

RETIRED FARMER FOUND HANGED AT ST. ALBANS.

Sister Makes Discovery.

Standing erect with his feet on the floor and his neck in a running knot of new rope, the other end of which had been fastened to an overhead rafter, Hugh Robertson, aged about 65 years, a retired farmer, stared from unresponsive eyes when his sister, Miss Mary Robertson, who had kept house for him, opened the door of the garage at his home, Victoria crescent, St. Albans, on Thursday morning, about 7.15 o'clock.

The appalling sight so unnerved Miss Robertson that she fled to Deer Park, where she apprised Mr. James Burnside, her brother-in-law, of the tragedy. From that centre the Sunshine police station was informed and Dr. John Adamson and Mounted-Constable Harold Shields left at once for St. Albans. Constable Shields released the body from its bonds. Dr. Adamson stated that life had been extinct for about two hours. In a pocket of the coat deceased wore was a bottle labelled "Poison," but only analysis will show the nature of the contents. The remains were afterwards removed to the morgue, where they were viewed by the coroner, Mr. Grant, P.M., who gave an order for burial.

Investigation disclosed that Robertson had slept in his bed during the night. Rising earlier than usual he walked in stocking feet past his sister's door to the garage. The rope had been adjusted whilst Robertson stood on a box, which was afterwards kicked away. A handkerchief had been placed round the neck under the rope.

Mr. Robertson was generally assumed to be in comfortable circumstances, and as far as can be learned never gave any indication of suicidal tendencies. He was a man of exemplary character, and an active supporter of the local Presbyterian

character, and an active supporter of the local Presbyterian Church, on the Board of Management of which he had a seat. He attended a board meeting on Tuesday evening and appeared to be in enjoyment of his usual health and spirits. Formerly a farmer at Kangaroo Ground, he came to St. Albans about six years ago.

He had never married, and several brothers and sisters, some of whom occupy good positions, live in other parts of the State.

An inquest will be held when the police have concluded their investigation.