



# Dundee Advertiser

NATIONAL LIBERAL DAILY.

MONDAY, MARCH 22, 1909.

## HIGHLAND HORROR

PEDLAR MURDERED IN TENT

ROBBED AND BATTERED IN  
LONELY SUTHERLAND.

POLICE HUNT FOR CRIMINAL

A gruesome murder, resembling in some of its features the brutal tragedy at Llanbryde in 1907, has been committed in the neighbourhood of the remote village of Rosehall, parish of Creich, Sutherlandshire.

The victim is a pedlar well known in the northern counties, named Neil Hughes, whose body was found on Friday, with the head fearfully battered, lying near Invercauld pier, about a mile from the village.

Hughes travelled the district with a donkey conveyance, and was in the habit of camping out at night. On Thursday evening he had pitched his tent some distance from Invercauld pier, and on Friday morning the discovery was made that he had been foully murdered, his skull having apparently been smashed in with some blunt instrument. The sight which the body of the murdered man presented was a terrible one, his brains being scattered all over the ground.

Chief Constable Chisholm, Dornoch, on receiving news of the tragedy at once proceeded to Rosehall, and set about making the most careful investigations. So far, however, no definite clue as to the murderer has been obtained.

Hughes was a quiet inoffensive man, about 50 years of age, and is said to be a native of Stornoway. He was unmarried, and travelled alone. He is believed to have possessed a considerable sum of money, which he carried about with him. Robbery, therefore, it is suspected, was the motive of the crime.

THE HUNT FOR THE MURDERER.

## THE HUNT FOR THE MURDERER.

Another correspondent writes:—The whole of Eastern Sutherlandshire has been thrown into a state of wild excitement by the brutal murder committed in the usually quiet district of Rosehall. Hughes' figure was well known all over the north of Scotland. For many years he travelled through Invernessshire, Sutherlandshire, and Ross-shire, disposing of cloth and smallwares. Inverness was ostensibly his headquarters, but it was seldom he lived in a house, preferring to pitch his tent in sheltered nooks by the roadside, and working his way from the east to the west coast by one route and returning by another. Hughes was a powerfully built man, standing over six feet high, and, though 50 years of age, was well able to take care of himself in any quarrel that might arise. It is therefore supposed that on Thursday night or Friday morning he must have been taken unawares. According to one story the body was found in the tent, and the theory is advanced that Hughes was first struck by some blunt instrument through the canvas of the tent, and that after being stunned he was repeatedly beaten about the head.

The first indication that anything was wrong was the finding of Hughes' donkey wandering along the road on Friday forenoon. Hughes' punctual habits being well known, suspicion was at once aroused, and a search soon brought to light the awful crime which had been perpetrated.

Little surprise is felt that the murder should have been committed without any one hearing a disturbance. The nearest house to the tent is situated about two miles away, and the road at this season is little frequented by travellers.

That robbery was the motive of the crime there can be little doubt. Hughes was a man who, it was believed, was generally in possession of a considerable sum of money on his journeys. At present the police cannot say what his wealth amounted to, but there is ground for stating that he had about £5 in his tent.

The police have been very active since Friday. So far, however, they have not discovered the murderer. On Saturday two men were taken into custody a considerable number of miles from the scene of the tragedy, but they were able to satisfy the authorities that they could not have been connected with the crime. The officers are confident, however, that they will be able to effect the arrest of a murderer within a few days.

## ALLEGED MURDER IN SUTHERLAND

### PEDLAR'S BODY FOUND

#### SEARCH FOR THE MISCREANT

The dead body of Neil Hughes, a man who travelled over the Northern Counties vending cloth and small wares, was found on Friday, near the roadside, about a mile from the village of Rosehall, in the parish of Creich. The head of the deceased had been terribly battered with a blunt instrument, showing almost conclusively that a murder had been committed.

Hughes, who was a tall, strong man, travelled over the country in a donkey conveyance, and camped out at the roadside during the night. He made Inverness his headquarters, and he is known to a number of people in the town. It is suspected that robbery was the motive of the crime. The man was reputed to be in the habit of carrying his money about with him. It is surmised by the police, from facts ascertained, that he had a sum of at least £5 in his tent. The money is now missing. Hughes must have been attacked during the night, probably when he was asleep. Otherwise, being of powerful build, he was able to take care of himself in an encounter. The road at the pier, where the crime was committed, is quiet and lonely, and little frequented by travellers. The first indication that something was amiss was the finding of the donkey, which was wandering along the road on Friday forenoon. Curiosity was aroused, as Hughes was known to be steady and methodical in his business.

An examination of the tent brought the facts to light, and the circumstances were those of a foul crime. It was believed that the head of the sleeping man had been battered from outside the tent, as blood was scattered on the canvas and the ground. The deceased was about fifty years of age, and unmarried.

Chief-Constable Chisholm hurried from Dornoch to the scene of the tragedy on Friday, and he and his police staff have been pushing enquiries in all directions. The police of the neighbouring counties were apprised of the case by telegraph, and strict watch is being kept by them for any fugitive. The Chief Constable has been tracing possible clues in the district, and doing everything possible to clear up the mystery. Two men were arrested on Saturday at a place a considerable distance from the scene, but, having given a satisfactory account of themselves, they were liberated.

## A LATER ACCOUNT

A correspondent telegraphs:—

The Sutherland murder still remains wrapt in mystery, and, although the authorities are diligently making investigations in the district, no arrest has yet been made, and, so far as the outside public have reason to know, there does not appear to be any arrest contemplated.

Mr Peters, the procurator-fiscal, Dornoch, and Chief-Constable Chisholm and several constables remain in the district, and are indefatigable in their efforts to obtain a clue. The body of the murdered man was buried yesterday forenoon amidst every indication of profound sympathy from the inhabitants of the sparsely-populated district, where he was so well known and respected.

While holding a pedlar's certificate the deceased was far above the ordinary type of dealer in small wares, not only in appearance, but in intelligence. He was not an old man, as was reported in several newspapers. He was only 45, tall, handsome, and careful of his personal appearance.

He studiously avoided communion of any sort with the vagrant and tinker classes. So respected was he by farmers and crofters that he was never refused camping ground, and was never turned off till he cared to go.

On the present occasion he was three weeks encamped on Mr Sharpe's farm at Invernauld, his tent being within a quarter of a mile of the farm-house. He called at a shop at Altass on Thursday night, and purchased paraffin, and was apparently not seen again till his dead body, with the head battered out of recognition, was found next day.

It is stated that there is no longer any doubt that the unfortunate man was murdered while fast asleep, and it seems to be equally clear that the murderer effected his dreadful crime from the outside of the tent, possibly by means of a long-handled heavy weapon, such as a hammer or axe, a circumstance which, in the opinion of some, is suggestive of familiarity with the internal arrangements of the poor man's tent, and particularly of the precise position in which he lay in bed.

Hughes was known to have been possessed of £40 in bank notes and a deposit receipt some little time ago.

A report is in circulation that Hughes, who came to Sutherland a number of years ago, was once a prosperous merchant, and that, for a time, he lived in Stornoway, where his wife (a minister's daughter) died, since when he took to wandering about the country, always in his donkey-cart.

There seems to be no reason to doubt that robbery was the motive of the crime.

### THE ASSYNT MURDER, 1830.

A Sutherland murder, famous in local annals, was perpetrated in Assynt in March 1830. The victim, in that case, was also a pedlar, who was killed by the blow of a hammer, and his body thrown into a loch. At the time of the murder the pedlar had £36 in his possession. A young man, named Hugh Macleod, was afterwards convicted of the crime, and executed at Inverness in 1831.

**TRAGEDY IN SUTHERLAND-SHIRE.**

**PEDLAR BRUTALLY MURDERED.  
LABOURER ARRESTED  
YESTERDAY.**

GREAT excitement, amounting almost to consternation, overspread the whole country on Friday last when it became known that a brutal murder had been committed that morning or during the previous night near Invernauld Pier. Neil Hughes, a middle-aged, well-known and respectable-like pedlar, was found lying dead in his tent with the side of his head completely battered in, while that part of the tent next his head had been ripped open. A hatchet and two hammers were found near by. Hughes was a stalwart, powerfully built man, who could have given a good account of himself against any assailant with fair play, but evidently he was sound asleep when he received the thundering and fatal blow. The deceased was known to be a man of means, and that he generally had a considerable sum in his possession when on his rounds, and it is understood that on this journey he had a substantial amount with him. As nothing was found on his remains or about the tent, robbery is looked upon as the direct incentive to the murder, and there is now no doubt left but such was the case. Chief-Constable Chisholm, Dornoch, and his assistants of the county police at once manifested great activity in their endeavours to trace the perpetrator.

The indefatigable efforts of the Sutherland police in tracking the Invernauld murderer resulted yesterday in the arrest of a young man named George Cadger, grandson of George Cadger, one of a number of agriculturists from Aberdeenshire and elsewhere who settled on Rosehall estate as fears about 30 or 40 years ago. The young man was conveyed to Dornoch yesterday, and after emitting a declaration was removed to Inverness prison.

**THE LATEST DETAILS.**

YESTERDAY forenoon George Cadger, a labourer, 25 years of age, was arrested by the police authorities in connection with the alleged murder of Neil Hughes, a pedlar. Ever since the murder became known Chief Constable Chisholm and his staff have been unremitting in their endeavours to solve the mystery, and every possible clue was at once followed up. As a result of inquiries the police yesterday morning proceeded to the township of Altos, which is about nine miles distant from Invernauld station. Cadger was apprehended by Sergeant Polson, Golspie, and Constable Will, Bonar. Chief Constable Chisholm was also present. Cadger, who has been employed in working a croft for his grandfather, was arrested while working in his shirt sleeves on the top of a stack of corn. He had a hay fork in his hand, and when the police officers came forward he showed not the slightest resistance. He appeared to be taken by surprise. He was at once handcuffed, and thereafter driven to Invernauld station, from whence he was conveyed by the mail train to Dornoch. Cadger was brought before Sheriff Mackenzie in the County Buildings, and emitted a declaration upon the alleged charge. The proceedings were formal, and only lasted a few minutes. There were present—Mr Peters, procurator-fiscal; Mr Arthur, solicitor, who appeared for the accused; Mr McCrone, sheriff clerk; and Chief Constable Chisholm. After his declaration, the accused was conveyed to the police office, where he remained for a short period until his departure for Inverness. A large crowd gathered to watch the transference of the accused to the police office, and also his leaving by train, but there was no demonstration. It appears that Cadger, who is described as a labourer, was brought up by his grandfather. His mother is understood to be resident in America. It is said that the young man was for a short time in the army.

**ARRIVAL OF ACCUSED AT INVERNESS.**

A large crowd assembled at Inverness station last night to witness the arrival of Cadger by the 9.30 p.m. train from the north. The news of the arrest became known late in the afternoon, and it was considered probable that the accused man would be brought to Inverness by the evening train. This surmise proved to be correct. When the train steamed into the station, a rush was at once made to the north platform, and the police had no slight task in keeping back the crowd. Cadger, who is a slim, but powerfully built young man, emerged from a reserved compartment under the charge of Chief Constable Chisholm and Sergeant Polson, Golspie, to the latter of whom the accused was handcuffed. The crowd at once surged around the party, and as they proceeded along the platform there was some slight boing. Cadger looked anxiously around, but he was quickly got through the crowd of people lined up on either side, and he was at once driven away to the prison in a cab. Chief Constable Macnaughton of the burgh police was present on the platform, and superintended the arrangements for the transference of the accused to the prison. Cadger, who was well-dressed, is a dark-featured young man, and is about five feet nine

**OTHER PARTICULARS.**

It is understood that the murdered man was known to possess soft goods and other articles of the value of from £25 to £30. He was last seen alive on the night prior to the discovery of his body at a shop in the district where he had purchased some provisions and also paraffin oil. The dead body was discovered at eleven o'clock on Friday morning by a tramp who had crossed the Kyle from the Stratharron side. Information was at once given to the local constable, who telegraphed to the police headquarters at Dornoch. It was evident that the unfortunate man was murdered in his tent while sleeping. His head was terribly smashed. Hughes was a powerful man, about six feet in height, and he was well known in Rosehall and other northern districts. His interment, which was carried out by the authorities, took place on Monday to Achness burying-ground.

The camp of the deceased was pitched within eight yards of the public road at the side of a thick plantation which extends for several miles. Hughes had been in the habit of frequently staying at this particular spot. He lived there for the last three weeks, and prior to that time he had been encamped since the New Year at Strathkyle.

**ANOTHER ACCOUNT OF THE CRIME.**

GREAT excitement prevailed in the remote inland village of Rosehall, Sutherland, when rumour spread abroad on Friday forenoon that a murder had been committed in the neighbourhood. The body of a well-known pedlar named Neil Hughes was discovered near Invernauld Pier, about a mile away, with his head battered in, while his donkey was found near his tent not far off. Hughes was a tall, well-built man of respectable appearance, and was understood to be worth means, which it is said he always carried about with him. Chief-Constable Chisholm, Dornoch, and Mr Peters, the procurator-fiscal of Sutherland, proceeded to the district, and were indefatigable in their efforts to obtain a clue.

**MURDERED WHILE ASLEEP.**

The body of the murdered man was buried on Monday forenoon. While holding a pedlar's certificate, the deceased was far above the ordinary type of dealer in small wares, not only in appearance, but in intelligence. He was only forty-five years of age, tall, handsome, and careful of his personal appearance. He studiously avoided communion of any sort with the vagrant and tinker classes, and so respected was he by farmers and crofters that he was never refused camping ground, and was never turned off till he cared to go. On the present occasion he was three weeks encamped on Mr Sharpe's farm at Invernauld, his tent being within a quarter of a mile of the farm house. He called at a shop at Altos on Thursday night and purchased paraffin, and was apparently not seen again till his dead body, with the head battered out of recognition, was found next day. It is stated that the unfortunate man had been murdered while asleep, and it seems to be equally clear that the murderer effected his dreadful crime from the outside of the tent, possibly by means of a long-handled heavy weapon, such as a hammer or axe—a circumstance which, in the opinion of some, is suggestive of familiarity with the internal arrangements of the poor man's tent, and particularly of the precise position in which he lay in bed. Hughes was known to have been possessed some time ago of £40 in bank notes and a deposit receipt.

Dr Macrae, Bonar, and Dr Mowat, Lairg, made an autopsy of the body, and found that death was due to injuries inflicted on the head. The police have taken possession of an axe having blood on the shaft, and got in a house where tramps lodge. They also picked up two hammers near the scene of the murder.

It may be mentioned that the locality is somewhat remote and lonely though only about eleven miles inland north-west of Bonar-Bridge, and about the

same distance south-west of Lairg. About half-a-mile up the steep hillside there are several fairly populous crofting townships. Rosehall proper is about a mile westward.

25, 1909.

**BRUTAL MURDER IN SUTHERLAND.**

**PEDLAR'S BODY FOUND WITH BRAINS BATTERED IN AT ROSEHALL.**

**ARREST ON TUESDAY.**

The dead body of Neil Hughes, a man who travelled over the Northern Counties venduring cloth and small wares, was found on Friday, near the roadside, about a mile from the village of Rosehall, in the parish of Creich. The head of the deceased had been terribly battered with a blunt instrument, showing almost conclusively that a murder had been committed.

Hughes, who was a tall, strong man, travelled over the county in a donkey conveyance, and camped out at the roadside during the night. He made Inverness his headquarters, and he is known to a number of people in the town. It is suspected that robbery was the motive of the crime. The man was reputed to be in the habit of carrying his money about with him. It is surmised by the police, from facts ascertained, that he had a considerable sum in his tent. The money is now missing. Hughes must have been attacked during the night, probably when he was asleep. Otherwise, being of powerful build, he was able to take care of himself in an encounter. The road at the pier, where the crime was committed, is quiet and lonely, and little frequented by travellers. The first indication that something was amiss was the finding of the donkey, which was wandering along the road on Friday forenoon. Curiosity was aroused, as Hughes was known to be steady and methodical in his business. Another travelling kawker who was camped a short distance from Hughes went to see him and getting no answer to repeated calls, opened the tent and found Hughes lying with his head battered in.

An examination of the tent brought the facts to light, and the circumstances were those of a foul crime. It was believed that the head of the sleeping man had been battered from outside the tent, as blood was scattered on the canvas and the ground. The deceased was about fifty years of age.

Chief-Constable Chisholm hurried from Dornoch to the scene of the tragedy on Friday, and he and his police staff have been pushing enquiries in all directions. The police of the neighbouring counties were apprised of the case by telegraph, and strict watch is being kept by them for any fugitive. The Chief Constable has been tracing possible clues in the district, and doing every thing possible to clear up the mystery. Two men were arrested on Saturday at a place a considerable distance from the scene, but, having given a satisfactory account of themselves, they were liberated.

**A LATER ACCOUNT.**

Mr Peters, the procurator-fiscal, Dornoch, and Chief-Constable Chisholm and several constables are in the district, and are indefatigable in their efforts to obtain a clue. The body of the murdered man was buried on Monday forenoon amidst every indication of profound sympathy from the inhabitants of the sparsely-populated district where he was so well known and respected.

While holding a pedlar's certificate the deceased was far above the ordinary type of dealer in small wares, not only in appearance but also in intelligence. He was not an old man, as was reported in several newspapers. He was only 45, tall, handsome, and careful of his personal appearance.

He studiously avoided communion of any sort with the vagrant and tinker classes. So respected was he by farmers and crofters that he was never refused camping ground and was never turned off till he cared to go.

On the present occasion he was three weeks encamped on Mr Sharpe's farm at Invernauld, his tent being within a quarter of a mile of the farm-house. He called at a shop at Altass on Thursday night, and purchased paraffine, and was apparently not seen again till his dead body, with the head battered out of recognition, was found next day.

It is stated that there is no longer any doubt that the unfortunate man was murdered while fast asleep, and it seems to be equally clear that the murderer effected his dreadful crime from the outside of the tent, possibly by means of a long-handled heavy weapon, such as a hammer or axe, a circumstance which, in the opinion of some, is suggestive of familiarity with the internal arrangements of the poor man's tent, and particularly of the precise position in which he lay in bed.

Hughes was known to have been possessed of £40 in bank notes and a deposit receipt some little time ago.

A report is in circulation that Hughes, who came to Sutherland a number of years ago, was once a prosperous merchant, and that, for a time, he lived in Stornoway, where his wife (a minister's daughter) died, since when he took to wandering about the country, always in his donkey-cart.

There seems to be no reason to doubt that robbery was the motive of the crime.

Dr Macrae, Bonar, and Dr Mowat, Lairg, made an autopsy of the body, and found that death was due to injuries inflicted on the head.

The efforts of Chief Constable Chisholm, and his staff unremitting, and by their movements, and the circumstances of the case, local opinion has it that the murderer must have a local connection.

**ARREST OF GEORGE CADGER ON SUSPICION.**

The indefatigable efforts of the Sutherland police in tracking the Invernauld murderer resulted on Thursday in the arrest of a young man named George Cadger, grandson of George Cadger, one of a number of agriculturists from Aberdeenshire and elsewhere who settled on Rosehall estate

as fears about 30 or 40 years ago. The young man was conveyed to Dornoch on Tuesday, and after emitting a declaration was removed to Inverness prison.

**THE DETAILS.**

On Tuesday forenoon George Cadger, a labourer, 25 years of age, was arrested by the police authorities in connection with the alleged murder of Neil Hughes, a pedlar. Ever since the murder became known Chief Constable Chisholm and his staff have been unremitting in their endeavours to solve the mystery, and every possible clue was at once followed up. As a result of inquiries the police on Tuesday morning proceeded to the township of Altass, which is about nine miles distance from Inverness station. Cadger was apprehended by Sergeant Polson, Golspie, and Constable Will, Bonar. Chief Constable Chisholm was also present. Cadger, who has been employed in working a croft for his grandfather, was arrested while working in his shirt sleeves on the top of a stack of corn. He had a hay fork in his hand, and when the police officers came forward he showed not the slightest resistance. He appeared to be taken by surprise. He was at once handcuffed, and thereafter driven to Inverness station, from whence he was conveyed by the mail train to Dornoch. Cadger was brought before Sheriff Mackenzie in the County Buildings, and emitted a declaration upon the alleged charge. The proceedings were formal, and only lasted a few minutes. There were present—Mr Peters, procurator-fiscal; Mr Arthur, solicitor, who appeared for the accused; Mr M'Crone, sheriff clerk; and Chief Constable Chisholm. After his declaration, the accused was conveyed to the police office, where he remained for a short period until his departure for Inverness. A large crowd gathered to watch the transference of the accused to the police office, and also his leaving by train, but there was no demonstration. It appears that Cadger, who is described as a labourer, was brought up by his grandfather. His mother is understood to be resident in America. It is said that the young man was for a short time in the army. He is presently in the Lovat Scouts.

A peculiar circumstance in connection with the arrest of Cadger is the fact that he both assisted in the digging of the grave for the murdered man and in the filling in of the same after the funeral.

**ANOTHER SENSATION AT ROSEHALL.**

**CHILD'S BODY FOUND.**

While Mr Sharpe's gardener at Invernauld was working in a planting not far from the house on Monday, he came upon a brown paper parcel, containing some substance, and knowing that the police officers were in the district, he sent a boy to acquaint them of the fact, probably thinking the parcel had some connection with the pedlar's murder. Sergeant Polson, Golspie, accompanied by Mr J. M. Rose, County Sanitary Inspector, were near at hand, and they immediately went to the place and found, after examination, that the parcel contained the body of a newly born female infant badly decomposed. The Fiscal and Chief Constable were summoned, and the child was afterwards buried, but not at the same time as the pedlar, as is stated. There is no information as to how the child came to be left where it was found, but the sensations coming so close on each other have upset the whole district.

## MURDERER OF NEIL HUGHES

### AN ARREST.

#### ARRIVAL OF ACCUSED IN INVERNESS.

A ghastly discovery was made on Friday near the roadside about a mile from the village of Rosehall, in the parish of Creich, Sutherlandshire, the dead body of Neil Hughes, a pedlar, being found with his head terribly battered. Deceased vended his wares throughout the north, and was known to several people in Inverness, which he made his headquarters. It is believed that Hughes was in the habit of carrying his money about with him. It is said that on the night of the alleged murder he had at least £5 in his tent. He was a powerfully-built man, and could be relied upon to give a good account of himself if attacked. He travelled over the country in a donkey conveyance, and camped at the roadside during the night. Hughes must have been attacked while asleep. Blood was discovered on the tent and on the ground, the inference being that the party or parties responsible for the brutal act did so from the outside. Robbery is said to be the motive of the crime.

#### THE ARREST.

During the past few days the Sutherland police, in charge of Chief-Constable Chisholm, have been actively engaged in endeavouring to obtain a clue to the brutal murder of Neil Hughes. The task was no light one, having regard to the widely-scattered district to which they confined their inquiries. The shocking discovery was made on Friday, and since then the police have been scouring the country for miles around. It was clear, however, that the perpetrator, or perpetrators, of the deed could not for any length of time succeed in outwitting the police. Valuable information was acted upon by the authorities on Tuesday morning. The township of Altos is about nine miles distant from Invershin Station. Thither the police proceeded and arrested George Cadger (25), described as a labourer, in connection with the murder of Hughes. Chief-Constable Chisholm was present when the arrest was made. Cadger has been engaged in working a croft for his grandfather. In his shirt sleeves, and on the top of a stack of corn, with a hay fork in hand, George Cadger was arrested. He was taken slightly aback, but when the officers of the law stepped forward he made no resistance. In a twinkling the handcuffs were slipped on, and Cadger was driven to Invershin Station and eventually to Dornoch, where he emitted a declaration in presence of Sheriff Mackenzie. Those present were—Mr Peters, procurator-fiscal; Mr Arthur, solicitor, who appeared for the accused; Mr McCrone, sheriff-clerk; and Chief-Constable Chisholm. After his declaration the accused was conveyed to the Police Office, where he remained for a short period until his departure for Inverness. A large crowd gathered to watch the transference of the accused to the Police Office, and also his leaving the train, but there was no demonstration. It appears that Cadger was brought up by his grandfather. His mother is understood to be resident in America. It is stated that the accused was a short time in the Army.

#### THE ARRIVAL AT INVERNESS.

The Highland News 27/03/1909

#### THE ARRIVAL AT INVERNESS.

It was freely stated in Inverness on Tuesday afternoon that the police had effected an arrest in connection with the murder of Hughes. The information emanated from a most reliable source, but the police were not disposed to say whether the statement was correct or not. In anticipation of witnessing the arrival of the person who had been apprehended, a crowd of several hundred people assembled at the station. It was eventually ascertained that the accused would arrive in town by the half-past nine train. The crowd, which had by this time greatly increased, rushed forward as the train arrived. The passengers were eagerly scanned and Cadger was observed handcuffed to Sergt. Polson, Golspie. The prisoner, who was neatly attired, appeared to shrink from the dense crowd. There was some boing and many a futile effort was made to get a glimpse of Cadger, who stands five feet nine inches. A cab was in readiness at the front of the station, and amid a whirl of excitement Cadger stepped into the vehicle and was driven off to Porterfield amid an outburst on the part of the crowd. Up till a late hour groups remained in the streets discussing the arrest of Cadger.

The body of the murdered man was buried on Monday forenoon amidst every indication of profound sympathy from the inhabitants of the sparsely-populated district, where he was so well known and respected.

He studiously avoided communion of any sort with the vagrant and tinker classes. So respected was he by farmers and crofters that he was never refused camping ground, and was never turned off till he cared to go.

A report is in circulation that Hughes, who came to Sutherland a number of years ago, was once a prosperous merchant, and that, for a time, he lived in Stornoway, where his wife (a minister's daughter) died, since when he took to wandering about the country, always in his donkey cart.

# OLD PEDLAR HUGHES DONE TO DEATH

WHILE SLEEPING IN TENT NEAR SUTHERLAND HAMLET.

EX-SOLDIER ARRESTED ON SUSPICION.



THE CAIRN MARKS THE SCENE OF THE TRAGEDY.

Neil Hughes, a packman, who was well known to the inhabitants of every hamlet in Sutherland and Ross, has been found dead in his tent about a mile from Invershin, in the parish of Creich, his head having been so battered that his brains were protruding.

The hawk was a man of 60 years, and of a quiet and inoffensive disposition. He had been encamped near Invershin for about a fortnight, and various surmises were made when he did not put in an appearance at the hamlet.

Several of the inhabitants thought that he must have taken ill, and accordingly they made their way to the tent. Their horror may be imagined when they discovered that the old pedlar had been brutally murdered.

It was common talk in the counties that Hughes carried a good deal of money about with him. He was known to possess £40 in bank notes and a deposit receipt, and there is little doubt that that rumour was responsible for his death. The flooring of the tent had been violently pulled up, and there were signs that the earth had been disturbed.

### Done to Death While Asleep.

It is stated that the unfortunate man was murdered while fast asleep, and it seems to be equally clear that the murderer effected his dreadful crime from the outside of the tent—possibly by means of a long-handled heavy weapon, such as a hammer or axe, a circumstance which in the opinion of some is suggestive of familiarity with the internal arrangements of the poor man's tent, and particularly of the precise position in which he lay in bed.

A report is in circulation that Hughes, who came to Sutherlandshire a number of years ago, was once a prosperous merchant, and that for a time he lived in Stornoway, where his wife (a minister's daughter) died, since when he took to wandering about the country always in his donkey-cart.

### Ex-Soldier Arrested on Suspicion.

Subsequently the police arrested George Cadger, jun., grandson of and living with George Cadger, crofter, Altass, in connection with the murder. The young man was found at home by the officers, and was conveyed to Dornoch, where he arrived at 2 p.m. It is significant that both the Fiscal and Chief Constable left the Rosehall district and journeyed to Dornoch along with the accused, where the latter was brought before Sheriff Mackenzie. He was represented by an agent, and in the evening was sent to Inverness Prison, but nothing has transpired as to what took place at the examination.

The affair caused a tremendous sensation in the little capital of Sutherland, and although the police office is within 300 yards of the railway station it was found desirable to convey the prisoner in a closed carriage, to protect him as far as possible from the public gaze, the street and platform being thronged.

It is well known that Cadger knew the

murdered man Hughes, for everybody in the district was on friendly terms with him. The distance separating Cadger's house from the scene of the crime is less than half a mile.

### Prisoner's Antecedents.

Though only 25, and belonging to a quiet but not a very remote corner of the Highlands—his home is within eight miles of Invershin Railway Station—young Cadger had some experience of the world. In 1901 he joined the army, and became attached to the Seaforth Highlanders. A year later he deserted, and was tracked to Sutherland, apprehended, and taken to Dornoch, where he was delivered up to an escort. Some time after he left the army. He is a slightly built fellow of average height, good-looking, and with fairly open countenance.

### Dream Leads to Doom of Former Murderer.

The murder of Neil Hughes recalls an atrocious crime perpetrated in Sutherlandshire in 1850. In the spring of that year Murdo Grant, a pedlar, was murdered and robbed in the parish of Assynt. On the 19th of March, Grant attended a wedding in a hamlet of that parish, and for some time was neither seen nor heard of.

After a lapse of about four weeks a party who was passing a lonely loch saw in the water a body, which on being taken ashore was recognised as that of the missing pedlar. The fact of there being marks of violence on the head, and the pockets having been turned inside out, indicated that the man had come by his end by foul means.

A young man of the name of Hugh M'Leod took a conspicuous part in assisting the Sheriff in his investigation of the crime. The Sheriff, happening to be in the local Post Office, the Postmaster mentioned incidentally that soon after the murder he changed a ten-pound note for Hugh M'Leod. On the Sheriff asking M'Leod how he came to be possessed of so large a note, the latter denied the fact.

There being no evidence to connect M'Leod with the crime, he was on the point of being liberated, when a tailor of the name of Kenneth Fraser came forward and stated that particulars of the murder were revealed to him in a dream. He said that he saw M'Leod's house in a dream, and that a voice said to him that the pedlar's pack was concealed in a cairn near it. The authorities accompanied the dreamer to the house in question, where they found under stones articles that had pertained to the murdered pedlar. M'Leod, being afterwards found in possession of a pair of stockings that had belonged to the victim, he was charged with the murder. He was tried before Lord Moncrieff at Inverness on the 27th of September.

M'Leod was found guilty, and condemned. He ultimately admitted his guilt. He was hanged on the Longman, at Inverness.

was killed on the 21st of last days.

**A SUSPICIOUS CASE IN SUTHERLAND.**—Some excitement was caused in the village of Rosehall, Sutherland, when it became known yesterday forenoon that the body of a well-known pedlar, named Niel Hughes, had been discovered near Invercauld Pier, about a mile away, with his head battered in, while his donkey was found near his tent not far off. Hughes was a tall, well-built man of respectable appearance, and was understood to be possessed of money, which he was believed to have always carried about with him. Chief-constable Chisholm, Dornoch, and other officials proceeded to the scene last night.

The Weekly Scotsman 20/03/1909

The Weekly News 27/03/1909

## THE SUTHERLAND MURDER.

### WAS CADGER AT ALLANFEARN?

Cadger still remains in prison, and the police still refuse to disclose their hand. Nothing new has transpired that would tend to bring the guilt home to the accused as far as any official statement goes. Yet, in the Rosehall district, the main facts on which the police are supposed to rely for the conviction of the accused are openly discussed and accepted.

Of these, the greatest importance is given to the alleged discovery of a blood-stained axe in accused's possession, the axe, it is said, had been carefully washed clean, but with the want of caution which the cutest criminals so often display. The head was not separated from the shaft in the process, with the result that the water carried the blood into the crevices between the metal and the wood. On the handle being withdrawn the tell-tale stains were discovered and on analysis were proved to be human blood. The excuse that the axe was used for splitting open sheep's heads thus fell through.

Cadger's behaviour, both prior and subsequent to the murder, now look gravely suspicious to those who should know him best. The day preceding the crime it is stated Cadger was engaged to exercise some horses. These he took by a circuitous and unusual route past the pedlar's tent, that he might reconnoitre before hand, it is supposed, the scene of the tragedy.

After the deed he joined in the general talk, and, in company with many others, proceeded out the road to view the spot where the dark scene was transacted. On coming abreast of the tent, however, while the others left the road and went down to the pedlar's camp, Cadger remained on the highway till they returned, evincing none of the curiosity which took possession of everyone else.

In his possession also, it is said, there were found certain of the pedlar's goods, and a sum of money for which he could not properly account. First he denied he ever knew the pedlar, and later said he bought the goods from him. These he paid for, as according to his story he had no money, with a hare which he shot. He is known in the district as a rough blade, yet the grim fact that he coolly agreed to dig the grave of the murdered man argues a callousness of which he was thought incapable. A sum of money was found in his possession which, though by no means large, was considerably more than he received for the execution of his gruesome task. For the surplus cash it is said no probable explanation was forthcoming.

There is a general impression that Cadger is the same man as a Cadger Stevenson who was some time ago in service so near Inverness as Allanfeearn—Cadger being his mother's name. While there he displayed on more than one occasion his wild and unruly nature. One evening he was creating so violent a disturbance that the master was besought to come and enforce order. On his approaching Stevenson, however, he was so menaced by the latter that he deemed it more discreet to beat a retreat. The suggestive part of the story is that Stevenson threatened to break open the farmer's skull with an axe if he did not at once take himself off. If it turns out that Stevenson is the Rosehall murderer this incident curiously enough would serve to illustrate the natural bent of his mind.

The Highland News 17/04/1909

## THE SUTHERLANDSHIRE MURDER.

### CADGER AT DORNOCH.

Yesterday morning George Cadger, who was last arrested on suspicion in connection with the murder of a pedlar in Sutherlandshire, was removed in Inverness prison to Dornoch, under the charge of Chief Constable Chisholm. Cadger was conveyed to Dornoch by the 5.40 a.m. train, and his departure was known to the public. During the day Cadger was brought before Sheriff Mackenzie in the Sheriff Court buildings, Dornoch, when he emitted a declaration, and was afterwards committed for trial. Mr Arthur Macdonald, Dornoch, appeared for the accused. Subsequently Cadger was conveyed to Inverness by the evening train. In order to avoid any possibility of demonstration at Inverness station, he was removed to the train at Clachnaharry station, where a cab was waiting, and he was at once driven away to the prison. His arrival at Clachnaharry was practically unobserved, only the officials and one or two others being on the platform. Cadger looks in good health. Chief Constable Chisholm was in charge of the train, who was handed over to Sergeant Polson, Inverness. It is understood that Cadger will be tried at an extra north Circuit Court to be held at either Aberdeen or Inverness.

Newspaper unknown 31/03/09

MARCH 27, 1909.

## THE HIGHLAND MURDER.

### ARRIVAL OF SUSPECT IN INVERNESS.

The murder of Neil Hughes, a pedlar, near Altass, in Sutherlandshire, of which a graphic description is given on page 7, and the arrest of George Cadger has caused a great sensation in the North.

The body of Neil Hughes, the murdered man, was buried on Monday forenoon amidst every indication of profound sympathy from the inhabitants of the sparsely-populated district, where he was so well known and respected. While holding a pedlar's certificate, the deceased was far above the ordinary type of dealer in smallwares, not only in appearance, but in intelligence. He studiously avoided communion of any sort with the vagrant and tinker classes. So respected was he by farmers and crofters that he was never refused camping ground, and was never turned off till he cared to go. On the present occasion he had been three weeks encamped on Mr Sharpe's farm at Invernauld, his tent being a quarter of a mile from the farmhouse. He called at a shop at Altass on Thursday night and purchased paraffin, and was apparently not seen again alive. Deceased was known to have been possessed of £40 in bank notes and a deposit receipt some little time ago.

### Arrival of Suspect.

George Cadger was lodged in Inverness Prison on Tuesday night. He was escorted to Inverness under the charge of Chief Constable Chisholm and Sergeant Polson, Golspie. A large crowd awaited the arrival of the train at 9.30, and there was a slight demonstration. Chief Constable Macnaughton, of the Inverness Burgh Police, had made arrangements for the transference of the prisoner, and he was quickly taken in a cab and conveyed to the prison. Cadger was arrested while working at a cornstack in his shirt-sleeves. He was taken greatly by surprise, but apparently the police had well-founded suspicions, as it was said that the instrument with which the deed was committed had been recovered. The murdered man, it is said, had visited Altass Post Office on the night before the murder. Cadger, as stated, is a native of the district, and works as a croft for his grandfather. He served for a time in the Seaforth Highlanders, and is at present a member of the Lovat Scouts.

### The Post-Mortem.

Dr MacRae, Bonar, and Dr Mowat, Lairg, made an autopsy of the body, and found that death was due to injuries inflicted on the head. The police took possession of an axe having blood on the shaft, and got in a house where tramps lodge. They also picked up two hammers near the scene of the murder.

At the trial of the last murderer in 1830 an outstanding feature of the evidence, and one much commented upon at the time, was that the murderer had actually dug his victim's grave. By far the most remarkable feature of the present case, so far as known to the public, is the striking coincidence that on Monday young Cadger, now in custody, performed a similar duty in the Rosehall case; he dug Neil Hughes' grave.

The People's Journal 27/03/1909

APRIL 1, 1909.

## THE ROSEHALL MURDER.

### CADGER AGAIN BEFORE THE SHERIFF.

George Cadger, the suspect in the Rosehall murder case was again taken from Inverness to Dornoch on Tuesday, and emitted a second declaration, before Sheriff Mackenzie, who recommitted him for trial. The proceedings took place in the Sheriff Clerk's room, and the Officials of the Court were the only persons present. After the proceedings, which lasted over an hour, Cadger was removed to the Police Office, and was taken back to Inverness by the evening train in charge of Chief-Constable Chisholm and Constable Mackay.

The arrival of the suspected man in Dornoch on Tuesday again attracted curious crowds, probably more from a desire to see how he looked, as compared with his visit last week than anything else. He was pale and worn looking, and his long immunity from shaving has given him rather a wild appearance. He wore no collar and glanced furtively in all directions as he passed through the crowd; otherwise his demeanour is one of stolid indifference.

Nothing new has come to light so far as the murder is concerned. Rumours of all kinds are current, but the authorities are most reticent in the matter. A rumour that another arrest in connection with the crime has been made or about to be made is, we understand, entirely without foundation. A feeling is prevalent that additional evidence has been procured, and this is borne out by the recommittal of Cadger. Not one word, however, has escaped the authorities, and there will probably be nothing authentic until the trial has commenced.

A hempen bag, containing some articles which was taken when Cadger was arrested, again formed part of the procession to the Sheriff Clerk's office.

The Northern Times 01/04/1909

## MURDERED PEDLAR.

### FOUND DEAD ON A LONELY ROSS-SHIRE MOOR.

#### ARREST OF AN OLD SEAFORTH HIGHLANDER.

The dead body of a pedlar, Neil Hughes, was discovered in a lonely part of Ross-shire. Circumstances pointed to murder and robbery.

Neil Hughes had evidently been asleep when he was murdered. The tent was ripped open opposite his head, the side of which was crushed in. A hatchet and two hammers have been found at the scene of the crime, and these may afford a clue. The locality is somewhat remote and lonely, though only about eleven miles inland from Bonar Bridge on the highway to Lochinver on the west coast, and bordering on the county of Ross. Half a mile up the steep hillside are the village of Altass and several crofting townships.

The body of the murdered man was buried on Monday forenoon. While holding a pedlar's certificate, the deceased was far above the ordinary type of dealer in small wares, not only in appearance, but in intelligence. He was forty-five years of age, tall, handsome, and careful of his personal appearance. He studiously avoided communion of any sort with the vagrant and tinker classes, and so respected was he by farmers and crofters that he was never refused camping ground, and was never turned off till he cared to go. On the present occasion he was three weeks encamped on Mr Sharpe's farm at Invernauld, his tent being within a quarter of a mile of the farm house. He called at a shop at Altass on Thursday week and purchased paraffin, and was apparently not seen again till his dead body, with the head battered out of recognition, was found next day. Hughes was known to have been possessed some time ago of £40 in bank notes and a deposit receipt. The police are diligent in their search for the murderer.

On Monday afternoon another sensation was caused by the finding of the body of a child at Invernauld. The child had apparently been dead for some time.

#### EX-SOLDIER ARRESTED.

Contrary to general expectations, the police on Tuesday apprehended a man in the Rosehall district in connection with the murder of Neil Hughes. The young man arrested is George Cadger, junior, who lived with his grandfather at Altass, Rosehall. He was taken to Dornoch in the afternoon, accompanied by the Procurator-Fiscal, Mr Peters, Chief-Constable Chisholm, and two members of the police force. He was brought before Sheriff Mackenzie for examination, and was represented by Mr J. Hay Arthur, solicitor. Later he was conveyed to Inverness Prison. It is stated that Cadger, although only 25 years of age, has been for some time in the army. The authorities are reticent about the matter. The accused, George Cadger, is a grandson of George Cadger, one of a number of agriculturists from Aberdeenshire who settled in Rosehall as feuars many years ago.

The distance separating Cadger's house from the scene of the crime is less than half a mile. It is almost eighty years since the last murder was perpetrated in Sutherland, and the victim then was a respectable pedlar, as in the present case. The 1830 case occurred in the parish of Assynt, and at the trial an outstanding feature of the evidence, and one much commented upon at the time, was that the murderer had actually dug his victim's grave. On Monday the young man now in custody performed a similar duty in the Rosehall case. He dug Neil Hughes' grave.

Cadger, it transpires, was arrested while working at a corn stack in his shirt sleeves. He was taken greatly by surprise, and it is said that the instrument with which the deed was committed has been recovered. The murdered man, it is stated, visited Altass Post Office on the night before the murder. Cadger served for a time in the Seaforth Highlanders, from which he once deserted, and is at present a member of the Lovat Scouts.

#### OLD MURDER RECALLED.

The murder of Neil Hughes recalls an atrocious crime perpetrated in Sutherland in 1830. In the spring of that year Murdo Grant, a pedlar, was murdered and robbed in the parish of Assynt. On the 19th of March Grant attended a wedding in a hamlet of that parish, and for some time was neither seen nor heard of. After a lapse of about four weeks a party who was passing a lonely loch saw in the water a body, which on being taken ashore, was recognised as that of the missing pedlar. The fact of there being marks of violence on the head, and the pockets having been turned inside out, indicated that the man had come by his end by foul means.

For some time the authorities were unable to locate the perpetrator of the crime. A young man of the name of Hugh M'Leod took a conspicuous part in assisting the Sheriff in his investigation of the crime. The Sheriff happening to be in the local Post Office, the Postmaster mentioned incidentally that soon after the murder he changed a ten pound note for Hugh M'Leod. On the Sheriff asking M'Leod how he came to be possessed of so large a note, the latter denied the fact. This so excited the Sheriff's suspicion that he had M'Leod arrested and his house searched. None of the murdered pedlar's property was found in the house.

There being no evidence to connect M'Leod with the crime, he was on the point of being liberated, when a tailor of the name of Kenneth Fraser came forward and stated that particulars of the murder were revealed to him in a dream. He said that he saw M'Leod's house in a dream, and that a voice said to him that the pedlar's pack was concealed in a cairn near it. The authorities accompanied the dreamer to the house in question, where they found under stones articles that had pertained to the murdered pedlar. M'Leod being afterwards found in possession of a pair of stockings that had belonged to the victim, he was charged with the murder. M'Leod was tried before Lord Moncreiff at Inverness on the 27th of September.

#### THE DREAMER'S DREAM.

Kenneth Fraser, the dreamer, in his evidence, said:—"I was in the employ of John M'Leod, tailor, Clachtoll, in the spring of 1830. I had some drink with the prisoner on the 5th April, and saw him have £1, 11s. in money and a red pocket-book. Prisoner said he got the money from Lochbroom, where he was a schoolmaster, but told witness to say nothing about it. They went about drinking together for a day or two, prisoner paying all. Witness was at the loch searching for the pack. It was in April when a messenger came for him to search for it. It had been said that he (witness) had seen in a dream where the pack was lying. He said to himself at Hugh Graham's at Lynmore, and it was true. I was at home when I had the dream, in the month of April. It was said to me in my sleep by a voice like a man's that the pack was lying in such a place. I got a sight of the place just as if I had been awake. I never saw the place before. The voice was in Gaelic—'The pack of the merchant is lying in a cairn of stones in a hole near this house.' The voice did not name the M'Leods, but I got a sight of the ground fronting the south, with the sun shining on it, and a burn running beneath M'Leod's house. I took the officer to the place I had got a sight of. It was one the south-west side of Loch-tor-na-h-eigin. We found nothing there. We went to search on the south side of the burn. I had not seen the place in my dream. It was not far from the place seen in my dream that the things were found. There were five silk handker-





Photo by W. Smith & Co., Tain.

In a lonely spot on the Sutherlandshire coast, Neil Hughes, a well-known and respected pedlar, was found in his tent brutally done to death. Robbery is supposed to have been the motive. The cairn indicates the spot where the murder took place.

Newspaper unknown 27/03/1909

### MURDER OF A PEDLAR.

Suspect Appears Before the Sheriff.

W. Smith & Co., Tain.  
George Cadger.

In connection with the murder of Neil Hughes, pedlar, at Altas, near Rosehall, while asleep in his tent on the night of the 18th inst., George Cadger, jun., the young man arrested last week, was again brought before Sheriff Mackenzie at Dornoch on Tuesday. The examination was private, and the result unknown, but Cadger was conveyed back to Inverness Prison in the afternoon by Chief Constable Chisholm and a constable. The prisoner was represented by Mr J. Hay Arthur, solicitor, Dornoch.

A crowd assembled in front of the Court House an hour before Cadger was taken from the Police Office, which is about a hundred yards from the Sheriff's chambers, but the officers removed the prisoner by a back path and through a garden to escape observation. There was also a large gathering later on at the railway station, but there was no demonstration of any kind.

Press and Journal 03/04/1909

### THE SUTHERLAND MURDER.

RELEASE OF CADGER.

George Cadger, jun., the farm servant who was arrested on suspicion of having been concerned in the murder of Neil Hughes, a pedlar, in a tent near Rosehall, Sutherland, was liberated from the Inverness Prison on Saturday. The order for his release was sent from the Crown authorities to Mr John Nicol, the governor. After his release, Cadger paid a visit to Mr Thomas Gibson, solicitor, who has been looking after his interests since his incarceration. Several old friends of Cadger recognised him on the street in the evening. Cadger, who is 25 years of age, was well dressed. He had been over six weeks in prison.

The murder was discovered on the 19th March, the dead body of the pedlar being found in his tent, near the village of Roshall, Sutherland. The poor man was done to death in his sleep. His head was battered terribly, and the news of the crime created a great sensation in the Highlands. A few days after the murder Cadger was arrested, and, after emitting a declaration at Dornoch, was remitted to prison. Cadger is the grandson of a crofter at Altass, a small township situated about a mile from the scene of the murder. Cadger returned to Rosehall by the afternoon train on Sunday.

NT 20/05/1909

### THE SCOTSMAN

EDINBURGH, MONDAY, May 17, 1909.

The young man who was arrested on suspicion of having murdered a pedlar in the Rosehall district of Sutherlandshire has been released by order of the Crown authorities. (p. 6.)

**THE SUTHERLAND MURDER—CADGER RELEASED.**—By order of the Crown authorities, George Cadger, who was arrested on suspicion of having murdered a pedlar named Hughes in the Rosehall district of Sutherlandshire, was liberated from Inverness Prison late on Saturday evening. He had been under arrest for about six weeks, and it seems that after careful consideration of pre-cognitions, the Crown authorities have not felt justified in proceeding with the charge. It will be remembered that this murder was a particularly brutal one, the pedlar having apparently been battered to death in his sleep, and the supposed motive was robbery. Since his arrest Cadger asserted his innocence of the crime. Mr Thomas Gibson, solicitor, his agent in Inverness, was visited by Cadger shortly after his liberation, and he met several friends in Inverness, who expressed keen satisfaction at his release. Cadger, who is about twenty-four years of age, was respectably dressed. It is understood that he left by the afternoon train yesterday for the north. His release was practically unknown in Inverness.

### THE ROSEHALL MURDER.

There are no further developments, so far as the public are concerned in this case. Cadger still remains in Inverness, and will probably do so until the date and place of his trial are fixed. Reports concerning him state that he is cheerful, and rumour has it that he has denied implication in the crime. It is believed that his examination in Dornoch has been concluded, and that he will be taken there no more.

NT 08/04/1909

### THE SUTHERLANDSHIRE MURDER.

CADGER VISITED BY AGENT YESTERDAY.

The indictment in connection with the above case has not yet been served. Yesterday his agent at Dornoch visited Inverness, and later in the day Mr Thos. Gibson, solicitor, had an interview with the accused.

Newspaper unknown  
15/05/1909

# Dundee Advertiser

NATIONAL LIBERAL DAILY.

TUESDAY, MAY 18, 1909.

## HIGHLAND MURDER.

### CADGER INTERVIEWED.

### REFUSES TO DISCUSS ARREST.

### A DARK MYSTERY.

The mystery surrounding the Sutherlandshire murder is deepened by the release on Sunday of Cadger, who was arrested two months ago on suspicion of being connected with it. Cadger, on being released by order of the Crown authorities from Inverness Prison, travelled to Invershin Station by the mail train. He greeted several acquaintances on the railway platform, and seemed to be in excellent spirits. He then hired a trap, and drove to the township of Altass, seven miles distant, waving his handkerchief gleefully to his friends as he approached home. Yesterday he had an interview with his agent, who was travelling North by train, and afterwards had a conversation with an "Advertiser" representative.

Cadger is a short, thick-set young man, with dark hair, sallow complexion, and quick pale brown eyes. He wore the new suit of clothes given to him by the Chief Constable when his own were taken possession of after his arrest. Our representative asked him if he cared to make a statement. He inquired what he was expected to say, and his interviewer suggested that he might make a declaration of innocence. His reply was "I would rather say nothing."

His interviewer asked if he felt he had a grievance against the police? Cadger replied "They did their worst."

Again asked if he would make a statement, he repeated his refusal, but pointed out the location of Altass and the site of the murder. Then he mounted his bicycle and rode homeward.

THE SCENE OF THE MURDER.

### THE SCENE OF THE MURDER.

The beautiful Highland glen in which the tragedy occurred is the last place one would associate with crime. The Dornoch Firth at its upper reaches is called the Kyle, a narrow tidal water which runs inland for eight miles, and looks like a river. High hills rise on either side, and are well wooded. There on the green slopes are situated crofting townships. The high road from Invershin to Lochinver skirts the banks of the Kyle water. At a spot below Altass township Hughes, the pedlar, pitched his tent on a narrow strip of sloping bank, about 20 yards wide, between the water and the highway. A cairn of stones erected in accordance with Highland custom marks the site of the tragedy. The spot is a lonely one. Few people frequent the highway in daylight, and there is absolute solitude at night. Altass is situated on the hillside about a mile distant, and the intervening slope is thickly wooded with fir. Two narrow twisting roads run down from either end of the township to the Lochinver road.

It is evident that the murder was cleverly planned, and there can be no doubt that the individual who committed the crime was well acquainted with the pedlar's habits. Hughes was known in the district as the "donkey man." He sold watches, jewellery, cutlery, and drapery from his travelling shop. He camped outside winter and summer, and for some weeks was living below Altass. His departure was delayed by the wintry weather. A thaw came on Wednesday, 17th March. On Thursday Hughes made preparations for departure, and bought several articles at a shop on the night he was murdered.

Hughes was about 5 feet 10 inches in height. He had the familiar and good-natured manners of his class, and while mostly industrious, he had occasional bouts of heavy drinking. He was reputed to be wealthy. His money is said to have been carried in a bag suspended from his neck by a cord. Sometimes, especially when tipsy, he displayed rolls of notes. At other times he was very secretive. When his body was searched after he was found lying with his head battered in in his tent no bag or money was discovered. There were marks of three blows made by a hammer or axe. The police took possession of an axe belonging to Cadger's grandfather, but on two occasions of late, a few days before Cadger's release, a search was made in diving dress in the Kyle at the site of the murder, but nothing was found in the muddy bottom of the tidal water.

Before the murder the district was in the throes of a sensation regarding the suspicious movements of some individual, who followed people on the highway at night. Women and children still show reluctance to go out after dark from any of the townships in the glen.

**GRUESOME DISCOVERY.**  
**ANOTHER SUTHERLANDSHIRE SENSATION.**

On Monday a startling discovery was made within the policies of Invernauld House. It appears that a man, while searching for a watch lost by Mr Graham, estate manager, while pruning, came upon the dead body of an infant wrapped in a brown paper parcel. The body appears to have been exposed for at least three months before it was discovered, judging by the advanced state of decomposition. The authorities are busily engaged in the investigation of the crime, but as yet no light has been thrown on the mystery. The body of the infant was on Monday interred in Achness Churchyard, side by side with that of the victim of the recent brutal murder.

The Highland News 27/03/1909

**ANOTHER BODY FOUND.**

ON Monday another sensation was caused throughout the country by the intelligence that the body of a child, which apparently had been dead for some time, was discovered within the policies of Invernauld House. This discovery was somewhat singular. Mr Graham, estate manager, lost a watch whilst pruning, and a man searching for it below a bush came across a brown paper parcel, which on being opened contained the decomposing body of an infant, which it is thought must have been exposed for at least three months before its discovery. No light has as yet been thrown on this gruesome mystery. The body of the female infant discovered in a rhododendron bush at Invernauld was on Monday interred along with that of the murdered man in graves side by side in Achness Churchyard, Rosehall, but no further light thrown on the mystery.

NT 24/03/1909

**THE ROSEHALL CHILD CASE.**

The authorities have been able to get sufficient evidence in this case to justify suspicion being directed to a person not yet in custody. The postmortem examination of the child's body revealed the fact that it had breathed, and consequently was alive when born. As in the other case, commendable secrecy has been observed by the police, and no information of a satisfactory or conclusive description can be ascertained.

To show that there is still considerable activity within police circles in connection with the mysteries at Rosehall, Chief Constable Chisholm again visited that district on Tuesday. He was there for some time, it is presumed, in connection with the recent events.

NT 08/04/1909

**THE CHILD MYSTERY.**

There is every reason to believe that the police have obtained important clues, which it is believed will lead to the discovery of the mother of the child found at Rosehall. These are likely to be followed up at once, and developments may ensue in a short time.

NT 01/04/1909

**ANOTHER SENSATION.**

On Monday afternoon another sensation was caused throughout the country side when it became known that the body of a child, apparently dead some time, was discovered near Invernauld House.

It was wrapped in brown paper and had been buried for three months.

The North Star 25/03/1909

**ANOTHER SENSATION AT ROSEHALL.**  
**CHILD'S BODY FOUND.**

While Mr Sharpe's gardener at Invernauld was working in a planting not far from the house on Monday, he came upon a brown paper parcel, containing some substance, and knowing that the police officers were in the district, he sent a boy to acquaint them of the fact, probably thinking the parcel had some connection with the pedlar's murder. Sergeant Pelson, Golspie, accompanied by Mr J. M. Rose, County Sanitary Inspector, were near at hand, and they immediately went to the place and found, after examination, that the parcel contained the body of a newly born female infant badly decomposed. The Fiscal and Chief Constable were summoned, and the child was afterwards buried, but not at the same time as the pedlar, as is stated. There is no information as to how the child came to be left where it was found, but the sensations coming so close on each other have upset the whole district.

NT 25/03/1909

**THE ROSEHALL CHILD CASE.**  
**THE ACCUSED BEFORE THE SHERIFF.**

Sheriff Mackenzie, on Tuesday had before him Mina Ross, Altas, charged with concealment of pregnancy of the child which was found, while the police authorities were scouring the district of Rosehall in search of evidence in connection with the murder of Hughes the pedlar. It is stated that although the child lived after birth, there is evidence to show that it died a natural death.

The accused pleaded not guilty to the charge, and was represented by Mr J. Hay Arthur, solicitor, Dornoch. After several questions had been put to her, the Sheriff committed her for trial, and fixed bail at £5.

Accused was conveyed to the police station, where she remained over night so that her friends might be communicated with to furnish bail on her behalf.

NT 13/05/1909