

PERSEVERANCE FATALITY.

DEATH OF MATTHEW TURN- BULL.

The coroner (Mr. W. A. G. Walter, R.M.) and a jury consisting of Messrs. H. G. Alder (foreman), Thos. McKenna, and William Hugo, held an inquest yesterday into the cause of the death of Matthew Thomas Turnbull, who was fatally injured on the Perseverance mine on November 4.

Sergeant Goodridge conducted the inquiry. Mr. Randall represented the mine, Mr. Mayhall appeared for the Filterpress Union, of which the deceased was a member, and the Inspector of Machinery, Mr. Prym Jones, represented the Mines Department.

Alfred Williams, bracedman, deposed that at 8.20 a.m. on November 4, he passed the cracker to get a shovel, and as he returned at about 8.25 he saw the deceased under the wheel. He assisted to get him out, and he was then sent to the hospital. Deceased was employed on the cracker. Next day witness identified his body at the morgue. To the Coroner: The crusher was stopped within two minutes of the time I first saw deceased under the wheel.

Dr. Cameron gave medical evidence. The post mortem examination revealed severe laceration of the brain, and fracture of the skull. There were bruises and lacerations on the body.

Herbert Arthur Nankivell, oiler on the Perseverance, deposed that he was talking to deceased at 8.15. He did not see him again till after the accident. The deceased was a careful, steady man.

Henry Temple Harris, mill foreman, deposed that deceased was in charge of the Hadfield crusher on

man, deceased, who deceased was in charge of the Hadfield crusher on November 4. He saw deceased at about 8.5 a.m., and about 8.25 he heard of the accident. He saw deceased lying between the fly-wheel and the frame of the crusher. He was then unconscious. It was deceased's duty to attend to the lubricators. He had been employed about the crusher for four years. He was a capable, temperate man. It was entirely a matter of surmise how the accident occurred. Probably deceased was attending to the grease cups, and overbalanced and slipped under the crusher wheel.

To the Coroner: I have known the platform round the cracker to get wet. It would then no doubt get slippery.

To the Jury: Deceased would not have any occasion to put his hand near the wheel of the crusher.

The jury returned a verdict of accidental death, no blame being attributable to anyone.