

Coroner's Inquest.

An inquest was held on Tuesday morning, July 1, at the Port Augusta Hospital by Mr C. H. Gooch, J.P., and a Jury of 13, of whom Mr E. A. Hartley was chosen foreman, on the body of Richard William Spicer, who died at the Hospital on Sunday last.

John Bannigan, M.C., stationed at Farina : Knew deceased, Richard William Spicer. Remember Saturday last, June 28. About 3 o'clock deceased, M. C. Brown, and myself proceeded to the butta, three-quarters of a mile distant from Farina township. We arranged the target at 50 yards for mounted practice. Deceased said, "Brown, you have got your revolver loaded, and had better start first. Take my horse, as he will be better to fire off." The horse was known as "Needle." Brown replied that he would try "Talbot," the horse he was riding, first. I stood at the left rear with the scoring sheet in my hand. Deceased walked to the right rear holding his horse. Deceased was about seven yards, I about five yards, from Brown. Brown fired his first shot and missed the target. He then took Spicer's horse. He took aim a second time at the target, steadying his revolver for several seconds. The horse was very restless, and kept shifting and shaking his head. Brown appeared to give the horse a sharp jerk with the reins, when it reared and swerved towards where deceased was standing. Saw Brown's right hand come down, as if to assist the bridle hand. At the same instant the revolver went off, the bullet passing close to the horse's head. Deceased instantly fell on his back, as if dead. Immediately ran to him, and found that the bullet had passed through the neck from left to right. About a minute after he fell deceased asked me where he was hit. Told him "in the neck." He said, "I think I'm done for; I have no feeling in my arms or body." Put a bandage round the neck, and endeavored to staunch the bleeding as well as I could. There was not much blood, but it was slightly oozing from both sides of the neck. Hurried to the township, and in a quarter of an hour returned with a buggy and assistance, and removed deceased to the township.

By the Coroner : I was in charge of the party. Both constables were carrying out my instructions as far as possible.

By the doctor : After deceased was brought to the township he said that he knew the spinal cord was touched.

was brought to the township he said that he knew the spinal cord was touched, that he could not get over it, and would rather die than be paralysed for life. He also said, "I am sorry for poor Brown; poor beggar, he could not help it; but between you and me, Brown is rather careless with firearms. The other day he nearly did some mischief." Deceased was on the best of terms with both Brown and myself. Am perfectly certain that the occurrence was purely accidental. Deceased spoke of his father once or twice, and appeared to be fretting about him. This was about a week before the accident. He had an uncle and some cousins near Auburn.

. By M.C. Brown : Deceased did not give any particulars about your carelessness with firearms.

Peor Phillip Brown, M.C., stationed at Farina : Have seen the body of deceased this morning. On Saturday last, June 28, I was in the police paddock at Farina, with M.C. Bannigan, deceased, and Tommy, the black tracker, at revolver practice. Was mounted on the horse Talbot, and was firing at 50 yards range. Deceased said to me "Don't fire off that horse; he won't stand fire." Said "I'll try him one shot." Deceased replied "You had better take my horse." M.C. Bannigan then said "For God's sake one of you fire at once and don't be all day about it." Mounted the horse Talbot and fired one shot. He was inclined to rear with me and I missed the target. I then dismounted and took deceased's horse, Needle, at his request. While I was taking aim, deceased was in a direct line on my right hand, on his knees taking some cartridges from his pouch. Was trying to take aim, but the horse was restive, would not stand, and tried to turn round. Jerked the rein rather sharply towards me, and the horse swerved round towards deceased, and the revolver went off. Was steadying the revolver on the bend of my left arm. When I jerked the rein I brought the hand down on the left wrist. When the horse swerved I was about to pull the trigger. When the shot went off I saw deceased fall backwards. Said to him, "Dick, what have I done to you?" He replied, "Brown, you've shot me, but it wasn't your fault. I wish you had shot me dead." Made no reply. Heard nothing more. Could not go near him and they would not allow me to speak to him again. They said I was hurting his feelings and making him worse. Mr Davey said this, and ordered me to be taken away. Was a good deal

me to be taken away. Was a good deal excited in consequence of the accident. Never saw deceased after about 9 o'clock that evening. Was on good terms with deceased. Deceased was 7 or 8 yards distant from me when the accident happened. The blackboy was lying in the marker's trench. Bannigan was on my left rear.

James Hand Powell, Medical Practitioner residing at Hergott Springs : Late on Saturday afternoon received a telegram from M.C. Bannigan informing me of the accident, requesting advice, and asking me to hasten to Farina as soon as possible. Procured a railway tricycle and reached Farina about 9 o'clock that evening. On my arrival I found deceased suffering from a bullet wound and complete paralysis from the shoulders downward. The bullet wound was near the root of the neck. Applied the usual remedies, and as he was in extreme pain, gave him a small dose of morphia. Remained with him till the special train arrived, and came on with him to the hospital, arriving here between half past 1 and 2 o'clock on Sunday afternoon. Deceased was quite sensible, said it was an unfortunate accident, and that Brown could not help it. Deceased was sensible up to the time I left him at the hospital. He several times expressed the opinion that he would not recover.

William Markham, duly qualified medical practitioner, Port Augusta : First saw deceased on Sunday about 3 p.m. He was wandering a little in his mind, and suffering slightly from collapse. Found a gunshot wound in his neck. He was completely paralysed below the wound. The ball entered the neck at the left side, passed obliquely down, and came out at the opposite side. The post mortem examination to-day showed that the ball passed through the posterior surface of the spinal column, wounding the cord. This was the cause of death.

M. C. Bannigan, recalled—I produce the revolver with which the wound was caused. It is an ordinary Smith and Weston's revolver.

The jury returned the following verdict—"That the deceased met his death from a wound in the neck, caused by a revolver."

The first intercolonial football match played in Sydney, under Victorian rules, came off on Saturday. The South Australian and Sydney teams scored three

Australian and Sydney teams scored three goals each and the match ended in a draw.
Port Germein holds meetings on the Dog Nuisance and the Silverton Railway.
The Crystal Brook Farmers' Association laments the scarcity of labor. That is not the complaint in Adelaide.