

An inquest was held on the 8th ultimo, at Leeston, by W. B. C. Christy, Esq., Coroner, on the body of John Webb, aged 29 years, supposed to have met with his death by drowning while attempting to cross the River Rakaia on the 7th February last, in company with a man named William Willis. Verdict—Found dead in the bed of the Rakaia river.

An inquest was held at Christchurch, on the 17th ultimo, by J. W. S. Coward, Esq., Coroner, on the body of Joseph Stewart, aged 35, an inmate of the Sunnyside Lunatic Asylum, who died on the day previous from excessive weakness and exhaustion. Verdict—Died from natural causes.

An inquest was held at Kaiapoi, on the 18th ultimo by Charles Dudley, Esq., Coroner, on the body of Edith Alice Spillard, aged two years, who died on the day previous through injuries received from drinking boiling tea from the spout of a teapot. Verdict—Accidentally burned.

An inquest was held at Christchurch, on the 29th ultimo, by J. W. S. Coward, Esq., Coroner, on the body of Charles Mermier, an inmate of the Sunnyside Lunatic Asylum, who died there on the day previous from disease of the brain. Verdict—Died from natural causes.

Missing Friends.

Extract from *South Australian Police Gazette*, June 1, 1870, page 87.

WILLIAM HODGE, aged 23, about 5 ft. 5in. high, native of Mabe, Cornwall, England; left Port Adelaide in August, 1868, by the Alexandria, for the Queensland Diggings. He may have gone from thence to New Zealand.

THE body of John Webb, "Missing Friend," described in *The Canterbury Police Gazette*, of March 1, 1870, page 10, has been found. See "Inquests" of present issue.

Miscellaneous Information.

RETURN OF APPOINTMENTS, &c., SINCE THE PUBLICATION OF THE LAST LIST.

APPOINTMENT.

John Armfield to be Third Class Constable.

DISMISSAL.

Second-Class Constable Robert Thompson.

RESIGNATION.

Third-Class Constable Andrew Veitch.

RICHARD W. M. S. MANT is charged with having, on the 22nd ult., fraudulently obtained from Ann Bracefield the sum of nine shillings and sixpence, on the

strength of a request to that effect in a letter which he presented, stating that it was from the brother of he prosecuted. Description—English, age 21, height 5ft 6in., stout build, red face, dark hair, smooth face, large mouth, a slight impediment in his speech, a great talker; dressed in brown sac coat, dark tweed trousers and vest, cloth cap, with French peak; well educated, and fond of writing. [See "Discharges," *Canterbury Police Gazette*, Nov. 1, 1869, p 44.] Several other charges, including one of forgery and uttering, are complete against this offender. Warrant filed in Commissioner's office.

F. LOTTMAN and WILLIAM SHOESMITH, Seamen, are charged with deserting, on the evening of the 21st ult., from the ship *Jessie Redman*, while lying in Lyttelton harbour; Captain Strahan, master. Description—first Man: a Dane, 27 years of age, 5ft high, oval features, fair complexion and hair, light whiskers and moustache, wore white duck jumper and long boots, worn inside trousers. Second Man: aged 26 years, 4ft. 6in. high, dark complexion, dark whiskers and moustache, blue trousers and blue serge shirt. These men were on shore with the captain at the time of the desertion. Direction taken not known. Warrant in Commissioner's office.

MARTIN CAMPBELL, a sawyer, living at Waimate, described below, is suspected of maliciously shooting at and wounding a cow, the property of Studholme, Bros., of Waimate, on the morning of the 21st ult. The cow, which was in the habit of straying on to Campbell's section, was said by him to have been in his garden on the morning referred to. A shot was heard in that direction, and the beast found wounded in the eye, head, and shoulder. Description—Scotch, 40 years of age, 6ft. high, medium build, sharp features, long nose, grey eyes, sandy hair, thin whiskers, beard, and moustache. The suspected man appeared on summons at the Resident Magistrate's Court, Waimate, when the case was dismissed for want of evidence.

ON the night of the 8th ultimo, some person or persons unknown maliciously cut a hawser, the property of Captain Henry Cain, of Timaru. The hawser had been passed from the bows of the wreck of the brig *Lazard*, on shore at Timaru, to a rock on the beach, for the purpose of securing the vessel from the surf. In the morning the hawser was found cut where it was made fast to the rock.

J. W. FREEMAN [see *Canterbury Police Gazette* of 1st June, 1870, No. VI., p. 22—"Stolen,"] has been committed for trial by the Waimate Bench, charged with having stolen from the hut of Geddes the property described.

GEORGE LEGG [see "Miscellaneous," in *Canterbury Police Gazette*, June 1, 1870, No. VI., p. 22] has been arrested by the Otago Police. [See "Apprehensions,"]

R. W. M. S. MANT has been arrested by Mounted Constable Walsh, Christchurch Police, at the Ashburton.