

ACCIDENTS IN ALLUVIAL CLAIMS.

Fatal Accidents.

11/9/1900.—William McWhirter, age seventy, Whitechapel Flat, Arrowtown. Deceased worked alone in his claim, and was found under a large stone, which, it appears, he was in the act of removing when it fell striking him on the back of the head. Verdict: Accidental death.

18/10/1900.—William Williams, sixty-three years of age, Cambrian's, was working in an old tunnel removing some washdirt when a fall of earth took place and buried him. Coroner's jury brought in a verdict of "Accidental death."

7/11/1900.—Skipper's Sluicing Company, Londonderry Claim, Skipper's Point. The tunnel tail-race being blocked, three men named James Scott (the manager), Martin Tobin, and William Low were busy removing the obstruction, when the whole mass of tailings and dead-water standing in the paddock broke away, overwhelming the three men, who were carried along the tunnel and smothered in a mass of tailings and water on the dump on the bank of the Shotover River. The Coroner's jury brought in a verdict "that there was personal recklessness by all concerned, and that the manager did not take sufficient care to protect the lives of the men."

4/12/1900.—Thomas Lister, Arrow River. Caught by a large fall of earth from the face and smothered while working alone in his claim.

Non-fatal Accidents.

23/9/1900.—John Arkell, aged sixty-five, Lowburn. A small fall of gravel from the face struck Arkell on the leg, causing fracture above the knee. Arkell was taken to the Cromwell Hospital, where he died about a fortnight later, death being caused by an attack of pneumonia. An inquest was not deemed necessary.