

Death of Mr Cecil Colless

The terribly sad and tragical fatality by which Mr Cecil Edwin Colless (lately appointment clerk in the Staff Office, Railways, Sydney) lost his life at Liverpool Railway Station on Wednesday night of last week—the deceased having been run over, presumably, while crossing the line—has removed from our earthly sphere, in the flower of his early manhood, one of the most popular and trusted of the clerical staff of the State Railway Department, and who had deservedly gained the esteem and confidence of his colleagues, and of a large circle of the general public.

The lamentable accident by which the late Mr Colless met his death can only be regarded as one of those inexplicable occurrences which from time to time transpire in the most unexpected situations; perhaps the most tangible explanation of the sad event is that the deceased, who was residing at Liverpool with his parents (his father being Stationmaster there), was returning home from Sydney—as he had been working overtime on special official business recently—and was in the act of crossing the rails to reach his home on the eastern side of the line when struck down unexpectedly by the mail train.

Naturally, the shocking news of the young man's tragical death prostrated the parents of deceased, and cast a gloom over Penrith, where deceased was well known, having been a native of Castlereagh—with which district, Emu and Penrith, his parents and relatives have been connected for many years. The late Mr Cecil Colless, who was in his 29th year, received his early schooling at Kingswood and Penrith Public Schools, and later at the Sydney High School. On leaving school he joined the clerical staff in the District Superintendent's Office at Penrith. His marked ability gained him rapid promotion, and he filled various responsible positions in the service, until he attained the office of appointment clerk in the Staff Office. In this capacity the deceased carried out his important duties with the utmost credit and fidelity, to the entire satisfaction and benefit of the Department, while at

benefit of the Department, while at the same time he avoided the imposition of harshness or hardship upon employees, and was always ready to assist his fellows with a kindness all his own. In fact, "Cess" Colless, was, admittedly, on the testimony of scores of acquaintances, one of the very best and whitest of officials and associates; innately obliging and considerate.

The late Mr Colless was a member of the Masonic Craft, being attached to Lodges St Andrews, Sydney, and Queen's, St Marys.

At the inquest into the sad circumstances the Coroner found that deceased was accidentally killed by being run over by a train on the night mentioned above.

There was a very large attendance at the funeral at Liverpool on Friday afternoon of last week. Prior to leaving the house, a short service was held by the Rev Ralph Hunter. The coffin (of polished oak and silver mountings) was carried to the hearse by brethren of Lodge St Andrew's. The cortege was headed by the band of the 17th Infantry (supplied by the Camp Commandant, Col Humphreys), which played the "Dead March in Saul," etc. The body was taken into St Luke's Church of England, where the Rev H J Noble also conducted a service; the last rites at the graveside being carried out by Revs H J Noble and George Brown (late of Penrith), an acquaintanceship of deceased from infancy. Wor Bro W J H Wrench (of Queen's Lodge, St. Marys) conducted the Masonic service. A large number of Masonic brethren attended from St. Marys, Penrith, and St Andrew's (Sydney).

In addition to members of deceased's own family, a large number of relatives also attended the funeral. The railway service was well represented, amongst the principal officers present being—Mr P Smith (District Superintendent of Railways, Sydney), Inspectors J Anderson, Dowling, Pearce, Dacey and Johnson; Mr C J Giles (Goods Managers' Inspector); Mr G H Chambers (Staff Clerk, District Superintendent's Office); Mr S B Stainton (Coaching Stock Inspector). The Mayor of Liverpool (Ald F W Webster) and several aldermen also attended; as well as Mr J C Hunt, Member for the District.

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Over sixty beautiful wreaths were received, including the following:—
From the brethren of Lodge Liverpool, Army Service Corps, Military Provost Staff, Goods Manager's Office (Challis House), Clerical Staff Coaching Stock Department, Railway Advertising and Printing Staff, Officers and Staff State Hospital (Liverpool), Lodge Federation (Campbelltown), Liverpool Post Office Staff.

Over 300 telegrams, letters and cards of sympathy have been received by the parents of deceased, each testifying to the high esteem in which the late Mr Colless was held.
