

Mr W. J. Mason

Murchison Advertiser

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Quite a shock was experienced throughout Rushworth and district on Friday last when it became known that Mr W. J. Mason, of "Paringa Vale," had passed away about mid-day. The shock was all the greater from the fact that, although Mr Mason had not enjoyed the best of health for some years past, he did not appear too unwell and was seen driving around the town on the previous Wednesday afternoon. In fact, he had arranged to go to Seymour with others on the Thursday, but did not undertake the trip because he felt somewhat unfit. It appears that he got up on Friday morning, had breakfast, and then sat alongside the fire in a chair to read.

Towards mid-day Mrs Mason, who happened to be outside for a few minutes, heard him call out, and on investigating found that he had been overcome by a seizure or fit. Medical aid was sent for and in the meantime he was made as comfortable as possible. He, however, rapidly sank and died before his medical adviser arrived, the cause of death being Bright's disease of the kidneys.

Deceased, who was 52 years of age, was a son of the late J. W. Mason, M.L.A., and for many years carried on the butchery business in High street, Rushworth, which his father had established and carried on for so long before him. On leasing the business to Mr W. Lambden, he settled on his late father's farm property at Moora, known as "Paringa Vale," and, in conjunction with his brothers, carried on the estate to the time of his death.

He was of a very kind disposition, was held in the highest respect by all, and had attained a degree of popularity which falls to the lot of few men. Although deceased never entered public life in any capacity he took a great interest in matters affecting the town and district, and he was, therefore, widely known, consequently there was a large attendance of residents from all parts of the district at his funeral on Sunday afternoon.

The funeral procession was a lengthy one, and it was headed by the band, of which he had always been a good supporter. Then followed the members of the local Oddfellows Lodge, of which he was one of the oldest members. The service at the graveside was conducted by the Rev. Howell (Tatura), while the lodge service was read by Mr E. A. Muhlhan. Deceased leaves a wife and one son to mourn his death, and to these the sympathy of his many friends is tendered.

Footnote: "driving around town" was by horse and buggy or gig.