

# FARMER KILLS DAUGHTER, SELF IN FAMILY RIFT

Special to The Star

Ravenscliffe, Ont., Jan. 19.—The estranged father of six children shot and killed his second oldest daughter yesterday evening and then took his own life by placing the muzzle of his rifle in his mouth and discharging it with a forked stick.

Dead are Shirley Edwards, 16, a Huntsville domestic, and Alfred Walter Edwards, 54, farmer-handyman, whose farm is on the outskirts of Ravenscliffe, 10 miles north of Huntsville.

The shooting occurred during one of Shirley's frequent visits to the farm. Usually she was accompanied by her brother, Myrl, a Huntsville taxi driver, but yesterday she went alone.

Mrs. Edwards, who has been separated from her husband for several years, lives in Huntsville but three of her children, Jerry, 14, Hilda, 12, and Sheila, 10, lived with their father. A married daughter lives in Timmins.

Mrs. Edwards said the shooting would never have happened if Huntsville Children's Aid society had done something about her request to investigate the living conditions of the children on the farm.

Although Shirley was not on good terms with him, Edwards is reported to have written letters demanding that she return to the farm to live. It is not known why she decided to visit the farm yesterday but four hours after she left Huntsville, she was dead.

It was 5.30 when she went upstairs to one of the farmhouse's bedrooms. Her father followed her and behind him came Sheila, who reached the top of the stairs in time to see a hand closing the bedroom door.

Jerry, who was cutting wood in the yard, Sheila, on the stairs, and Hilda, downstairs, were all startled moments later by the sound of a shot.

Jerry said his father then stuck his head out a window and told him to go across the road and telephone for the police.

With the sound of the shot, Sheila sped down the stairs and with Hilda, ran after Jerry. They had just reached the gate when a second shot was heard. The neighbor took the children to Huntsville and notified the police.