

# Fatal Accident

## Victor Melgard is Accidentally Shot While Out Hunting With Companions.

The citizens of Cooperstown were startled last Saturday afternoon by getting a 'phone message to the effect that Victor Melgard, the 13 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Melgard, had been accidentally shot by a 22 caliber rifle while out hunting gophers with Oliver Larson and Johnnie Syverson. It seems that the boys went out in a double rig to hunt and the accident happened a little after 2 p. m. on the road leading to J. N. Brown's farm a mile and a half east of town. Just how the accident happened we cannot positively say only that the rifle was accidentally discharged while in the hands of Johnnie Syverson while the boys were seated in the buggy, Oliver and Victor being in the front seat with Johnnie riding in the back seat alone. The ball struck the unfortunate boy just above the left ear entering the brain. The boys took him to J. F. Teal's place and Dr. Brimi was hastily summoned and dressed the wound and later had the poor boy brought to his office in town and arrangements were being made to take him to Valley City when he passed away at a few minutes past four o'clock. The doctors thought from the start that the case was hopeless but wanted to have done all that human aid could do. The accident with its fatal termination is indeed a hard blow to Mr. Melgard and family as well as to Mr. Syverson and family who feel very keenly the deplorable manner in which Victor met his death, and the whole community sympathize in the fullest measure with them. The funeral was held in the Lutheran church last Tuesday afternoon, Rev. E. T. Silness preaching the sermon. The schools and business houses closed from 2 to 4 p. m. The 7th and 8th grade scholars attended the funeral in a body, the deceased being a classmate. The funeral was attended by a very large crowd many being unable to gain admittance to the church. The remains were interred in cemetery. This is either the third or fourth calamity of this kind that the COURIER has had to chronicle and it hopes it will never be called upon again to report a like case. The tragic end of Victor's life should be a lesson in the future to all hunters both men and boys to exercise greater caution when handling firearms. At the conclusion of the funeral sermon, Prof. Loreaux, our high school superintendent, made some touching remarks in relation to the deceased boy's good qualities as a pupil, and the entire school united in showering his bier with beautiful flowers. Many beautiful floral wreaths were also furnished by friends.