

MAGISTERIAL INQUIRY.

A magisterial inquiry was held at the Rushworth Police Court on Monday last, before Mr J. H. Roberts, J.P., to ascertain the cause of death of John Lohse, who was found dead in his bed, near Chinaman's Flat, Rushworth, on the previous day.

John Short deposed that he was a miner, residing at Rushworth. On Saturday last he was in company with the deceased, cutting firewood. Deceased was in good spirits and wheeled in a barrow load, but said it had been too much for him. He said he was short of wind. Witness cut him what he required, and took it to the hut. Deceased in conversation said he thought he was getting round, and would soon be all right again. He had a cold, and often had a fit of coughing. Deceased was a Dane, and about 56 years of age. He came to the colony about 1852 or 1853. Had seen the body lying at the lock-up this morning; it is the body of J. Lohse.

Albert Haenisch deposed that he was a laborer, residing at Rushworth. On Sunday morning, between 11 and 12 o'clock, he went to the deceased's hut with some provisions. The door was shut, but the key was in the lock. Witness placed the parcel in a shed adjoining, and went and opened the door to see the time. He could not open it at first, but succeeded at last. He then saw the deceased in a crouching position, with his head towards his feet, but not visible. Called out, "John," but did not receive any answer. Then felt deceased, and found he was stiff and cold. Gave information to the police, through Mr Short. Deceased was born at Copenhagen, and was a sailor. He has been grieving for a long time past.

J. V. Heily deposed that he was a legally qualified medical practitioner, residing in Rushworth. He had that morning made a *post mortem* examination on the body of John Lohse. The cause of death was sero-sanguineous apoplexy. The deceased was about three weeks ago suffering from bronchitis, but had apparently recovered. Lohse told him he was between 62 and 63 years of age, and was suffering from depression of spirits caused by mining losses.

William Greenaway deposed that he was a mounted constable, residing at Rushworth. About 1 o'clock p.m. on Sunday last, Mr John Short reported to him that the deceased was lying dead in his hut. Proceeded to the spot, and found him sitting on the bed quite dead. His body was in a sitting posture; his head and hands almost touching his feet on the floor. Examined the body carefully, but found nothing to warrant the suspicion of foul play. Removed the body to the police station. Found 3s 1/2d in deceased's hut. There were also several other effects. The whole lot would be worth about £6.

A verdict was returned in accordance with the medical testimony, that death resulted from natural causes.

The remains of the late J. Lohse, who was found dead in his bed on Sunday last, were interred in the Rushworth cemetery on the following day. The funeral cortege was very largely attended, the deceased being greatly respected.