

An inquest touching the death of Edwin Alfred Liddle, aged 37, who was found dead in Charles street yesterday morning with a revolver at his side, was held at the River View Hotel this afternoon before Mr E. Whitfield (coroner) and a jury of seven, of which Mr John Gunn was foreman. The first witness called was Dr. Lewis S. Holmes, who deposed that he was called in by the police about 10 a.m. to-day to see the body of deceased. He found blood had been running from the mouth and nostrils, and there was blood on the moustache and whiskers. *Rigor mortis* had set in. Witness subsequently made a *post mortem* examination, and on removing the scalp found a large clot of blood between the scalp and skull. The bone of the skull was splintered, and he removed the splinters exposing a passage a quarter of an inch in diameter. He searched and found a small conical bullet, and further probing showed the passage ended at the roof of the mouth, a quarter of an inch behind

the upper part of the teeth. He should say the bullet had entered at the roof of the mouth, and must have been done by deceased himself. Death resulted from injury to the brain caused by a bullet. John Scott deposed that he identified the body of deceased as that of his son-in-law, E. A. Liddle. He last saw deceased 10 days ago. For the past two years deceased had been suffering from incipient paralysis, and had been under treatment by Dr. Becey, of Melbourne. His age was 37, a native of Victoria, and was a lawyer's clerk. For some days deceased had been in low spirits, and complained of a pain in the head. Deceased was not in want from a pecuniary sense. Frank Hart, ironmonger, deposed that he saw deceased between 5 and 6 p.m. yesterday, when he went into witness' shop and asked for a revolver he had selected in the morning. Witness gave him the revolver and a box of cartridges. The weapon produced is the same that he purchased. Deceased paid for the articles with two sovereigns.

receiving 16s change. Witness had never seen deceased before, and while in the shop said he came from Hunter's River, and asked if the revolver would kill at 20yds. There was nothing strange in the manner or behavior of Little, who was sober at the time; had he not been he would not have served him. Charles Day deposed that he kept a fancy shop in Brisbane street. He saw deceased about 6.30 p.m. yesterday evening in his shop; he came in saying he wanted to buy some toys for his children, and he bought two, paying 11s. He said he was nearly blind, and he also gave instructions for the toys to be sent out. He asked for pen, ink, and paper, saying he must write a note, but did not think he could as he was nearly paralysed. He wrote a letter and gave it to witness to despatch for him with the toys. His manner was very peculiar, and was very particular about the time, and when witness told him, he wrote at the bottom of the note "6.30, 5/3/89; farewell." Deceased was quite

sober. Sarah Jane Hughes deposed that she resided in Charles street, near Deardon's timber yard. Between 7 and 9 o'clock yesterday evening she was sitting in the back part of her house when she heard a noise resembling that of a bottle bursting. She knew where the body was found, and her window would be about 50yds from it. Thomas Bute, a drayman, gave evidence to the effect that he was employed by Mr Deardon, and about 7 30 this m rning when he went to work, saw the body of deceased against some timber in the far end of the yard, and sent information to the police. Sub-inspector Green deposed that he went to the yard in question, in consequence of a report made to him, and found the body of deceased, which was lying at the end of a pile of timber, 25yd from Charles street, the body being well over on the left side with the face nearly touching the ground, blood coming from the lips and nostrils, whilst there was a pool by his side. He found the revolver and



cartridges produced by his side, and on the body found two letters one addressed to the Hon. John Scott, and the other to Thomas Griffiths, Tamar Brewery, on the envelope being the words "Take this at once." Between the two letters he found half a sheet of note paper with the following words.—"I am, or was, Edwin Alfred Liddle, if dead take my body to the morgue," with the date and time. He found 2s 9d in silver, knife, pipe, tobacco pouch, and handkerchief. Witness had the body removed to the morgue. This concluded the evidence, and the Coroner having summed up, the jury returned a verdict of suicide whilst in a fit of temporary insanity.