

PROCEEDINGS BEFORE CORONERS.

No. 64.
[Stereo.]

Smythsdale District, INQUISITION.
Colony of Victoria

TO WIT.

AN Inquisition for our Sovereign Lady Queen Victoria, taken at *the Golden Lake Hotel, Springdallat* in the *district* of *Smythsdale* aforesaid, the *tenth* day of *March* A.D. 18*77*, in the *thirty fourth* year of the Reign of our said Lady the Queen, before me *Thomas Hopper*

* City, Town, County, or District, as the case may be.

Gentleman, a Coroner of our Lady the Queen for the * *district* of *Smythsdale* aforesaid, upon the view of the body of *William Bowes* then

† Jurors' Christian and Surname in full.

and there lying dead, upon the oaths of †

John Featherston, Foreman

Isaac Fuller

Alexander Short

Thomas Stephens

William Phillips

John Osborne

Patrick Horen

Thomas Youngusband

Robert English

John Young

John Middleton

John Henderson

good and lawful men of *Springdallat* in the said *district* who being duly sworn and charged to

inquire, upon the part of our Lady the Queen, when, where, how, and by what means the said *William Bowes* came

by † *his* death, do say upon their oath that § *we find that*

the deceased William Bowes

was accidentally killed at

the

† His or her.
§ Here state cause of death, if known; if unknown, doubtful, or no evidence, state the fact accordingly, using the words of the Verdict of the Jury.
It is desirable that the Jury should find expressly, whether there are or are not marks of external violence on the body of deceased.

The Golden Lake Gold Mine Spring-
-dallah on the ninth day of March
1871 by the cage crushing his
head as it descended, the shaft
where he was speaking to the
Chamberman below.

We think the engine of this
and every other mine ought not
to start on any occasion whatever
until a signal has been given

In witness whereof as well the aforesaid Coroner as the Jurors aforesaid, have to
this Inquisition put their hands and seals, on the day and year, and at the place above
mentioned.

Thomas Hopper

Coroner.

Here let each Juror sign his
own name, or make his own
mark, and affix or acknowledge
his seal.

John Featherston Freeman

John Hengerson

Mr Middleton

John Young

Thomas Ganshult

Robert English ^{his} _{mark}

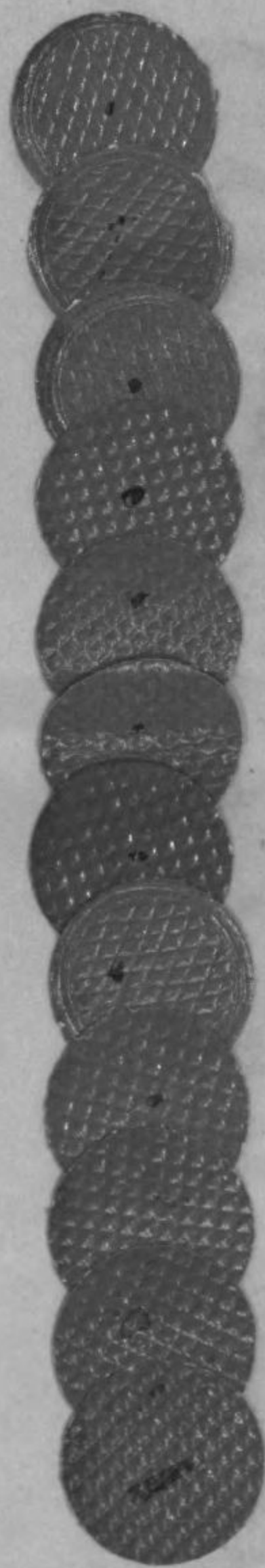
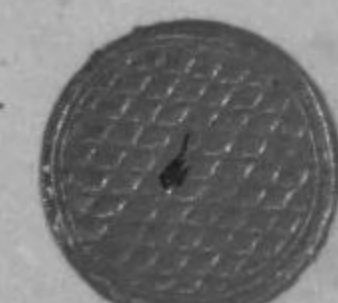
John Fuller

William Phillips

Thomas Stephens

John Osborne

Patrick Moran



CORONER'S INQUEST.

Smethdale District
Colony of Victoria
DEPOSITION OF WITNESS.

TO WIT.

* All names of Witnesses.

THE Examination of * *Thomas Bowers*

of *Piggoreet*, taken on oath this *tenth*
day of *March* A.D. 18*71*, at *Springdallah*

† City, Town, District, or County,
as the case may be.

before the undersigned, a Coroner in the said † *district*

The deponent *Thomas Bowers*
on his oath, saith as follows:— *I am a Miner and*
reside at Piggoreet, the deceased William
Bowers was my Brother, he was forty one
years of age, born at Stanhope, County
of Durham, England, he has been about
fourteen years in this Colony, he leaves
a widow, Mary, and two sons.

The deceased worked for wages in the
Golden Lake Gold Mine Springdallah,
he was fireman and looked after the
pumping engine, I work at the same
mine, he left home yesterday evening quite
well, about six o'clock, I was not working
on the same shift - about ~~half past~~ ^{ten}
eight o'clock in the evening two men
came and told me my brother
was killed at the Mine, his body
was taken to the Golden Lake Hotel,
I went there and saw the body,
he was dead -

H

Thomas Bowers

Taken and sworn before me the *10th*
day of *March* A.D. 18*71*,
at *Springdallah*

W. Hopper
Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

Springdallah District DEPOSITION OF WITNESS.

TO WIT.

* All names of Witnesses.

THE Examination of * *James Means*

of *Springdallah*, taken on oath this *tenth*
day of *March* A.D. 18*71*, at *Springdallah*

† City, Town, District, or County,
as the case may be.

before the undersigned, a Coroner in the said † *district*

The deponent *James Means*
on his oath, saith as follows:— *I am a Miner and
work for Wages at the Golden Lake Gold
Mine Springdallah.*

*I knew the deceased William Prower
he worked at the same Mine.*

*We had been having our refreshment
and finished a little before nine o'clock
in the evening. I was ^{of my} bracceman. Deceased
went to the shaft and called down to the
Chamber-man and inquired what
depth of water there was in the well.
It is usual for the engine driver to start
the engine after this refreshment without
giving any signal - he did so start the
engine and I suppose was not aware
that deceased was looking down the
shaft, (the empty Cage above descends
without any noise) it came down
and crushed his head upon the
sole piece - that is the surface frame -
I was on the brace about thirty two feet
above deceased, I heard the Cage stop
on the surface and the chain slacken
on the Cage, I knew there was some
obstruction, I had heard the deceased
calling down the shaft and it struck
me that this check to the Cage was*

Taken and sworn before me the

day of

A.D. 186

at

caused

Coroner.

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caused by the deceased. I ran down to the surface - I was the first to take hold of him - I called for assistance, Mr. Sifford came to me - we removed the body from the shaft, he was quite dead - his head was dreadfully smashed.

I called down to the engine-driver, Peter Husband, he appeared to have detected something was wrong as he hove up the slack immediately.

There is no signal given above, when the engine is going to start again after refreshment - starting the cage below is the signal to the men below to start to work again, we have signals for all other startups of the engine except this just named.

There was no person near the deceased at the time he met with his death.

By the jury

It is usual for the men below to give the signal to the engine driver before he starts the engine to lift a cage of dirt on all other occasions, the Chamber-man below understands the half hour for refreshment is up when he sees or hears any motion of the cage below. I have seen the deceased frequently
call

call down the shaft and ask the same question, his object in asking the question is that no more water may be pumped up than is necessary and that the well may fill again tomorrow as the water is required during the day for washing the dirt.

I did not see the cage start from the top.

I was looking over the brace the opposite way from the shaft, I turned. I saw the rope move I called out "Bill! Bill!" to the deceased, meaning him to get out of the way, as I supposed he might be in the way from hearing him call down the shaft. There is a young man on the brace as well as he was in the shanty on the brace at the time,

Taken and sworn
before me the 10th day
of March A.D. 1871
at Springdallah
W. S. Hopper
Clerk

James Meems

CORONER'S INQUEST.

Smythdale District
Colony of Victoria DEPOSITION OF WITNESS.

TO WIT.

* All names of Witnesses.

THE Examination of * *Peter Husband*

of *Piggoreet* — , taken on oath this *tenth*
day of *March* A.D. 1861, at *Springdallah*

† City, Town, District, or County,
as the case may be.

before the undersigned, a Coroner in the said † *district*

The deponent *Peter Husband*
on his oath, saith as follows:— *I am engine driver*
at the Golden Lake Gold Mine Spring-
dallah and reside at Piggoreet

The deceased William Prover came to
work at the mine at the usual time
seven o'clock, his business was to bring
in fuel, attend to the furnace, and
start and stop the pumping engine.
At eight o'clock we stop work and
have half an hour for refreshment,
deceased connected the gear for pump-
ing for the water to fall down the
shaft, to drive the four air over
of the drives. I saw that the half
hour for refreshment had expired,
I was sitting my machinery and heard
deceased & the braesman calling to
each other as to whether they should
dis-connect the pumps from the
engine, the braesman told deceased
the tank was nearly empty, I remarked
they had better take the pumps off
and let the surface pump fill
the tank, Mr. Sifford was in the
engine house and said they
had better keep them on and
fill

Taken and sworn before me the
day of A.D. 186 }
at

Coroner.

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fill the tank, Mr. Salford is the sluice-
-man, deceased had been standing
at the engine house door leading
to the shaft, whilst this conver-
-sation took place, he then
went outside, after finishing
oiling the winding engine I put
the steam on to wind and com-
-menced winding, I had the
starting handle in my hand,
I saw the rope slacken, I imme-
-diately stopped the engine, knowing
something must have happened
and reversed it, Mr. Salford was
sitting in the engine house, he
rushed out and said that
"it's Bill", meaning the deceased,
I raised the Cage about twelve
feet, stopped the engine and
went to the door and asked
what was the matter, some
one said "it's Bill" I went to
where he was, Mr. Means and
Mr. Salford had him in their arms,
blood was streaming from his head
he appeared dead.

I never start the engine
when at work without the proper
signal being given, except after
this refreshment half hour.

At the first when I went to
the engine it was usual for
the Chamber-man below to give
the signal from below, of one
knock

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knock, but in consequence of it frequently being more than half an hour before the signal was given it was thought better as the clock was in the engine house for the engine driver to commence when the half hour was up, and an arrangement was made for me to give a signal, the starting of the cage was the signal for the men below that the half hour was up.

by the jury

The Cage was hanging in the shaft, not upon the caps of the brace,

Taken and sworn
before me the 10th
day March A.D. 1871
at Springdallah
The Hopper
Coroner.

Peter Husband