

Son of Mr McNamara

Rushworth Chronicle

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SHOCKING FATAL ACCIDENT.

A dreadful accident, having a fatal termination, occurred on Friday evening last to a boy, aged 10 years, a son of Mr McNamara, of Waranga.

The boy had been sent into a paddock on horseback, the horse being a notably quiet animal, and the father was considerably surprised some short time afterwards to perceive the horse galloping around the paddock riderless. He immediately went to see what had become of the boy, and first came across a boot which had been worn by his son, and next a broken stirrup leather. A few steps further he found the boy lying on the ground fearfully bruised, breathing, but unconscious, having apparently been dragged some 200 yards or more.

The little sufferer was as speedily as possible brought to Dr Heard, at Rushworth, but all hopes of saving him had to be abandoned when the extent of his injuries was ascertained.

He was removed to the Criterion Hotel, where he lingered in convulsions till 2 o'clock on Saturday morning, when he expired. The body presented a shocking spectacle, the right side of the head was smashed to a pulp, the left arm was broken, while the whole of the back from the head to the heels was bruised and abraded, and the feet were distended as if both had been caught in the stirrups, and the sinews had been literally dragged from position.

The immediate cause of death was fracture of the base of the skull. As stated, one of the stirrup leathers was broken, and as this was of new material the unfortunate lad must have struck a tree or stump with considerable force to break it.

When the father first observed the horse galloping away the saddle was on the animal's neck.

The funeral took place on Sunday, and a large number of friends showed their sympathy with the parents in their bereavement by taking part in the procession.