

608
9th & 16th June 1910 19
606

PROCEEDINGS of INQUEST

held upon the body of

Christian Neilson

at DALYSTON & WOUTHAGEE

Received at the Crown Law Offices,

19

RECEIVED
21 JUN 1910
G.L.O.

Bo

R.H. Cole, Coroner.

3198

Report for the information of the
Secretary for Mines.

B.R. Owen

23-6-10

REGISTERED TO THE LAW DEPARTMENT

W.A. Anderson

57¹⁰/₆₀₁₅ Reg. 24/6/10.

RECEIVED
21 JUN 1910

Returns with thanks,
to the Secretary to the
Law Department

W. M. Raymond
Acting Secretary for Mines

67.10

RECEIVED
7 JUL 1910
G.L.O.

INQUISITION.

VICTORIA, }
TO WIT. }

George
AN INQUISITION for our Sovereign Lord King ~~Edward~~ ^{George} VII., taken at
M.H. *Daleyson & Wonthaggi*
the Morgue, Melbourne, in the State of Victoria, the *9th and 16th*
day of *June* A.D. 19*10* in the *first*
year of the reign of our said Lord the King, by me, Robert Hodgson Cole,
gentleman, a Coroner of our Lord the King for the said State, upon the view
of the body of *Christian Nielson*
then and there lying dead.

Having inquired upon the part of our Lord the King when, where, how,
and by what means the said *Christian Nielson*

(1) His or her.

came by ¹*his* death, I say that

on the *8th* day of *June* 19*10*

(2) Here state cause of death, if known; if unknown, doubtful, or no effluence, state the fact accordingly.

at ²*Wonthaggi in the State Coal Mine*
Christian Nielson was accidentally
killed by a fall of coal at the board
where he was working. No blame is
attachable to the officers and work people
of the Mine

In witness whereof I, the aforesaid Coroner, have to this Inquisition
put my hand, this 16th day of June

A.D. 1900

Robert H. Cole

Coroner.

TELEGRAM.

No.

E.T. No. 11

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT, VICTORIA.



This Message has been received subject to the Post and Telegraph Act and Regulations. All complaints to be addressed in writing to the Deputy Postmaster-General.

C.5509

STATION FROM, No. OF WORDS, AND CHECK.

REMARKS.

NOTE.—The figures at the bottom represent the time lodged at Sending Station and time received at this Office respectively.

Rowlett Coal mine	26	PM.	
Dr Cole	City	Coroner	Melbne
Man	Christopher	Nelson	Killed fall
of	Coal	State	Coal Mine
Today	awaiting	You	further
Instructions	body	removed	ozone
Hotel	Dalyston	Police	9 27
			9 27

Lowlett, River Station. *Lowlett* Police District
8 June 1900

REPORT of

Relative to.

Const Case 4872
A. miner named Christian
Neilson being killed at the Main
Shaft, State Coal Mine

I have to report for the information of the coroner, that at 4.40 a.m. today I was informed that a man had been killed at the mine. I proceeded to the shaft, but was informed that the body of deceased man had been brought up from below, and was now in the store room. I went there and saw the body of deceased man lying on a stretcher. I made inquiries, and was told that his name was Christopher Neilson, and that he died about 4 a.m.

I searched the body and found £1.5.9 in money, a gun metal watch, a pen knife, and some papers. I interviewed Charles Lawson deceased mate, J. J. Barnett, David Lewis & W. Henry Rees, Re the accident statements attached.

I wired to Mr. A. Sharp, Mining Inspector; Preston informed him & also to the Police, Chittum to inform deceased friends. And had the body conveyed to the Byron Hotel, Waiyaten where it now lies awaiting inquest.

W. J. Cole
Coroner

A.

Charles Lawson. States. I am a miner
working at the State Coal Mine
Doublett Run. The deceased Christopher
Neilson was my working mate. We
went to work at 12 o'clock on Tuesday
night, and worked on No. 11. road.
The road was secure when we started
work. About 3 a.m. we fired a shot
which brought down a lot of coal,
and left about 2 ft thick of coal hang-
ing overhead. When we returned
after the shot was fired. Neilson
filled the skip, and I started to hole
up on the left hand side of the
board. After filling the skip Neilson
returned to the board and started to work
on the coal loosened by the shot. I said to
him. You had better have a look
overhead and see if it is safe. He
replied. It is good enough. He then went
out and sounded the back with a
pick. After sounding it he said. It was
solid as bell. He then got under the coal
that was hanging from the roof and
started to work out the loose coal from
the hole. He only used the pick two or
three strokes, when the whole back of coal
came down. It struck him first on the back
of the head and then across the back pinning
him to the board. I called out for help and
two men named Lewis & Barnett came to
my assistance. We rolled the coal off Neilson
who was not dead but calling out Oh. Oh. Oh.
I spoke to him two or three times but he made
no answer. He died just after the doctor
arrived. He always told me that he was
an experienced miner. The body was
then removed to the surface. I was

Station.

Police District

190

REPORT of

Relative to.

Lawson *(contd)*

Working with deceased for three weeks, and during that time, he was always growling at me, and if I made a suggestion about the work, he was always obstinate and contrary and would have his own way. When we got a hole ready for the charge and I asked him to go and bring the fracture, he would refuse to do so, he would not charge the hole, either would he fire it. When standing timber, after I had my leg stoned, he would come & knock it out and stand it in his own way, and tell me I was wrong. If any man asked him the time, he would tell them, he did not carry a watch for their convenience. He was a careless man and we never agreed. I never spoke to the Deputy about it. A new chum coal miner would not have gone under the hanging coal to work in the careless manner that he did.

David Lewis States. I am a miner employed at the State Coal Mine, Fowlett Run, and was working on the 12 to 8 a.m. shift on the 8th inst in company with my mate Barnett. We were working on W. G. bord, opposite deceased, and his mate Lawson, who worked W. 11.

About 3 a.m. I heard a fall, and then a scream, I ran calling to my mate to come on, there is an accident over here. I saw Lawson trying to lift coal off his mate, it took us all our time to remove the lumps of coal off deceased. Deceased was pinned to the ground by two heavy lumps of coal across his legs. We removed him a short distance from the bord, and sent for a doctor. Deceased died shortly after the doctor's arrival. I noticed the bord later, the rib was cut on the right side, and a hole had been fired a little while previous.

Station.

Police District

190

REPORT of

Relative to.

John Joseph Barnett States I am a coal miner employed at the State Coal Mine, Powell River. I was working on the 12^o clock to 8. a.m. shift on the 1st shift in company with David Lewis near the board where Neilson & Lawson were working. About 3.20 a.m. Lewis & I heard Lawson calling out Help. We hurried to the spot and saw Neilson lying on his back jammed between two big lumps of coal. With the assistance of Lawson we removed the coal from off Neilson and lifted him aside on the board. I hurried to the shaft and went to the surface and then to Mr. Steeman's, but immediately after his arrival on the scene of the accident Neilson died.

William H. Rees States I am a Deputy in charge of the night shift at State Coal Mine on the 1st shift. I visited deceased and his mate who were working at No. 11 board and examined the board everything was all correct at that time. I was informed of the accident about 3.30 a.m. and hurried to the board where I saw deceased lying on his back with David Lewis supporting his head. I accompanied the body to the store room. Later I visited the board

Rees contd

Where deceased worked, in company with Mr. McKenzie Jun^r & Mr. Brown Sen^r and other men, and saw the box examined and the roof tested every-thing was in good order, and safe

W^m Sleeman. States. About 3.50 a.m. on P. 6. 10. I was called by a miner who said that a man had been injured by a fall of coal at the main shaft and required my immediate presence. I hurried to the shaft where the cage was waiting for me to go below. I was piloted to where the injured man was lying. When I arrived he was lying on a stretcher about five yards from where he had been working. On examination he was just alive, and died 1/2 minute after my arrival. The men under my directions carried him up through the tunnel to the surface and placed him in the stove room.

I then made a careful examination and found that his injuries consisted of the following: fractured right thigh in the upper third, extensive bruising in the lower part of the back, fractured spine of the lower end, and rupture of the pelvis bone from the spinal column

G. J. Lane
Const 4872

Victoria
to both
to

Coroner Inquest.

This deponent Duncan Mc Leachie
on his oath I am the
Superintendent of the Sale & mine
coal companies Collieries,
residing at West Wallsend Newcastle
District New South Wales.

I have been at coal mining all
my adult life since boyhood
about 30 years both in
Scotland & in Australia. I have
been through all its branches
from working in the pit up
to my present position. At
present our Collieries put out
about 6500 six thousand
five hundred tons per day.

We employ about 2200 two
thousand two hundred men.

Today 9th June 1910 I visited
the State Coal Mine Powell
in Company with the General
Manager & mine manager
& Under manager. The Coroner
D. Cole was also with us.

We visited the place where the
accident occurred to Christopher
Reidson. On the way to & from
that part of the mine I noted
particularly the manner in which
the roads & various places

11th 9. 6. 1910

were timbered & found that the
timbering all through was of a
most substantial character
being fairly closely set & the
timber itself of 4 in large pos.
portion for the particular depth
at which these places were from
the surface. So my mind the
timbering is a good deal more than
is necessary for such places.

24th. & the ^{timbering} work appears to be well done
thus making the places perfectly
safe. At the face I found the
sets of timber were close to the
working face the last set being
five to six feet from the face
& not more than a foot or 18 inches
from the edge of the coal that
fell. The roof at this part is fairly
strong & would be looked upon by
men generally as a good roof being
of sandstone. Speaking generally
one of the best places that an acci-
dent should happen in. In examining
him of the place of accident it
seems to me as if ~~the accident~~
a shot had just been fired the
shot hole being quite plain and
the right hand rib & E side only

2
2

24th 6.1990

2

The coal may have hung after
the pump of the shot & through
the mine attempting to hole in
further relieve it the man referred
to met his death

The places of the mine visited
by me shows ventilation different
for the requirements of that section.

W. J. Scobie

Taken & sworn before me the 9th
day of June 1910 at Wonthaggi
Rmmt St Geo
Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

This Deponent* Melena Jane Nelson

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

on her oath saith, I am a widow

residing at Chiltern Valley

* Christian and Surname in full.

The deceased Christian Nelson
 was my husband His age was 56
 years. He has been mining at
 Chiltern Valley alluvial mining
 Eight or nine years. He came
 on Easter Monday I had word
 from him that he was at Poolett.
 He has been away from me
 for the best part of year or so.
 We were together at Warparatta
 last August twelve months He
 had been working at Edi
 timber cutting & labouring. I could
 not say whether he had been
 in a coal mine before.

MJN

M^{rs} J Nelson

Taken and Sworn before me the 9th day
 of June 1900 at Walkstone
Rome H Geo
 Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent*

Osbert
Russell Albert Sleeman

on his oath saith, I am a

medical practitioner

residing at

Wonthaggi

* Christian and Surname in full.

M.H.

I have been practising here five months.
 I do not know deceased. On 8th June
 1910 I made an ~~an~~ Examination of
 deceased. He was alive but unconscious.
 I found that he died a few minutes
 after my arrival. I then examined him
 he had a fracture dislocation of
 the lower lumbar spine, with rupture
 of right ilioce bone from the spine
 fracture of right thigh w of per 3rd
 with extensive bruising on lower part
 of the back. That is the list of his injuries.
 In my opinion they were caused
 by a fall of some material such as
 coal while he was in a sleeping
 position the apex of the piece being
 situated in the lower part of the back
 causing the injuries. The ~~as a~~ result
 he was knocked down the fracture
 of the thigh caused by the rebound
 of the material crushing it while he
 was in a falling position. My examina-
 tion was external only. The cause of his
 death was the injuries received & shock.

R. A. Sleeman

Taken and Sworn before me the *16th* day

of *June* 19*10* at *Wonthaggi*

Robert A. Cole

Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

This Deponent*

Charles Lawson

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

on his oath saith, I am a miner

residing at Wonthaggi

* Christian and Surname in full.

I am a coal miner. I have been so for about 3 weeks. Before that I worked as a gold miner for about ten years in Kalgoorlie. I have been a gold miner practically all my life. I knew the deceased. I have worked with him for 3 weeks & a day. We were cutting coal all the time except when putting in a set of timbers if we got ahead with the drive. On Tuesday night we went to work at midnight in the No 11 bow or day. We kept on filling the trucks cutting coal. My mate bored a hole after boring underneath. Then he said to me will you get a charge & fire this hole. I looked at the hole. I got a charge. I charged the hole & fired it. I ran me way. He ran another. The shot went off. I took out from the level of the hole down to the board. He came back. I was standing to hole was on the left hand side. They mate filled a skip put it up after doing so some coal hanging under it. He went in to pick underneath it in the bottom of the hole I said

Taken and Sworn before me the _____ day

of _____ 190 at _____ 1910

Handwritten signature and date: 10/6

Coroner.

6

CORONER'S INQUEST.

This Deponent* Charles Lawson

VICTORIA, TO WIT. on h oath saith, I am a Contractor

residing at

* Christian and Surname in full.

to him you had better look at that stuff
 over head. He said "Oh! its safe enough."
 Then he went out & poked at it.
 He said "Its as solid as a bell." Then
 I said nothing. I felt shocked with
 what he said. He went under it
 again when he was before. He
 gave 2 or 3 strokes with a pick
 the coal all came down on him
 then 2 feet down or 3 feet of coal.
 I was looking with the left hand side
 at the time. When I saw it come I struck
 his head ^{first} & then on the back he fell
 sideways to the left. He cried out.
 I cried out for help. Some men came
 up. I tried to get the coal off him
 a man Lewis now present pulled
 the deceased out. Some one went
 for Dr. Sleeman who came down. He
 ordered deceased out. We carried him out.
~~As~~ I was carrying him out part of the way
 until the sheph boss told me to desist.
 About 30 cwt of coal fell. I thought the
 coal was unsafe. We had a row every
 sheph. He was always contrary. He told
 me he was a mine. I always fixed the
 holes. The hole was right, a little too deep
 It was 2ft 6in 2ft 6in would have been enough

Taken and Sworn before me the _____ day

of _____ 190 at _____

10/6/1910
Coroner. 7

CORONER'S INQUEST.

This Deponent* Charles Lawson

VICTORIA, TO WIT, on h oath saith, I am a Contractor

* Christian and Surname in full.

residing at.....

I did not try the Coal to see if it was unsafe. I relied upon what he said & I had said anything he should have had another row. I do not think he was an experienced miner. He told me he was. He said "I have done more mining than you".

RAC

Lower Broome. I have not done much Coal mining. I have been in Coal mines in West Australia, about 3 months, nowhere else. I did not help my mate to fill the skip. ~~He said~~ I did not try to take down the Coal when we came in. I was afraid of Despatas. I did not think he was such a fool as to go under the coal. It must have been really loose. It is usual to take down Coal that is hanging. My side was clear when it fell none came near me. I was able to do my work. I did not care to provoke rows. The plan produced. A it is correct. The red part is similar to what the Coal was before it came down. Lower Conroy. The width of the place was about 10 feet. The Coal was about 8 feet thick. I did not measure the depth of the hole. I did the drilling & boring. I did not stem up the hole to 2 ft 6 in. I used 2 plugs of

Taken and Sworn before me the..... day
of..... 190 at.....
10.6.1910
Coroner. 8

CORONER'S INQUEST.

This Deponent* Charles Lawson

VICTORIA, TO WIT, on h oath saith, I am a Contractor

* Christian and Surname in full.

residing at _____

I was the one who placed the fire
 d. I did not know the depth till after.
 He cleared out the hole for firing. The explosive
 if put in at 2 ft in might have brought
 down the coal or it might not. I did
 not complain of the conduct of deceased.
 I hoped to get shifted from the place.
 To Mr McKenzie. He claimed the right
 hand side & would not let me work
 there. I always worked on the other.
 The left side was perfectly safe when I
 went in there was no smoke from the
 shot. We went back in 2 or 3 minutes.
 To the corner. The last set of timber was
 18 in or 2 feet from when the shot
 was put in. It was done to clear the
 way for another set.
 To Mr Sharpe. The air was good in the
 board. We used candles. I did
 supervise him but I could do no
 good with him. I did not bother about the
 coal in the roof after the shot. I had
 much to do in my own place. I had a
 hammer & wedge in the face. I
 think it was proper to try the coal with a
 wedge. I would never have gone under it
 myself. I would never report any man I would
 come relinquish my job. I expected accident

Taken and Sworn before me the _____ day
 of _____ 190 at _____
15-6-1910

 Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

This Deponent*.....

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

on h oath saith, I am a.....

residing at.....

* Christian and Surname in full.

from the way he worked.
To Mr Broome. The roof was round &
was so all along. I consider the place
as safe. A week before I rounded the
roof & pulled down some loose shell
from the roof.

C Lawson

Taken and Sworn before me the 16th day
of June 1900 at Wairuaqqi
Ross & Co

Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

This Deponent* David Lewis

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

on his oath saith, I am a miner

residing at Wentington

* Christian and Surname in full.

I have been coal mining about 20 years. I have been gold mining between the times for 15 years. I have worked here for 3 weeks. I was working at the time of the occurrence in the opposite board going in the opposite direction. I was with John Darwood. The first I heard was a fall then I heard a cry I called my mate. I saw Lawson trying to lift coal from the creases I had to help him then I pulled Nelson from under the coal. I called my mate for the doctor. Then I went back to my crib. I saw the shot hole. It was open on the left hand side. It was a drag back or soapy head on the right hand side.

That's about all there was about 30 cwt of coal ^{fell all together} ^{1/2 of that} on the deceased we shipped that amount.

~~To Mr Moore. Conolly.~~
 To Mr Broome. I have heard the deceased & his mate quarrelling they were always at it. I could not say what it was about. I knew deceased. He was pleasant to me. I never had any dealings with him.

Taken and Sworn before me the _____ day
 of _____ 190 _____ at Wentington
10.6.1910

 Coroner. //

CORONER'S INQUEST.

This Deponent*

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

on h oath saith, I am a

* Christian and Surname in full.

residing at

I am Sharpe I have gone into the face when deceased worked for an angle. There was top coal then. About 14 days before I said to deceased Good for Charles what are you doing there he said oh that's all right. I said you prick a letter but then I take two bars & will come down now. He did so. They had it cut on the right hand side & the same in the centre. It came down while I was there. I was in there other times. It was principally on the right hand side Lawson was usually ahead working. He was usually in a safe place. I told deceased about it. He did not say much. He sometimes said all right. He did not admit his experience as a miner. I did not consider him a practical miner. The air was good in the face no smoke. They were near when they broke through.

David Lewis

Taken and Sworn before me the 16th day
of June 1910 at Wonthaggi
Mount St Errol
Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

This Deponent* John Barnett

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

on his oath saith, I am a miner

residing at Wonthaggi

* Christian and Surname in full.

I have had a number of experience of coal mining. I have been 5 years at quartz mining. I worked with the last witness of did what he told me. I have heard his evidence. It is correct. I have nothing to add. Do Mr Sharpe. The air was good with face it was clear.

J. Barnett

Taken and Sworn before me the 16th day
of June 1900 at Wonthaggi
Mont St. Croix
Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

This Deponent* William Rees

VICTORIA, TO WIT, on his oath saith, I am a Miner

* Christian and Surname in full.

residing at Wonthaggi

I have had about 9 years experience of Coal mining in Wales Queensland & New South Wales. I was in charge of the night shift 12 45 to 8 am the night of the occurrence. Lawson & Nelson were working under me. I did not give them any instructions on that particular occasion. I knew their work. The deceased seemed to me to understand his work. The same opinion I held as to Lawson. I knew nothing of their putting cutters ways. I knew nothing of deceased having been in dangerous positions before. I do not choose my men. I have authority to shift them from one place to another. I cannot dismiss them but I can refer them to the manager. As shift boss I had to see that every place was safe & in good working order. I saw the place at 12.45 am on Wednesday morning. It was then in perfect order. The fall occurred about 3.20 am. I gave no instructions as to when ^{or where} a shot is to be put in. I leave that to the men. I have seen the place since. I think the deceased must have been underneath but was not.

Taken and Sworn before me the _____ day
of _____ 190 _____ at _____
not
16.6.1910
Coroner. 14

CORONER'S INQUEST.

This Deponent* William Rees

VICTORIA, TO WIT. on h oath saith, I am a Continuing

residing at _____

* Christian and Surname in full.

justified in being underneath. Both Lawson & Deceased were equal. I do not know. If I considered a man incompetent I should shift him to a place of safety. I would report him to the managers. I think I could suspect him from work. I consider the place where he was killed a safe place. There was a very good roof. It was properly timbered. Deceased did not pay to me that he was a coal miner.

MIT. { He said he was a miner. I did not doubt his statement. Do Mr Conolly. He seemed to me to be a mine. There are no rules & regulations for the work of the colliery. The men are supplied with sprags for spragging up the coal to make it safe. That particular heading had splendid air. Do Mr Sharpe. When we inspected nothing had been done since the accident.

W Rees

Taken and Sworn before me the 16th day
of June 1900 at Wonthaggi
Robert H. Cro
Coroner.