

Death of Joe Flick.

We are indebted to the Torres Straits Pilot for the following particulars :—

On Sunday, the 27th October, Constable Alfred Wavel and two troopers arrived at Lawn Hill station in close pursuit of Joe Flick, the escapee. Flick, who had previously shot the trooper's horse from under him, made for the dining room, which is detached from the main building, being at the time under fire from the troopers.

Wavel followed Flick to the dining room on foot, calling on him to surrender, when Flick appeared at the window and shot the constable dead, the unfortunate trooper being about fifteen yards distant when the fatal shot was fired. Only one man, named Bird, was on the station at the time; and he armed himself and communicated the intelligence to Messrs. Doyle and Waller, who were in the vicinity; the latter armed themselves and watched the hut to prevent Flick's escape. The murder was committed about noon. About sundown Mr. Frank Hann, the owner of the station, accompanied by O'Shea and a blackboy, returned to the station on hearing what had occurred. Hann went towards the dining room and called upon Flick to surrender, when Flick replied, "I won't come out, but will surrender if you will come up." Hann went to the window from which Wavel was shot, and where Flick was then standing. Hann, pointing to the corpse of Wavel, endeavoured to persuade Flick to surrender quietly, at the same time assuring him that he would be well treated if he did so. Flick requested Hann to come round to the door, saying he would give himself up. Hann went round to the door and opened it, when Flick immediately fired, the ball entering Hann's left breast, passing round and coming out beneath the arm about ten inches from where it entered. Flick followed up with a second shot, but Hann being in the act of falling escaped. Hann fired at Flick after being wounded, but missed him. He then crawled away

after being wounded, but missed him. He then crawled away from the dining room, ordering all hands to fire into the hut and shoot Flick if possible. Flick availed himself of a heavy deal table and form in the hut to form a barricade; this was watched all night, but a little after midnight a heavy storm occurred, and it became so dark that it was impossible to see ahead of one a yard. It is presumed that Flick escaped from the hut during the storm, for next morning the hut was entered and his escape discovered. Spots of blood were found on the floor, and some clothes were also found saturated with blood. All the station hands started on Flick's tracks under Hann's directions, the station blackboy leading on the track; they had gone about 300 yards from the station when the tracker was suddenly shot through the chest by Flick, who was lying in ambush and under cover of heavy timber and brush on the edge of Lawn Creek Hill. The blackboy was dying when O'Shea left to communicate the dreadful tidings with Burketown. Several shots were fired in the direction of Flick's ambush, but owing to the density of cover in which he was hidden it was uncertain whether any of the shots took effect.

Later news states that Flick was found dead on Tuesday morning; there were nine bullet wounds in his body, most of them in vital parts. Circumstances point to the conclusion that he was shot below the ribs while in the hut, the ball passing right through the body. Notwithstanding this he escaped

to the creek, where he received the other wounds which caused his death. His body was buried where it was found.