

## Shocking Tragedy.

Last Monday just about noon our town was thrown into a state of excitement by the report that a dead man was seen by the hands on the incoming freight from the west about one-half mile west of the station. A. M. Sherman, Frank Benedict and Walter Sibbrell immediately went to the spot where the body lay and found it to be John Merritt, only child of Mrs. Warren Merritt, who lives some four miles northeast of this village.

Justice Hawkins was notified and proceeded to the spot and after due examination ordered the body to be taken to C. E. Hammond's undertaking rooms where a surgeon was summoned and a jury impanelled who viewed the body and adjourned to Justice Hawkins office where several witnesses were examined, and testimony taken when the inquest was adjourned until Thursday at 1 o'clock p m. So far as is known at this writing the circumstances appear to be as follows: John and his uncle, Mr. Murphy, came to the village in the forenoon leading a cow to be shipped to S. O. Fisher at Bay City. The cow had been properly loaded and billed and Mr. Murphy was in the car to accompany the cow to her destination when the report was brought to the depot that John lay dead by the track. The train was nearly ready to pull out and before he had recovered from his consternation it moved off taking him along.

We accompanied Justice Hawkins to the spot where the body laid, and found a large crowd of people there but the body had not been molested. It lay just off the track on the south side with the head just over the edge of the grade, the face covered with blood which had run out of his mouth. In the right hand was the fatal revolver which had done the deadly work. To all appearance the weapon had been placed in his mouth and discharged with his thumb. The end of the tongue was burned black and his spinal column was shattered at the base of the brain where the bullet was found.

No apparent cause has yet been discovered for the fatal deed. He was a young man of excellent character, perfectly temperate and respected by all his acquaintances. Further developments before the jury may disclose facts which will point to the cause of the terrible deed. Funeral at 2 p m today.

The Chicago Herald says that the man's agent, he's a good boy enough, he gets his head a little turned up.