to "go dry." Today no toper can legally slake his thirst with a glass of foaming lager or "something stronger" in that county, for there is not a licensed saloon within its borders. This is a distinction enjoyed by no other county in the state.

At the recent election the village of Isanti went "wet" by two majorities, and it was the only "wet" spot left in the county, as Cambridge and Brahm had voted to remain "dry" by decisive majorities, and the county commissioners of Isanti county have repeatedly refused to grant license for the sale of intoxicating liquor. The village council of Isanti, although the election people had two majorities at the election, refused to grant a license for the sale of "liquid damnation," as they do not want to make their village the Mecca of all the drunks in the county. The receipts of the Great Northern Express company will be materially increased in the village of Isanti this year.

Norman Perkins Dead.

Norman Perkins, formerly superintendent of the tenth district railway mail service with headquarters at St. Paul, died in Washington last week. The people along this branch of the Great Northern have reason to remember Mr. Perkins kindly, for it was owing to his efforts that a mail car service was inaugurated on this line when the passenger train ran between Sandstone and St. Paul. For a time, after the completion of the Cambridge cut-off, we had only a pouch service on this line—there was no mail car—our congressmen and senators were appealed to in vain, but the publisher of the Union took the matter up with Mr. Perkins and a mail car service was established.

Cemetery Association Meeting.

The time is at hand for the election of officers and the consideration of other business of the association, therefore on Thursday, April 4, at 3 p. m., at A. Z. Norton's residence, a meeting will be held for that purpose, and all interested are asked to attend.

I am thankful for the kind and liberal support given the association during the past year, but am sorry to say I am not in a position to accept the presidency for the next term, and suggest that someone be selected for that office who has a means of conveyance whereby they can visit the cemetery frequently to supervise the work. Nettie Jaax, President.

TWO COUPLES WED

Charles W. Gerth and Minnie Kronstrom Married in Saron Swedish Church, Greenbush.

Chas. Weeks of Wyannett Takes unto Himself as Wife Pauline Manke of Princeton Township.

Charles W., son of August Gerth, and Minnie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. N. Kronstrom, were married yesterday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock in Saron Swedish Lutheran church, Greenbush. Rev. August Lundquist, the pastor, performed the ceremony, which was attended by many relatives and friends of the young people. The church was prettily decorated with potted plants and cut flowers. Miss Serena Bjornstad of Minneapolis played the wedding march.

A gown of white silk crepe duchene was worn by the bride and she carried a bouquet of white roses, while the bridesmaids, Misses Mabel Kronstrom and Ida May Schmidt, were gowned in white silk mulle and carried pink carnations. Dan Gerth and Sidney Schmidt attended the groom.

A reception at the Kronstrom home followed the ceremony, and a bounteous wedding feast was partaken of by the many invited guests. Numerous presents, including several sets of silverware and articles in cut glass, were bestowed upon the young people by their friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Gerth will make their home with the groom's father. The Union wishes them a life of uninterrupted happiness.

Weeks-Manke.

Yesterday afternoon, at the home of the bride's mother in the town of Princeton, Miss Pauline Manke was united in wedlock to Charles Weeks of Wyannett. Over 50 guests were present at the nuptial ceremony, which was performed by Rev. Eugene Ahl of the Princeton German Lutheran church. John Weeks and Otto Manke attended the groom and the bridesmaids were Misses Mabel Weeks and Mary Falk.

The bride's dress was of blue mesaline silk and she carried white roses. The bridesmaids also wore gowns of a blue material, and carried pink carnations.

Following the ceremony a wedding supper was partaken of and the evening passed in pleasant sociality. Many pretty gifts were bestowed upon the bride and groom, who will shortly go to housekeeping on a farm—the old Carmody place—west of the village.

The Union extends its congratulations.

An Excellent Lecture.

Dr. Jordan's lecture last evening at the Methodist church was one of the best we have ever heard on Napoleon and was delivered in oratorical manner. He described Napoleon as the master genius of the world—the little general who led an army across a continent and who gave to France law and order. Dr. Jordan is a lecturer of the highest type—he holds his audience with the grip of his personality, eloquence and logic. With vivid imagination he led his audience over battlefields and plundered cities, and those who did not hear the doctor missed the opportunity of their lives.

The subject of Dr. Jordan's lecture was "A Fallen Meteor," and, in synoptic form, he said:

Few lives have interested the student of history like that of Napoleon. A man who in fifteen short years raised himself from the low rank of a sub-lieutenant of artillery to the throne of an emperor; holding in his hand the power to crown kings and depose monarchs, to overthrow kingdoms and establish empires; who, for a quarter of a century, met upon the plains of Europe the allied forces of a continent, rose to the very zenith of human fame and glory, absorbing the gaze of a world, and then suddenly fell and went out on the darkness of St. Helena.

Alas, he was not a permanent sun, but a meteor, brilliant, flaming, but transient.

Born into the opportunities of one of the most stirring periods of human history, he seemed the man for the hour. No nation ever suffered more than did France; no nation more terrible in the awful fury and madness that controlled her, without a head, without a government, without stability, without control—everything thrown out into wild disorder and confusion; every party, from monarchist to anarchist, tried its hand at government and failed. Danton, Robespierre and Marat, those bloodhounds of the revolution, throttled the nation and the people. All seemed

lost, when suddenly Napoleon seized the reins of government, drove chaos from the throne, restored law and order, called back religion to low altars, extended her empire and covered France with the greatest splendor since the days of the Roman empire.

He was great, but, alas, he was not good; his blind ambition drove him from the patriotic mission to which he was called; he trampled upon the immutable laws of God, and then he fell.

Another Minneapolis Assassin.