

SHOT HIMSELF

W. A. Baker Shot Himself With a Shotgun.

A telephone message to Coroner Bergstrom Tuesday morning conveyed the startling information that W. A. Baker was dead — having shot himself through the lower part of the heart with a shotgun. The coroner immediately drove down to the Baker farm to take charge of affairs and called the following jury: Ed Ladbury, Jonas Shoemaker, Wm. Saar, Henry Curtis acting as clerk. It seems that deceased had been brooding over the renting of his farm and the fact that he had rented same at too low a rental. His family lived at Valley City where the children are attending school and he was worrying about living alone on the farm and various other matters, that from the tone of his last letters written indicate that his mind was unbalanced at the time the deed was committed. Tuesday morning he and Theodore Kelson, the renter of the farm, got up as usual. Mr. Baker was to get breakfast while Kelson went to the barn to do the chores and was to be called when breakfast was ready. Not getting a call after being out for a long time Kelson went to the house and found Baker lying dead on the floor. The brief report of the jury which we give here will explain the details: "The gun near the door with barrel pointing towards the body and blood on the barrel with the right hand barrel discharged, the left hand barrel being still loaded, a piece of stick was lying near the gun slightly spattered with blood (It is supposed that he used this stick to discharge the gun.) The right arm smeared with blood very little. The vest buttoned, slightly burned. The hole penetrating the breast between the 2d and 3d button, about two inches to the left, the shot wound on the lower apex causing almost instant death. Body in common position lying on the floor six feet from the muzzle of the gun. The right hand extended, left fixed on chest."

We the coroner's jury find that W. A. Baker deliberately committed suicide by evidence of his own hand writing.

ED. LADBURY.

JONAS SHOEMAKER.

WM. SAAR.

A. M. Sinclair was appointed to take charge of the remains and prepare them for burial. Henry Curtis was appointed deputy coroner to take charge of affairs until the estate was probated.

The last words deceased wrote after writing a farewell letter to his family were: "Gone to pieces. No more. What can I write."

It is a lamentable affair and the stricken family have the sympathy of their friends. He leaves a wife and two daughters.

He was a member of the A. O. U. W. also the M. W. A. His affairs were in good shape and he was one of our prosperous farmers well to do and well liked and respected. Temporary insanity is undoubtedly the cause of his death.