

KILLED BY HIS GRANDCHILD

LITTLE BOY PULLED SHOTGUN
TRIGGER WHILE PLAYING.

Martin Burcham, Farmer Living
Near Lincoln, Died a Few Mo-
ments After Accident.

Martin Burcham, aged fifty-four, a farmer living about eight miles northwest of Lincoln, was accidentally shot and killed about 10:30 a. m. yesterday morning. The shooting was done by his six and one-half year old grandson, Claud Burcham, who accidentally pulled the trigger of a shotgun which was lying on the kitchen table about ten feet from Mr. Burcham. The entire charge entered Mr. Burcham's right leg near the thigh and at the intersection of two large arteries tearing a hole in the leg three inches in diameter. It is believed that Mr. Burcham, who died a few moments after the accident, died from heart-failure produced by the shock. Burcham, who had been shooting fish in Oak creek, which runs about 100 yards from the house, came to the house to get more ammunition. He entered the kitchen where three of his grandchildren, aged five, six and one-half, and eight, were playing and laid his double barrelled shot gun on the table. As he turned to look for the shells his grandson Claud seized the gun and pulled the trigger. Mr. Burcham turned as the gun was discharged and received the load of shot in his leg near the thigh. He staggered for a few steps and fell to the floor. His wife, who was in the next room writing a letter, and his mother-in-law who was in the house, rushed into the room. Burcham died a few moments later. As he did not utter a sound before he died Coroner Matthews who was called believes that his death was due to heart failure occasioned by the shock. His death was certain from the loss of blood as two large arteries, the iliac and femoral were severed immediately below their bifurcation. A large number of the neighbors, among whom were Mr. Burcham's son, the father of the child who did the shooting had gathered and the coroner was called.

The little boy said he did not know the gun was loaded and, when his grandfather brought some fish in and laid the gun down, he became inquisitive and began playing with it. In doing so he pulled the trigger without knowing that the gun was pointed at his grandfather.

The coroner did not hold an inquest. The funeral will be held from the residence Friday at 1 p. m. and interment will take place in the Raymond cemetery.