

Mikle Larson Suicides

Monday morning Mikkle Larson, a prosperous and well-to-do farmer, residing 14 miles southwest of this city, was found dead with his head almost entirely blown off by the use of a shot gun. The case was clearly one of suicide, everything in evidence indicating that he came to his death by his own hand.

For some time Mr. Larson has been in poor health and very despondent at times. During these periods of despondency he has on several occasions stated that he intended to end his life. He complained a great deal of his poor health and seemed to think he had passed the period of usefulness, which idea he often expressed. However, no particular attention was given to this of late and the daughter who kept house began to hope that this mania of self destruction had left him. His condition seemed to improve both mentally and physically of late and altho he still insisted on staying closely at home, the daughter felt gratified to note a decided change for the better. This was especially apparent on the last day of his life.

Sunday was a beautiful day and as was her custom, Miss Larson attended church in the morning and in the evening went to a meeting at the school house, accompanied by the young man who is employed on the farm. While the young people were at the latter service Mr. Larson committed the act which ended his life and cast a pall over the entire community.

The rash act was committed at the rear of a machinery shed and was deferred until only a short time before the daughter and young man arrived home. Both heard the report of the gun and saw the flash of the explosion and remarks were made about the lateness of the hour for hunters to be out, but neither associated the occurrence with what subsequently developed. Upon arriving at the house they found everything was in order. The lamp was burning on the table and the tea kettle was simmering on the stove, but the old gentleman was missing. After waiting for an hour or more the daughter became

alarmed and sent the young man out to make a search of the premises but he returned without making any discoveries. As matters were becoming serious, John Olson, a neighbor, was called up by phone and after being asked to come over at once hastily donned his clothes and appeared on the scene in a short time. Upon his arrival the search was resumed, but still their efforts were unsuccessful, and after about two hours they gave up and waited for daylight. At about 5 o'clock the next morning they again started out and in a short time the body was found as above stated.

The body lay partially on an old drill box with the gun, a single barrel britch loader, at his side. The top of the head and left side of the face was entirely blown off and only a small portion of the face remained intact. The gun had evidently been discharged by pushing down on the trigger with a small stick held in the right hand. Neighbors were speedily notified and the daughter, who had begun to fear the worst, was taken to the home of a neighbor where the awful news was revealed to her. Coroner Bacharach was summoned and in company with Constable Burner and several others drove down from here. It was decided to hold an inquest. A jury was impaneled, consisting of H. B. Thomas, E. M. Northrop and L. L. Lang. After viewing the body and examining several witnesses it was decided that the deceased came to his death by his own hand and that it was a clear case of suicide.

The case is unusually sad in view of the fact that the daughter, a delicate girl of twenty years, is left alone, the mother having died about two years ago. The death of Mrs. Larson was a very hard blow to the husband and this has been a factor, without doubt, in causing the rash act to be committed.

The funeral was held Tuesday at the Baldwin church and was attended by a large number of friends and neighbors.

How it Looked To Shrewd Men