

INQUESTS.

DETERMINED SUICIDE.

Dr. Youl, acting district coroner, held an inquest at Braybrook on Friday afternoon, on the body of a man named George Hales, aged 30 years, who was found lying dead with a gunshot wound in his forehead, beside a haystack at Braybrook, on the morning of the 10th inst.

Henry W. Corbett, senior-constable, stationed at Footscray, deposed that on the morning of the 10th inst. he found the deceased Hales lying against a haystack near Braybrook with a revolver firmly clenched in his left hand. Two chambers had been discharged, and the deceased was dead and bleeding from a gunshot wound in the forehead, which penetrated into the skull. On searching the deceased he found upon his clothes £1 7s 1/2 in money and two medical prescriptions.

William M'Isaac, a labourer living at Braybrook, described the position of deceased when found by the previous witness.

Matilda Derham, wife of Thomas R. Derham, butcher, Braybrook, deposed that on last Tuesday afternoon, the 9th inst. the deceased went to the Braybrook Hotel, and had some raspberry vinegar and water. He was quite sober, and stayed for tea at 5 o'clock. He then asked if he could have a bed, and on being answered in the affirmative he went out, and was not seen again by witness alive. The deceased seemed out of spirits, and did not say anything or speak to anyone.

Margaret M. Calon, wife of S. A. Calon, professor of music, Kensington, deposed that the deceased, whose name was George Hales, was her brother. He was a butcher, unmarried, and 30 years of age. He had recently arrived from Adelaide. He was very melancholy, and had had a sunstroke some time ago. He was occasionally a little demented. He never showed any suicidal tendencies, and did not drink. He lived in her house, and left home on the afternoon of the 9th inst., but did not say where he was going. Witness did not know that he carried a revolver.

The jury returned a verdict that the deceased, George Hales, shot himself while of unsound mind.