LIGHTFOOT, John 15 June 1937

Designation	Accident Location	Accident Due to
Length Runner	Cottesloe	Struck by a passing train

John "Jock" Lightfoot was 45 years of age when he was struck by a train, while trying to remove his tricycle from the track, and died instantly. John lived at Claremont with his wife, sons James and Albert and daughter Dorothy. John was well respected in his community and work place, a large crowd attended his funeral when he was interred at Karrakatta Cemetery (ANGLICAN/LE/0863).

LENGTH RUNNER'S DEATH.
Acting-Coroner's Comment.
"In my opinion the driver and fireman should have been able to see the obstruction on the line," said the Acting Coroner (Mr. W. Christie, J.P.) at the conclusion of an inquest at the Perth Courthouse yesterday into the death of John Lightfoot (45), a railway length runner, who was killed when a train crashed into his tricycle near the Napier Street crossing on June 15. The Acting Coroner found that Lightfoot died from injuries received when he was struck by a tricycle thrown off the line by the engine of a train. The assistant secretary of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Employees (Mr. C. A. Gough) appeared for the widow, and Inspector De Garis for the Railway Department, Sergeant Spry examined the witnesses.

Dr. Alan R. Bean, district medical officer at Fremantle, said that he conducted a post-mortem examination of Lightfoot's body on June 15. Death was due to compound fracture of the skull and laceration of the brain.

Andrew Knox, repairer, said that about 8.50 am. on June 15 he was working with his mates about two chains south of the Napier-street crossing, Lightfoot approached riding his tricycle from the direction of Fremantle, left it on the line opposite where they were working, and spoke to the ganger. He heard the ganger shout and the whistle of a train at the same moment. He saw Lightfoot struggling to pull the tricycle off the line. The train, which was travelling towards Fremantle, struck the tricycle and the tricycle struck Lightfoot, throwing him three or four feet away. The train pulled up in about its own length. There was nothing to obstruct the driver's view from Eric Street bridge to the scene of the accident.

To Mr. Gough: Lightfoot's action in derailing one wheel of his tricycle when he left it for a minute was consistent with the usual practice.

To Inspector De Garis: Lightfoot could have seen the train 200 yards away. Alfred Boyland, the ganger, said that when Lightfoot had been speaking for two or three minutes, he suddenly broke off in the middle of a sentence. Witness looked up and saw the train. At a hasty glance he estimated that the train was 100 yards away. Lightfoot ran towards the tricycle and witness shouted "For Christ's sake, Jock, let the bloody trike go!" From where he was standing he could not see the actual impact. As a general rule the train's whistle was blown about 500 yards back from the crossing.

To Inspector De Garis: It would be possible for the fence at the side of the cattle pits at the crossing to have obstructed the driver's view.

Charles Alan Muckton, the guard of the train which left Perth at 8.30 am. for Fremantle, said that the engine whistled about 300 yards from the Napier Street crossing. He saw a man run from the gang across to the line. The engine was then about 100 yards from this man Charles Hayes, the fireman, said that he sounded the whistle 200 to 300 yards before reaching the Napier-street crossing. The

engine was running bunker first, and the curve in the line was sufficient to interfere with the view of the line ahead of the crossing. He felt the engine strike something, and the engine driver called out that it had struck a tricycle and pulled up the train. He did not see anyone run across to the line. His attention was on a car which crossed at the crossing about 100 yards ahead of the train.

Ralph Galsworthy, driver of the train, said that the line curved from Napier Street crossing to Cottesloe station. As the train approached the crossing a motor car crossed about 100 yards ahead. After passing the crossing, the engine struck an object. He saw a man and a tricycle roll from in front of the engine on his side. The view of a small object such as the tricycle might be obstructed by the post and rail fence round the cattle pits. The view immediately in front of the engine was obstructed by the bunker filled with coal.

Source: *Trove/The West Australian (Perth) Saturday 14 August 1937 Page 9.*

FUNERAL

The Late Mr. J. Lightfoot

Mr. John Lightfoot, familiarly known to his friends as "Jock," of Whidby, 14 Barnfield Road, Claremont and of the Way and Works Branch, W.A. Government Railways, Claremont, died on Tuesday morning as a result of an accident, and the funeral took place yesterday afternoon, when the remains were interred in the Church of England portion of the Karrakatta Cemetery. The rector of Christ Church, Claremont (the Rev. John Bell) conducted the service at the graveside, assisted by the Rev. R. Thomas.

Mr. Lightfoot was born at Cumberland, England, and came to this state 28 years ago. He was connected with the constructional branch of the Public Works Department in various parts of the state for about 13 years, and in 1922 joined the service of the Way and Works Branch of the W.A. Government Railways at Wagin. At the time of his death he was connected with that branch at Claremont. Mr. Lightfoot was of quiet disposition and highly respected by all who knew him, and was devoted to his home and family.

The chief mourners were Mrs. Lightfoot, wife; James and Albert, sons; Dorothy, daughter; Mr A. J. Rodoreda, M.L.A., brother-in-law; and Mesdames A. J. Rodoreda and R. J. Cousins, sisters-in-law. The pall bearers were Messrs. C. K. Gough, assistant general secretary, and S. Kramer, Fremantle branch (W. A. Amalgamated Society of Railway Employees), R. Kenny, inspector, Dist. Engineers' Branch, J. Bosser, H. McGregor, J. J. Curtis, S. Gillam and V. A. B. Huckstep (Way and Works Branch, W.A.G.R.). The coffin was borne to the grave by members of the No. 2 Gang, Permanent Way, Claremont, comprising Messrs. T. J. Cole, G. T Carroll, A. Knox, A. Cocking, A. Meyer and J. E. Crowley.

Among those present were Messrs. R. G. Wood, A. and S. A. Ford, J. S. Kent, S. Pridmore, W. eacock, F. Higgins, F. Jeffrey, B. Balaam, W. J. McNamara, and M. Stockden, Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Prosser, Mesdames R. Keene, T. Jeffrey, P. E. Murdoch and J. A. Beckmann and Misses M. Samson, A. Jones and Fay Beckmann.

Numerous floral tributes were placed on the grave and widespread expressions of sympathy have been extended to the bereaved relatives.

The funeral arrangements were carried out by Arthur E. Davies and Company.

Source: *Trove/The West Australian (Perth) Thursday 17 June 1937 Page 15.*