

Grand Forks Daily Herald

12 Jul 1893

BOMBERGER AGAIN.

The Cando Crowd of Lynchers
That Didn't Come.

EXCITING TIME AT JAIL.

Sheriff Fadden Warns the Crowd Not
to Take Any Risks in De-
stroying the County
Property.

Bomberger, the Towner county fiend, is still a guest of Sheriff Fadden at the county jail, although the opinion was freely expressed yesterday by many that before this time he would have paid the penalty to some extent, of his atrocious crime by his life. All day rumors were flying through the city to the effect that a large party of Towner county citizens would arrive on the evening train fully determined to execute summary punishment upon the villain. These rumors were finally accepted by many as the fact through the agency of some "hoax" telegrams. When the evening train arrived from the west an hour late a party of sympathizers probably 300 strong were at the depot to greet the lynching party. But they were doomed to disappointment, for not a solitary Towner county man was on the train. Disgusted at having the expected lynching postponed, they proceeded to the jail, followed by constantly increasing numbers of citizens impelled by curiosity doubtless, to see "what was up." In a very short time there were probably 1,000 people in the vicinity of the jail, crowded in the jail yard, on the wood piles and in the street. A few made some excitement by yelling "lynch him now," "bring him out," "string the villain up," "burn him," etc. Charlie Rhinehart, although he possibly intended it as a grim joke, made his appearance with a long rope, and by displaying it very foolishly added fuel to the intensity of feeling on the part of the few who would have been glad to have seen the prisoner taken out of jail and strung up by a mob. Some one proposed getting a ladder to reach the window of the cell where the prisoner was supposed to be confined. But just at this juncture Sheriff Fadden made his appearance at the window and remarked that it would be a risky act for any man to place a ladder against the building; that he would protect the county jail and was abundantly prepared to do so. The crowd took the sheriff at his word and those who had been foremost in endeavoring to excite the crowd to deeds of violence were seriously discouraged. They lacked a leader, and without a leader a lynching party would hardly be a success if the

ous girl. The wholesale murder of the morning of the 7th was the means he took to accomplish his foul purpose. The father was proud of his girls, and protected them from any insult. And knowing as Bomberger did that any improper actions would be visited with severity, his first act was to shoot their protector, who never knew what caused death, for he passed from the restful sleep of that morning to the eternal sleep of death. He next turned his attention to the mother who was in the kitchen preparing the morning meat. She was shot dead and fell between the stove and the table. With this shot two lives were taken, for her confinement was daily looked for. Then his attention was turned to the young people. Annie, the object of his desire, was ordered to keep silent or he would shoot her, he sent her to his room upstairs and proceeded to destroy the lives of any of the children who could get away to give information.

Bernice, the second daughter, did most courageously jump from the second story window and go to the stable and was mounted on the bay pony, usually driven by the girls when they came to town, but when the fiend missed her he ran and intercepted her, brought her to the house and told her to go up to his room. She refused to do so and he told her she would go with the rest if she did not. The general feeling is that his purpose was to do to her as he did actually do to Annie. She passed into her room across the hallway, and he shot the back part of her head away and her brains were scattered all over the floor. One of the younger girls was found crouched in a corner. The shot tore the front of her head so that her brains fell out on the floor as her head dropped forward. Then having killed the six persons, he was able without molestation to force the virtuous girl, and with the sight before her she yielded, after which he compelled her to get him breakfast and to wash all the blood stains off his clothes, and put him a lunch up for his use during the day. Then he took her to the hay loft and again gratified his desire, and tied her, saying, "the butcher would be out at noon for a hog and would untie her." One of her little brothers heard her cry and came to her assistance after the murderer had ridden off and she ran into town shouting and crying and told her story. There was some delay in starting in pursuit, for the men were astounded and could hardly believe it, so that he had an hour's start of them, but when they struck his trail and found that he had made some very cunning efforts to foil his pursuers, they kept right after him. About forty of our citizens boarded the train Saturday afternoon, among them all our prominent business men and county officials, to join in the chase. They feared he would escape to the scrub about the Turtle mountains and evade detection, but they found he had crossed the boundary line and that the

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opportunities were ample for carrying out their designs. There was, however, a deep and intense feeling against the murderer, and Towner county people would doubtless have had considerable assistance if they had needed it. But the determined stand taken by Sheriff Fadden discouraged further proceedings and the crowd soon dispersed. It was rumored that another attack would be made during the night to lynch the prisoner, but if any such plans were made, they were abandoned. Bomberger, the prisoner, continued all day yesterday in the same indifferent mood he exhibited when he first arrived, and appeared entirely unconcerned about his future and without any signs whatever of remorse for his terrible crime. He finally consented to give the story of the murder, which, however, differs but little from the statements already published. He acknowledges that his only reason for committing the crime was because the oldest daughter of Mr. Kreider refused improper advances made by him, and he was determined to accomplish his purpose, even if it was necessary to kill the entire family, which he says he proceeded to do without delay when the idea first occurred to him. Regarding his reasons for sparing the lives of four of the children he remarked that he "was tired of the job." Last evening when the crowd had surrounded the jail and made some demonstrations, he exhibited some slight signs of nervousness at first, but later again appeared indifferent. His appetite continues good, and he appears to sleep as soundly as the most innocent child. His actions are, to say the least, incomprehensible, appearing as he does entirely devoid of any humanity—that he could commit such a crime, unparalleled almost in modern history in horror, with no more feeling at the time or afterward apparently than he would over the killing of a fly. For the good name of the state, the vengeance of the law should have its way, and this without needless delay.

INDIGNANT AT CANDU.

Mass Meeting Held and Sheriff McCune Denounced.

CANDU, N. D., July 11.—[Special.—Two hundred citizens of Cando and Towner county assembled at Parsons' Hall at 8 o'clock today and passed the following resolutions unanimously:

Resolved, That we condemn the action of the sheriff and posse who were instrumental in taking the murderer, Albert Bomberger, the murderer of the Kreider family, out of Towner county to Grand Forks without a preliminary hearing, and we demand of Grand Forks county officers the return of said murderer at once.

FURTHER PARTICULARS OF THE KREIDER TRAGEDY.

CANDU, N. D., July 11.—[Special.—As far as can be learned, the sole object of the fearful murder at the Kreider homestead was the gratification of the lustful passions of the man, Bomberger. He was heard to make his boast that he would accomplish his desire, though all his advances were repelled by the pure minded and virtu-

Canadian police and citizens were in pursuit. By the time the train returned at midnight a dispatch reached town, saying he had been arrested near Delorane, Man. Everybody felt easier, but desired that he might have been in their hands and not have to delay about the extradition papers. Sunday evening brought word that he was willing to go with the officers (now in the hands of Sheriff Jack McCune), and that he would reach Rolla that evening. Monday morning four of the party passed through Cando, and Justice Mahood and Judge Thomson were summoned to help protect the prisoner. But all was peaceful and quiet. When it became known that he had passed through town about 100 men mounted on horseback and in every available rig in town pursuing the party.

The bodies of the murdered persons were taken east on Saturday's train. The three young children and Miss Annie were accompanied by Sam Brightbill, a relative of the fathers.

The expressions of the level headed men of our town are that the law should take its course, while they feel that no punishment is too severe for him.

The fear is that his parents, who are wealthy and living in Pennsylvania, will use money to defend him and save his neck.

Six persons killed and the life of a bright, pure, virtuous young woman so sadly blighted (for it is feared that she may not be able to endure the strain of the past few days) is too much for our people to think of and that the perpetrator should ever be at large again, and even our women are loud and terrible in their declarations of vengeance.

No suspicion can be cast on the character of the young woman, Annie Kreider. The writer was in the very best possible position to know that her life was perfectly proper and correct, and personally saw her refuse to be treated to ice cream or lemonade by Bomberger on the 4th of July.

The evening previous to the murder, the family spent the evening playing croquet with the man who murdered them.

The ghastly sight sickened strong men and some of the coroner's jury grew faint and turned away.

We learn that he has confessed the foul deed.

The "Albert Lea" to Chicago.

The Minneapolis & St. Louis Ry affords one advantage over the other Chicago lines for World's Fair passengers in the matter of landing them close to the grounds. To be able to avoid the crush of the city proper is quite an item. The M. & St. L. trains stop at Englewood, a suburb of Chicago, at which point a special director of the company meets all trains. A few minutes' ride on an electric car will bring you to the gate in a comfortable way. Passengers from the northwest, from St. Paul and Minneapolis, from Watertown, S. D., and points in Southern Minnesota, should consider this and arrange to go via the Albert Lea Route. A free chair car on each daily train. Sleeper accommodations reserved on application. Call on any agent of the company, or C. M. Pratt, G. T. & P. A., Minneapolis, Minn.