LAWLESS, John 10 August 1894

Designation	Accident Location	Accident Due to
Per Way Inspector	Mullewa	PW Trolley / Train Collision

John Lawless died 30 minutes after his tricycle was hit by Neil McNeil & Co's ballast train on the Mullewa Line. The coroner found that his death was accidental, but that the train crew were incautious in their approach to the ballast pit. Alexander Baker, the driver, and Andrew Lange, the guard were charged with murder. The charges were dismissed by a magistrate at Geraldton Court.

NEWS FROM GERALDTON.
THE FATAL ACCIDENT TO MR. JOHN LAWLESS.
Geraldton, August 15.
The inquest on the body of the late Mr. J. Lawless was concluded yesterday. The jury found that the deceased was killed by Neil McNeil Co.'s ballast train, and that more caution could have been shown by the by the driver and guard of the train.

Source: *Trove/The Enquirer & Commercial News (Perth) Friday 17 August 1894 Page 6.*

At the Geraldton Police Court this morning, Andrew (sic) Baker and Andrew Lang, Mr. McNeil's engine driver and guard respectively, were charged with the manslaughter of John Lawless, by running the train over him. Several witnesses were examined, with the result that the information was dismissed. Counsel for the accused wished the Magistrate to state, that they left the court without a stain on their character, but in view of the discrepancy between the evidence at the hearing and the Coronial enquiry, he refused to do so.

Source: *Trove/The Enquirer & Commercial News (Perth) Friday 14 December 1894 Page 4*

ALEXANDER BAKER and another man named Lange have, states the Murchison Times, been arrested by Sergeant Evans, charged with the murder of Mr. John Lawless, Government Inspector of Railways. On the 1Oth August while riding a tricycle on the Mullewa Railway Line, Lawless was run into by a ballast train. He was frightfully mangled, and lived only about half an hour after the accident, never regaining conciuosness. At the inquest held at Geraldton, a verdict of accidental death was returned. The police have since had reason to suspect that the affair was not an accident, and hence the arrest of the two men who were in charge of the train. The m n v. ere brought before the Police Court at Cue and remanded to Geraldton.

Source: *Trove/The West Australian (Perth) Saturday 24 November 1894 Page 5.*