

## THE DEATH OF WILLIAM MURPHY.

### MAGISTERIAL INQUIRY.

A magisterial inquiry was held on Friday, 10th inst., at the Rose and Crown Hotel, Rockbank, by Mr W. S. Harkness, J.P., touching the death of William Murphy, a surface man, employed by the Braybrook Shire Council, who was accidentally killed on the previous evening by being run over by an express waggon, owned by Mr Hunter of Toolern.

From the evidence it appeared Hunter had been returning from Melbourne, and called in at the Rose and Crown Hotel to have a drink. He there met the deceased and a man named Keating, and after some conversation had passed, the landlord, Mr Copilstone, invited the trio to come and have some tea. Hunter and Keating responded, but the deceased said "No, that he would stop and keep a watch on Hunter's horse." About ten minutes afterwards the gentlemen at tea heard a noise as if the horse had bolted, and on rushing out they found their fears to be realised. It was then ascertained that Murphy had made an attempt to stop the animal, was knocked down, and run over by the locked wheel. When picked

up he remarked he was much hurt, that he had a terrible struggle with the horse, and the wheels had gone over him. He then became weak and exhausted, and the licensee of the hotel went to the Rockbank Railway Station to telegraph for a doctor, but was advised to send him down by train to the Melbourne Hospital. On his return he found the

deceased dying, and he expired about 10 minutes afterwards. Dr Vance, who made a *post mortem*, stated deceased had been a very robust healthy man. He detected no smell of spirituous liquor in the stomach, the body was much bruised, the breast bone and seven ribs were broken and the liver ruptured, and death was caused by the violence sustained.

A verdict was returned that Mr Murphy was accidentally killed in trying to stop a run-a-way horse attached to a waggon at the Rose and Crown Hotel, Rockbank, on the night of the 10th March.

The deceased, who was very well-known in the district, was interred in the Melton cemetery on Saturday. The funeral was largely attended.

The deceased was married and leaves a wife and five children to mourn their loss.

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