

Bulls Head Inn Drama

A magisterial inquiry was held at the Royal Bull's Head Hotel, on Saturday last, touching the death of a man (name unknown), who was found dead in the dining-room of the above hotel, about 6 o'clock that morning. **Daniel Neale** said he first saw the deceased about 9 o'clock on Friday morning, when he appeared quite sober: he had one glass of brandy when he came to the hotel ; he went to bed about half -past 8 o'clock, and slept on the sofa in the dining room ; about 6 o'clock on Saturday morning witness was passing through the room to go to the office, when he observed deceased lying on the floor, and a quantity of blood beside him ; witness immediately called his father and brother, who both came into the room, when they found the man dead ; witness' father sent for Constable McCarthy and Dr Armstrong; deceased had his own blankets; his swag was lying near him.


Constable McCarthy said, about 4 o'clock on Friday afternoon he found the deceased lying on a stretcher in the old lock-up ; witness asked him what brought him there, and he replied that he was hard up, and intended camping there all night, he had no money, and that he had been drinking hard lately ; he also said he was engaged by Mr Haslam, to work for him on Monday ; witness told him to go over to the Bull's Head, and he would pay for a bed ; left deceased at the house and some time after called at the hotel and told Mr Neale to give him a bed ; on Saturday morning, about 7 o'clock, **David Neale** reported that a man had cut his throat at the hotel, and witness went and found deceased lying on the floor of the dining-room ; recognised him as the man he had sent there the previous evening, and found the razor (produced) in his right hand ; the razor case was lying on the floor, and a pool of blood was beside him ; witness searched the body and found one penny in his pocket ; the swag contained a few trifling articles of wearing apparel and a little rations, but could find nothing leading to the identification of the deceased ; believed him to be a Scotchman from his accent.

Henry Neale, landlord of the Bull's Head, gave similar testimony to his son, save that having occasion to go through the dining-room about 1 o'clock in the morning deceased was then all right and spoke to him (witness) ; deceased had a glass of brandy before he went to bed ; he was the only lodger in the house that night.

Thomas P. Haslam said that on Friday morning about half -past 9 o'clock deceased came to the Town Hall and said the postman had told him that he (witness) wanted a man to work ; engaged the man there and then, and told him to come to work on Saturday ; he said he had an attack of dysentery, and wanted to wash his clothes, would therefore prefer waiting till Monday ; witness agreed, and deceased said he had been, splitting billet wood for the railway ; did not ask him his name ; believed him to be a Scotchman.

Doctor Armstrong said he had examined the body of deceased and found a deep incision on the left side of the neck of about 6 inches long ; the jugular vein was completely severed, and death was the result of hemorrhage ; deceased did not appear to be disturbed from the time of his death till he (witness) saw him ; helped to strip him, and found no marks of violence on other parts of his body ; there was nothing that would lead to his identification ; believed from the state of the body deceased had been drinking heavily of late, and had committed the act of suicide through depression of mind, not having the means to procure more stimulants.

 **Place:** Toowoomba

 **Description:** The Darling Downs Gazette and General Advertiser--Saturday 14-5-1870.