

## Tragic Death of C. Retzlaff

The tragic death of Charles Retzlaff, of Tyrol township, whose home is two miles southeast of Jessie, which occurred during the hours of Tuesday night, has shocked the community where he was known beyond expression. That evening Mr. Retzlaff has left his home to go to his old farm, now occupied by John Bercherl, where he intended to spend the evening. Just how he failed to stop when he reached his destination will perhaps never be definitely known, though it is the opinion of many that because of his near-sightedness he was unable to discern the buildings in the darkness. This is a logical conclusion as his footprints in the snow revealed that he had passed nearby and continued on his way southwestward.

Taking all details into consideration it is believed that Mr. Retzlaff became lost and in his wanderings finally landed at the straw stack. Realizing his plight he decided to remain there until dawn to get his bearings. He then lay down to rest, lighting his pipe as he did so. It is thought he fell asleep, the pipe dropping from his mouth, igniting the straw from the falling sparks. He must have remained in this position until being awakened by the fire, which had by that time caught in his clothing. He left the stack and indications show that he had rolled in the snow in an endeavor to extinguish the flames. Becoming exhausted with the struggle, he naturally collapsed, at the mercy of his burning clothes, and that torture, with the added exposure to the cold, ended in death.