

HYDRO WORKER KILLED

Accidental Death

A finding of accidental death by electrocution was recorded by the Coroner (Mr. F. N. Stops) at Launceston yesterday at an inquest on the death of Henry James George Saltmarsh (35) at Cormiston, West Tamar, on April 5, when an extension ladder he and a companion were using came into contact with a high-tension cable. The ladder, it was stated, was equipped with a reinforcing wire. Sergeant E. Wicks represented the police.

Dr. G. E. Clemons said that he considered Saltmarsh had been electrocuted.

Evidence of having been engaged with Saltmarsh trimming trees at Cormiston was given by Albert Thomas Bean, an employee of the Hydro-Electric Commission.

"After finishing one, we started to move the extension ladder," said witness. "Saltmarsh got behind it to hold it out while I released it. I saw the ladder coming quickly toward the wires. I made a push with my hand to knock it back, and when I did I received a shock. The next thing I knew, we were on the ground about 6ft. from the ladder."

Witness, who badly burnt a foot, stated that he did not see what happened to Saltmarsh. He thought the methods adopted were reasonably safe.

Alan Henry Jones, who was in charge of the gang at Cormiston, said that he heard Saltmarsh and Bean call out. He saw them fall away from the ladder. He attempted artificial respiration on Saltmarsh without success.