

**Sad Drowning Fatality.**

Opening of the shooting season for ducks was yesterday marred by a sad drowning fatality which occurred at the Waranga Basin. The unfortunate victim was Mr John Ayers, of Rushworth.

From particulars to hand it would appear that deceased, who was unable to swim, had been shooting along the edge of the Basin. About eleven o'clock in the morning he shot a duck in the vicinity of what is known as "The Saltwater," and proceeded to wade in for his game. He

secured the duck and, according to his son, a lad about fourteen years of age, was in the act of turning round to come out again when he threw up his arms and sank. He rose to the surface three times and then sank to rise no more.

The spot where Ayers was drowned is one of the nearest points of the Basin to the town—about three miles—and the lad conveyed the information to the police, who repaired to the scene in the endeavour to recover the body.

Deceased, who was a quiet, inoffensive man, was the eldest son of the late Ambrose Ayers; and was about fifty years of age. He was a married man and leaves a family of eight children, the youngest but an infant.

Genuine feelings of sympathy were expressed for Mrs Ayers and the children in their sad trouble.

The police and others at once set about recovering the body, and they were successful in their efforts, the body being brought in to the police station about five o'clock. It was found that Ayers had stepped into a hole and had he been able to swim even a yard or so he never would have lost his life in the shallow water surrounding.

The funeral will leave his late residence on Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock.

**THE DROWNING FATALITY.**

A magisterial inquiry, touching the death of Mr John Ayers, drowned at Lake Waranga on the 1st February, was conducted by Mr Thos. Crothers, J.P., at the Court House, Rushworth, on Friday morning last. A finding was returned of accidentally drowned.

The remains of the unfortunate victim were interred in the local cemetery on Saturday afternoon, a large number of sympathisers being in attendance.

Deceased, who was a prominent member of the local branch of the Forester's Lodge, was accorded a lodge funeral and there was a large attendance of members. Bro. E. Hawking, Chief Ranger, conducted the lodge service.

The Rev. Walker (Methodist Church) officiated at the grave and Mr Anderson had charge of the mortuary arrangements.

