

Death of Mr. Frank Byfield.

ACCIDENTALLY SHOT AT MECKERING.

Widespread regret was expressed in Northam yesterday morning when the news was circulated that Mr. Frank Henry Byfield—second son of Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Byfield—had been accidentally shot at his farm at Meckering. It appears that early in the morning, about 6.30, he obtained his gun from the house and went out to shoot a horse, which was beyond hope of recovery and which he desired to put out of misery. He was alone at the time and it is assumed that in getting through a barbed-wire fence about 400 yards from the homestead, the trigger caught on something, causing the gun to discharge. As he did not return, a search was made and he was found lying dead. The charge had penetrated his neck under the chin and lodged in the head, the jaw-bone being shot away. Death had apparently been instantaneous, as there was no sign of the body having moved. The matter was at once reported to Constable Ford, and arrangements for the holding of an inquest were made. Mr. R. W. Downing, J.P. (acting Coroner) and a jury of three proceeded to the farm, viewed the body which was identified, and the inquest was then adjourned until Tuesday next.

The deceased gentleman was the second son of Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Byfield, and was a native of Northam. He was about 36 years of age, and leaves a widow and two children—a boy and girl—to mourn his loss. For about thirteen years he was employed in the railway department, and worked up to the position of driver. He was of a quiet, retiring disposition, but was always most popular with his fellow employees and enjoyed the confidence and esteem of the officers. About a couple of years ago Mr. Jas. Byfield put him on what is known as Merry's farm at Meckering, which he had purchased. So well pleased was his father with the splendid way in which the young man managed the farm that some time ago he handed it over to him altogether.

At the special meeting of the Northam Municipal Council last evening the Mayor (Mr. H. P. Colebatch) made reference to the sad tragedy that had occurred in the family of their old and esteemed Councillor, Mr. Jas. Byfield. For some weeks past Cr. Byfield himself had been confined to his bed, a circumstance that would make the present loss all the harder to bear. He moved that letters be forwarded to Cr. James and Mrs. Byfield, and ex-Councillor A. W. Byfield, expressing the deep sympathy of the Council in their sad bereavement. The resolution was carried, and it was also decided that the Council forward a wreath and be represented at the funeral.