

FATAL ACCIDENT AT ORFORD.—Intelligence was received by the police late on Friday evening last that an accident had occurred near Orford, in which a man named Michael Lane, of the Tower Hill district, had been killed by a tree falling upon him, and on Saturday morning Mounted-Constable Shoebridge proceeded to the scene of the occurrence, which was a paddock of Mr Edmund Crowe's. It appears that Lane had breakfast with Mr Crowe last Tuesday morning, after which he left, presumably to go to his work in the paddock of clearing it of tussocks, tree, scrub, &c. He did not return in the evening, but his absence did not occasion much anxiety, owing to his ordinary eccentric character, and it was thought he had gone away for a while. Mr Crowe, however, subsequently came across the pickaxe which had been used by deceased in clearing the scrub, and, as this was rusty, he commenced making enquiries as to the whereabouts of Lane, but nothing could be heard of him. On Friday last Mr Crowe was showing a wood-carter out of the paddock, when the body of Lane was discovered, lying face downwards amongst some tussocks, about 200 yards from the creek and half-a-mile from the house. A large limb of a tree was beside the remains, and overhead, a gum tree, about forty feet up, showed where a branch had been broken off, about nine feet in length, and the conclusion arrived at was that Lane was passing under this tree during the heavy storm of Tuesday morning, when the branch was blown down upon his head, which was completely crushed in. Death must have been instantaneous, as the body fell forward, and the flow of blood kept the same course, showing that no movement had taken place after the accident, the man's right hand being still in his pocket when discovered. The body was brought by Constable Shoebridge to Port Fairy, and taken to Keating's Hotel, where it was inspected by Dr Penny, who certified to the cause of death. Particulars were wired to the coroner for the district (Mr G. D. McCormick, P.M.), who replied that an inquest was unnecessary. Mr W. Earle, J.P., gave the order for burial, and the funeral took place on Sunday afternoon, quite a large number of persons following the remains to the Tower Hill cemetery.