BIRD, Charles Branston 23 February 1920

Designation	Accident Location	Accident Due to
Chief Clerk	Perth	Goods lift accident

Charles "Charlie" Bird was 69 years of age when he was fatally injured in a goods lift at Perth Central Railway Station. Charles was a husband, father and grandfather. He lived in Perth and is interred at Karrakatta Cemetery (Wesleyan/DC/0060).

OBITUARY
THE LATE C. B. BIRD
Mr. Charles Branston Bird was born in 1850, and was the son of Mrs. C. Bird, the founder of McCarron, Bird and Co., the large firm of publishers. Married in 1872 Miss Emma Futcher, and had as issue Mrs. Lay (Victoria), Mrs. Wilde (Applecross, W.A.), Claude (farmer in Victoria), and Jack (adjuster Interlocking branch of the W.A.G.R.. at Merredin). He was for many years connected with McCarron, Bird and Co., being at one time their manager in London, and as such did well for the firm. Joined the W.A.G.R, in a humble capacity at the Midland Workshops in 1898, and after three years' service went to South Africa and joined his son Jack, who fought with distinction through the Boer War. Then went to England and resumed commercial activities, and from thence came to W.A again in 1911 and joined the Interlocking branch of the service. From then until the time of his death was a keen, conscientious worker in a clerical capacity, and performed his duties in the most. exemplary manner, his courteous manner and personality endearing him to all with whom he came in contact. The possessor of two fortunes, bon viveur raconteur, sport, the late Charley Bird will be long remembered. As one time the possessor of a beautiful tenor voice almost rivalling Henry Bracy in "When Other Lips," "Sparkling Eyes" and such favorites. Probably no man has ever been more esteemed in the service, and his tragic death has cast a gloom over the department.

Source: *Trove/Sunday Times (Perth) Sunday 29 February 1920 Page 10.*

Author's Note.
Charles "Charlie" Bird was 69 years of age when he was fatally injured in a goods lift at Perth Central Railway Station. The lift, which was used to move luggage and other heavy items to the island platform, was loaded with timber boards when Charles entered it intending to ride it up to the bridge across the tracks. He straddled the timber and after the lift had risen some eight feet or so one of the boards caught in the mechanism of the lift and flipped up, striking Charles between the legs and inflicting, what proved to be, fatal injuries. A coronial inquiry was held and Charles' death was found to be accidental.

By all accounts Charles was well known and respected as a member of the WAGR workforce and of his community.

Charles lived in Perth and is interred at Karrakatta Cemetery (Wesleyan/DC/0060).
MM June 2016.