

A SHOCKING ACCIDENT

Last Friday afternoon, shortly after four o'clock, Jean Rennie, six-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hertle Rennie, was almost instantly killed as a result of being struck by a car driven by Clarence McCoy. The latter was on his way home from work at Deloro. According to witnesses he was driving comparatively slowly at the time, but the child suddenly ran out on the road in front of the car and when she noticed it, turned and started back towards where other girls were. The accident occurred near the United church.

Will Pack, a pupil in Mr. Prentice's room, quickly picked Jean up and carried her to the home of Mr. Winters, on the south side of the highway, but she passed away just as the house was reached. Constable Lavender was called and he in turn notified the Provincial Police and Traffic Officer J. H. Hatch arrived as soon as possible to conduct an investigation.

Dr. F. J. Nickle, of Madoc, a Coroner for Hastings County, was also notified and after obtaining valuable information, decided to hold an inquest. The following were selected as a jury: W. R. Linn, Michael O'Connor, Ed J. Dunlay, Chas. Cronkright and Wm. Shannon. Reeve Linn was chosen as foreman by the other members. After being sworn in and viewing the remains the inquest was adjourned until next Monday, March 23rd.

The funeral was held on Sunday afternoon, only a few close friends of the family being in attendance. Service was conducted at the house by Rural Dean A. B. Caldwell and interment took place in Marmora Protestant cemetery. A large and beautiful array of flowers bore mute evidence of the esteem in which the family is held. Members of Jean's Sunday school class, with their teacher, Miss Jennie Gray, acted as flower bearers. The pall bearers were Donnie Henry, Bert Gray, Bobbie Sanderson and Ivan Lavender.

The sympathy of the whole community goes out to Mr. and Mrs. Rennie and daughter Shirley in their sad bereavement.

NO PERSON TO BLAME

The inquest in connection with the death of little Jean Rennie was completed on Monday afternoon and the jury, composed of W. R. Linn, M. O'Connor, E. J. Dunlay, Chas. Cronkright and Wm. Shannon, with the first named as foreman, brought in the following verdict: "That Jean Rennie came to her death on Highway No. 7, west of North Hastings Avenue in the Village of Marmora on Friday, March 13th, 1942, when struck by a motor car driven by Clarence McCoy, of the township of Marmora. We find that the cause of death was purely accidental and unavoidable."

Dr. F. J. Nickle, of Madoc, presided as Coroner, and Asst. Crown Attorney S. Gordon Robertson conducted the investigation.

The witnesses called were Godfrey Scott, Court photographer, who submitted a number of photos of the scene of the accident, Traffic Officer J. H. Hatch, who investigated the accident, Dr. Hamilton Crawford, who made the post mortem examination, Will Pack and Jean Vilneff, two public school pupils who witnessed the accident, and Constable W. D. Lavender. The eye witnesses told of the deceased running out on the road, directly in front of the car and Jean Vilneff said she stopped and turned around just before the car struck her. All the evidence pointed to the tragedy being purely accidental. Constable W. D. Lavender stated the Hydro pole and road sign might have obstructed the child's view of the approaching car before she ran out on the road.

Following the inquest Traffic officer Hatch laid a charge of driving with faulty brakes against McCoy. The latter pleaded guilty and paid the minimum fine of \$10.00 and costs. No other blame could be attached to him and the distance in which the car stopped showed he was a competent driver.

MARMORA HERALD

26 MAR, 1942

PAGE 1

MARMORA HERALD
19 MAR, 1942, PG 1