McINTOSH, Alexander Neil 26 November 1896

Designation	Accident Location	Accident Due to
Carriage Cleaner	Perth	Fall from train

Alexander McIntosh, carriage cleaner, was 32 years of age when he fell under the wheels of a brake van as he tried to board a moving train. Alexander had been instructed to clean the van.

DEATH OF RAILWAY WORKER

Neil MacIntosh(sic.) (Alexander Neil McIntosh), a carriage cleaner, fell under a train in the Perth station yard yesterday morning, and died during the afternoon.

Source: *Trove/The West Australian (Perth) Friday 27 November 1896 Page 4.*

FATAL RAILWAY ACCIDENT.
VERDICT OF ACCIDENTAL DEATH.

At the City Courthouse yesterday afternoon, before the city coroner, Dr. Lovegrove, and a jury consisting of Messrs. D. J. Chipper (foreman), Edward Ingham, and C. Weaver, an inquiry was held into the circumstances attending the death of Alexander Neil McIntosh, which took place at the Perth Public Hospital on the previous evening, as the result of injuries sustained that, morning at the Central Railway Station. Inspector Campbell watched the proceedings on behalf of the Railway Department.

After the jury had viewed the body Inspector Campbell said that before going into the case he wished to express the deep regret felt by the Commissioner and the department at the sad accident by which deceased had lost his life and their sympathy with his widow and three unfortunate children.

James Levisey, stationmaster at Perth, said that on Monday last the deceased was sent to him as an extra man, but the intention bad been that he should be sent on to Narrogin in the capacity of night officer. Deceased bad just arrived from New South Wales, where he had been employed by the Railway Department of that colony for six, years at the Moss Vale station. Deceased was temporarily employed as a carriage-cleaner. As such it was no part of his duty to enter a moving train, and in fact railway servants were under a general order not to do so. **Deceased was 32 years old.**

To Inspector Campbell witness said that he had no doubt that the accident had resulted through deceased's own recklessness. Deceased being an experienced railway man, witness had not bothered to instruct him about not entering moving trains.

John Page, foreman carriage - cleaner, employed at the Perth railway station, deposed that on the morning of the 26th inst. he had instructed deceased to clean the brake - van of the 11.40 a.m. train. Deceased went to the van and caught hold of the rail. The train, which had been stationary, was now moving, and deceased kicked against the points. He was lifted off his feet and carried on to the next points, some 3ft., away where he fell between the van and a cattle wagon. He still retained hold of the rail, and seemed to be caught somehow by the wheels and drawn under. His whole body was drawn under, and, losing his hold of the rail, he seized an underneath rail, in a futile attempt to prevent his legs from getting across the line. The wheels of the cattle truck passed over his left thigh. At a signal from the shunter the engine was stopped, and deceased was taken from beneath the wagon and conveyed on a stretcher to the hospital, which he reached in a conscious condition. On the way he said to witness-" Jack, I have a wife and three children in Victoria. Don't break the news to her too suddenly. I have always done my work, Jack."

Witness knew that the rules were against boarding moving trains, but he knew of no penalty for so doing.

The coroner said that within the last ten days two or three men had been ruthlessly slaughtered on the railways, through their own carelessness, doubtless, but still no thought some penalty should be inflicted for breaches of the regulations, and thus make the men more careful.

Inspector Campbell said that he knew of men having frequently been punished for breaches of the regulations.

To the jury, witness Page said that the train was still when be gave deceased the order to clean it.

To a friend of deceased, through Inspector Campbell, witness said that the deceased was a willing worker, and anxiety to get the work done evidently caused him to enter the van without thought of the consequences. The van was wanted for the 11.40 a.m. train, and it was about 11.30 when the order was given.

Albert Hiddlestone, number-taker at the Perth railway station, gave corroborative testimony. To the jury, witness said that a whistle was blown before the train started. He did not consider it his duty to caution deceased not to enter the moving train, as it was done every day. Witness did not think it possible to work in a goods yard unless a man could jump on and off a moving train during the shunting operations. Witness could not say whether a man would be censured for not complying with an order in consequence of the train moving. Witness had frequently to board moving trains, and had never been censured. Witness to the Bench said that his wages were 6/3. per day for seven days per week. There were others under him receiving 5s. per day. Shunters and ticket takers' duties caused them to get off and on moving trains. The former received from 7s. to 10s. per day.

To Inspector Campbell, witness said that there was not always time to clean carriages when they were at a standstill.

Dr. Spencer, Resident Medical Officer at the Perth Hospital, said that deceased was taken to the hospital just before 12 o'clock on Thursday. He was in a state of collapse and was suffering great pain. Examination disclosed that the whole of the left leg from the groin to the foot was smashed and torn, and the bone was broken in several places. The right hand was also torn almost completely across. An effort was made to stimulate circulation unsuccessfully, and deceased died shortly after.

The cause of death was shock from the injuries received.

The jury found that deceased came by his death through being accidentally run over by a cattle truck.

Inspector Campbell said that he would see that the coroner's remarks in regard to the practice of getting on and off moving I trains should be reported to the proper quarter.

Source: *Trove/The West Australian (Perth) Saturday 28 November 1896 Page 6.*