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Fresh Fish Received Weekly

PRIVATE PARLOR UPSTAIRS

W. Farquharson, Lindsay, Jan 31st, 1884.

SOLVED BY THREE BUTTONS.

THE MURDERER OF THE WILSONS, AT WINNETKA, SAID TO BE A CANADIAN.

(Chicago News.)

A blue-eyed young man of medium size, a round face, and a florid complexion, sat on a low stool peering out through the grated door of cell 104 of the county jail yesterday afternoon. His lips were parted with a smile produced by a jesting remark of a prisoner in the corridor who was speaking to him through the bars. He held a folded newspaper in his hand, and softly patted his knee with it as he gave a witty retort to the prisoner in the corridor. The merry young man appeared to be enjoying himself. In spite of his seeming good spirits, the crime charged against him was not an amusing one, being none other than the murder of James L. Wilson, of Winnetka, who, with his aged wife, were slaughtered in their lonely home on the evening of February 12. The prisoner was Neil McKague, the young butcher, who has been suspected of the crime for some days. He reached the cell by easy stages after he was "invited" to accompany Detective McGinn, of Pinkerton's agency, and Chief Carney, of the Kewanee police, to Chicago on Friday afternoon. Accepting the "invitation" with little show of uneasiness, he was brought to the office of Pinkerton's agency, where William Pinkerton, State's Attorney Mills, and several other persons who have a deep interest in the case, labored for some hours to wring a confession from him. McKague steadily denied that he had any knowledge of the murder. They failed to get any damaging admission from him. After the examination McKague was politely requested to remain for the night at the agency's office, and he consented to do so. The next day he was urged to remain the guest of Mr. Pinkerton for a few hours longer. There being no help for it, McKague continued to enjoy Mr. Pinkerton's kind hospitality until early in the afternoon, when Chief Bailiff Severin, of the Criminal Court, State's Attorney Mills, and Chief Carney came in a carriage to take the young butcher away with them. No more invitations of any sort were extended to McKague. The gentleman with whom he was dealing were in a position to command him, for Bailiff Severin carried a capias issued by virtue of

AN INDICTMENT FOR MURDER returned against McKague by the grand jury an hour or two before. State's Attorney Mills and Mr. Pinkerton had remained in consultation at the office of the detective agency until an hour or two of day break Saturday morning. They had examined minutely the contents of McKague's trunk, which had been brought from Winnetka. It is claimed that they found there a collar and a necktie with spots of blood on them. By 9 o'clock Saturday morning Mr. Mills was at his office in the Criminal Court building at work on an indictment charging McKague with the murder of James L. Wilson. When the grand jurors assembled at 10 o'clock the case was presented to them.

Mr. Pinkerton and Detective McGinn produced before the jury the strongest evidence of McKague's guilt which has so far been discovered. They showed the vest which McKague had worn every day since the murder. Three buttons had been torn from it. They had been replaced by others which did not match the original ones. Three buttons which had been picked up from the floor of the sitting-room where Mr. Wilson was

murdered were next displayed. They matched perfectly the original buttons of the vest. They had been torn away with such violence that a shred of cloth remained attached to one of them, while another one had been wrenched from its core. The bit of cloth corresponded exactly with the fabric of the vest, and fitted perfectly in a little hole which showed where a button had been torn away from the garment of McKague. The broken button settled snugly over the broken centre bit of a button on the vest. A microscope disclosed that even the threads clinging to the detached buttons were exactly of the same size and texture. The broken button had been found by Detective McGinn on last Thursday, and at that time caused great elation in the mind of that hard-working individual. The two whole buttons were picked up from the floor on the day the

MURDER WAS DISCOVERED.

John Carney, who was the first officer on the scene of the murder, described to the jury the condition of the Wilson house as he had seen it, and the appearance of the bodies of the two murdered people. He told of the words and actions of McKague in his presence on that day, together with the butcher's story of the particular friend whom Mr. Wilson said was to take supper with him. The variations of the original story as related by McKague at different times were also pointed out. McKague had at first said that the old man had purchased a beefsteak on that fatal evening. After a search had failed to disclose any beefsteak and had brought to light a piece of veal, McKague remembered that he had sold veal to Mr. Wilson. McKague had explained that between the hours of 7 and 9 o'clock on the night of the murder he was writing letters at his shop. The letters which he claimed to have written at that time were traced to their recipients, and were found by their postmarks to have been written and sent some hours before the murders were committed. Suspicious actions of various sorts on the part of McKague were also related by Chief Carney and his brother, William Carney, who have done some very effective work on the case.

Dputy Coroner Clancy and his assistant, J. Roelle, testified to matters of considerable importance. Mr. Roelle produced McKague's revolver, which was recovered from Belle Hagen, the servant girl, a few days after the murder. The bullets taken from the body of Mr. Wilson were also shown to the jury. The bullets fitted the revolver. On this testimony the grand jury agreed within a few minutes to find a true bill for murder against McKague. It was properly signed by the foreman and immediately returned before Judge Hawes. With the least possible delay a capias was issued and given to Bailiff Severin for service.

No testimony was produced before the grand jury to show that McKague killed Mrs. Wilson. Perhaps he will never be indicted for that crime otherwise than as an accomplice. It is probable that the detectives doubt whether he committed it. Blood has been found on McKague's clothing, but whether it is the blood of the Wilsons or of the butcher's meat which he has handled in his shop is not as yet known. Prof. Walter Haines, of the Rush Medical College, has the garments in charge, and will endeavor to determine whether or not they are

STAINED WITH HUMAN BLOOD. But the stains are not so large or plentiful as one would expect to find them after seeing the quantity of blood on the walls and ceiling of the little bed chamber where the aged lady was beaten to death with dozens of heavy blows. It scarcely seems possible that the murderer could have performed his horrid work without his clothing being drenched in blood. It is thought that perhaps the butcher had an accomplice. Adam Phillips, a farmer living about three miles from Winnetka, who is an acquaintance of McKague, is thought to be under surveillance by the detectives as a possible companion of that young man at the house of the Wilsons. It is reported, however, that the detectives have found that McKague destroyed the shirt which he wore on the day preceding the murder. Perhaps before killing Mrs. Wilson he removed his coat and vest in order to keep them free from the flying blood.

The evidence which was produced before the grand jury is by no means all that the detectives have secured. The testimony of Emma Dwyer and Mrs. Murphy concerning the suspicious eagerness with which McKague dashed upstairs when they had summoned him to the Wilson house when the murder of Mr. Wilson was discovered is considered another strong point. He appeared anxious to look over the corners of both murders before any one else had a chance to observe them. It is alleged that McKague owed Mr. Wilson \$200, instead of \$200, as he claims. This debt is believed to have been secured by two personal notes. No notes bearing McKague's signature have been found in Mr. Wilson's house. McKague was seen at Mr. Wilson's residence only a few days

before the murder by Mr. J. F. Dixon, the principal of the Winnetka school. He claims that he was there on some business relating to the deed for the land he had lately purchased from Mr. Wilson. From their knowledge of the case the detectives have come to think that McKague killed the old man partly for robbery, but more particularly to avoid paying \$700 of his indebtedness. They admit, however, that the crime may have been inspired by

A SUDDEN FIT OF FASHION

arising through the old man's sharp business dealings with him. The shot which entered the head of the old man was evidently fired from a pistol held within an inch or two of its mark. The old man was sitting down at the time, as is shown by the broken chair. The shot was wholly unexpected. The shot in the breast which killed him was sent after Mr. Wilson had sprung to his feet and hidden behind the stove for momentary protection. Then the murderer probably rushed upstairs and beat to death the aged and helpless wife, who lay on her bed, in order that she might tell no one who killed her husband.

It is believed that James Mahoney, McKague's assistant in the shop, and Belle Hagen, the girl who had the revolver, will be induced to give damaging evidence against McKague. Mahoney was brought to the office of Pinkerton's agency by Detective McGinn Saturday afternoon. He there admitted that he had not seen Mr. Wilson on the evening of the murder, but that he had seen him in the shop on the forenoon of that day. He had heard him say nothing of the particular friend whom McKague introduces on the scene. Mahoney said at first that he had heard the old man's conversation about the friend. After a close examination at Pinkerton's headquarters Mahoney was allowed to return to Winnetka. The detectives think he is an honest boy, and that he claimed at first to have heard the old man's conversation merely to gain a little notoriety for himself.

Frank Scott of 2339 Westworth avenue, who is an old acquaintance of McKague, has engaged C. M. Hardy as the young butcher's attorney. Up to 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon Mr. Hardy had not seen his client. It is reported that Turtle's detective agency has been employed to look up evidence going to establish McKague's innocence. Neil McKague is 23 years old, and was born in Canada. His father is a well-to-do butcher at Thorold, Ontario. McKague left his father's home for Chicago about two years ago. After a short stay in this city he was engaged by Charles Schroeder, of Winnetka, to work as a butcher for him, his wages being \$40 a month and board. A little while before Christmas he left Schroeder's employ, and went on a visit to his parents. Returning in a few days he

STARTED A BUTCHER SHOP

of his own at Winnetka, in opposition to his old employer. McKague always dressed neatly, and has been very popular with his companions. He is known to possess a violent temper. Occasionally, he gets drunk. His eyes are restless and seldom look one in the face. He is on most occasions a soft spoken young man. The butcher's father and two of his friends arrived in Chicago yesterday afternoon, a telegram having been sent to Thorold on Friday afternoon shortly after McKague's arrest. The elder McKague is a respectable appearing old Scotchman, with features strikingly like those of his son. He repaired with his friends to the jail as quickly as possible after reaching the city. The meeting of the father and son under circumstances, which to ordinary persons would be very painful, did not appear to awaken the slightest emotion in either of them. They shook hands through the bars in a very methodical way, and then exchanged a few words. After telling his son that he could do nothing for him until to-day the old gentleman and his companions departed. They took a train for Winnetka, and spent the rest of the afternoon and evening in looking over the scene of the tragedy, and familiarizing themselves with its details and with the evidence against the prisoner.

Several detectives of Pinkerton's agency were at Winnetka Sunday, following up clues by which they hope to strengthen the already strong case against McKague. State's Attorney Mills was also at the little village for a few hours. It is believed that still other indications will be found by the grand jury in the Wilson case to-day or to-morrow. Other arrests are looked for. As yet no one has been indicted but McKague, but judging from the present appearance of the case it is very possible that one or more other people will be indicted. William Allen, the feeble-minded young coal dealer, is not suspected by Pinkerton's agency of having any

KNOWLEDGE OF THE CRIME. He was arrested Thursday night by a detective of the agency of Pinkerton & Co., a different organization from that which has the Wilson case in charge. He was held for some hours, and then released through the agency of his father. McKague was visited at his cell

by a Daily News reporter yesterday. He was chatting gayly with his cell mate, a man named Johnson, who is locked up for assault, and another prisoner. The young butcher was dressed in light trousers and a well worn Prince Albert coat, his ordinary attire having been taken from him by the detectives and held for evidence against him.

"I am getting on as well as can be expected under the circumstances," said McKague, in response to a question. "It is pretty hard, though, to be taken away from my work and locked up on a charge of which I am not guilty. I have no fears for the outcome of this matter. I am anxious for an early trial. I am not guilty, and I must be acquitted. I don't know anything about the murder."

"How do you explain away those buttons which were found in the Wilson house and which match those on your vest?"

"Pinkerton says they match those on my vest. But what of that? How many buttons do you suppose the fellow who made those on my vest has turned out of the same pattern? Thousands of course."

"But how did you come to lose some of the buttons from your vest?"

"I didn't lose any. They are all on the vest now."

"How does the boy Mahoney come to contradict himself so often?"

"Jimmy never said he heard what Mr. Wilson said about the visitor. Jimmy wasn't in the shop then. Nobody heard him but me."

"What took you to the Wilson house on the day that Mr. Dixon saw you there? Was it to see a deed of the property you had bought of him?"

"No, not that exactly. But," stopping suddenly, "you are going to write up what I say. I would tell you everything if this were a private conversation. But I have declined to be interviewed on several occasions, and I must serve every one alike."

"The case of murder against McKague," said a member of the present grand jury yesterday, "as it was presented before the jurors, was a very strong one. The circumstantial evidence was remarkably strong. I do not think that the detectives brought before us all the evidence they have. I am not sure that I would vote for a conviction on the evidence I heard if I were trying the case as a petit juror, but I would have voted for an indictment yesterday on much weaker testimony. I have no doubt that by following up all the clues they have the Pinkertons will secure the conviction of McKague for the crime."

W.F. McCarty

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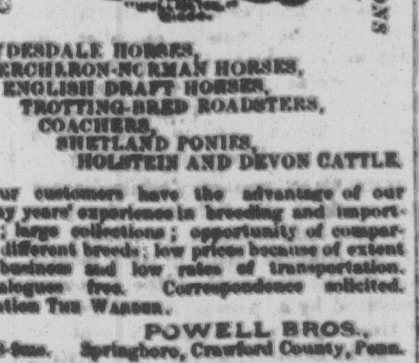
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Will offer special inducements to all buyers during the present month.

We mean what we say. Our crockery shall all go at less than

COST FOR CASH,

For we must have it cleared out this month.

A SPLENDID ASSORTMENT OF LAMP GOODS must also go with the Crockery, and will be sold out at once regardless of cost.

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OUR WELL KNOWN AND FAVORITE BRANDS. NEW CONSIGNMENTS TO ARRIVE THIS WEEK.

Call and make your purchases while we have them—they do not last long.

Spratt & Killen.

Lindsay, January 17th, 1884.

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During this month we will give special bargains in the following:

Fine Fur Robes, Astrachan Jackets, Fur-Lined Circulars, Buffalo Robes, Persian Lamb and Seal, to be sold Cheap. Clothing of every kind, Reduced. Good Overcoats, from \$5 to \$10. Boys' Overcoats, from \$4.50 to \$7. White Blankets, All Wool, Cheap. Grey Blankets, All Wool, very Cheap. Colored Dress Silks, Cheap and Beautiful. Extra value in Carpets, extra value in Lace Curtains, extra value in Crettones, extra value in Table Linens, Extra value in Sheetings, extra value in Towellings,

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Lindsay, January 17th, 1884.

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