

Gun Accident.

Another Cooperstown Boy Shot By The Accidental Discharge Of a Gun.

Willie Moffatt is the latest victim of an accidental shooting while out hunting last Sunday, as a result of which he loses his left leg and is crippled for life. Willie, in company with Pete Remmen, Martin Nelson, Arthur Olson and Allison Bowe were out hunting and were about ten miles northwest of town when the accident occurred. The boys were going down to a slough after ducks and had gotten out of the rig. Martin Nelson had a hammerless gun and had put in a cartridge and was snapping the gun back into place when it was accidentally discharged, the entire load entering Moffatt's left leg about four inches below the knee and taking a downward course. Willie stepped in front of Nelson just as he was snapping the gun into place and they were only five or six feet apart when the accident happened. The bones of the knee were shattered and it was evident that the accident was a serious one. The boys bound the leg above the knee with a rope to stop the bleeding and Willie was brought to the home of Theo. Marquardt and medical aid summoned. The local doctors were unanimous in their opinion that it would be impossible to save the leg and he was taken to the Platou hospital at Valley City, Monday afternoon. Dr. Brimi, Mrs. Moffatt and C. A. Hoar went down with him. He was operated upon that evening, the leg being amputated above the knee. Willie is reported to have come through the operation in good shape and is resting nicely. The affair is only one of the many of its kind that happen every fall during the hunting season and is indeed very deplorable. A young man is crippled for life by the careless handling of fire arms. This is only one of several accidents, most of them fatal, that have occurred at Cooperstown. Mrs. Moffatt was at Aneta when the accident happened. Only three Sundays previous she had asked Willie not to go hunting on Sunday and on this disastrous day his sister pleaded with him not to go. His mother is almost heart broken over the affair and Willie himself will no doubt suffer enough without criticizing him for his disobedience. We hope that no further complications will occur and that he will speedily recover.