

A general wave of regret swept over the town and district when it became known that Mr Charles Baud, of the Balaclava hotel and store, Whroo, had passed away on Tuesday morning last.

The shock experienced was all the greater from the fact that his death was altogether unexpected. On Thursday last Mr Baud did not feel too well, and as a consequence remained in bed on Friday and Saturday. He got about again on Sunday but on Monday seemed very drowsy and heavy and kept to his bed.

His medical adviser (Dr Heily) had been in attendance upon him, but, despite his age (78 years), did not anticipate serious consequences. However, towards morning on Tuesday deceased grew very restless, eventually passing quietly away between five and six o'clock.

Deceased was a gentleman in every sense of the term, and his manly, straightforward principles gained for him a reputation enjoyed by few. He was known far and wide, and the commonly accepted opinion with regard to him was that he was "one of the whitest men living." [This term then referred to anyone unblemished in integrity in all his dealings.]

Born in Chertsey, London, England, he embarked for the colonies in 1847, and for some years after landing traded in horses, bringing mobs over from New South Wales and disposing of them in Melbourne.

He later went to the diggings, and was present at the opening of the Forest Creek rush, Castlemaine. He next went to Bendigo, Mclvor, Rushworth, and finally Whroo, taking part in the opening chapters connected with the mining industry at each place.

It is now 49 years since he arrived at Whroo and he has resided there ever since. Not long after his arrival at the latter place he opened the Balaclava hotel and store, an undertaking which proved a most profitable venture in the more palmy days, and a business which he carried on strictly honorable and upright lines to the day of his death.

As a publican his history is unique, and were all imbued with the same high principles in the fulfilling of their obligations there would be small necessity for any amendment of the liquor laws. It was just as easy to persuade deceased to cut off his right hand as that he should break the Sunday trading clauses, whereas he always knew when a man had enough without becoming drunk, and at once sent him about his business.

At one time he was connected with the famous Balaclava mine (having for a partner the late Alexander Hall, dentist) but sold out to Messrs Lewis & Co.

Forty-three years ago he was one of the promoters for the establishment of a branch of the Foresters' Lodge (A.O.F.) at Whroo, and at the time of his death was still a member. During that lengthy period he never once received benefits from the lodge, and in this respect was a most profitable member for the institution.

He held the position of local postmaster for very many years and in the fulfilment of his duties was very precise, and gave satisfaction to everyone. When Whroo was at its zenith he did a fine business and as a consequence accumulated considerable money.

Like many others, however, he experienced a bad time when the crash came, but nevertheless was still enabled to leave his family well provided for. His wife still survives him and he was the father of nine children, all grown up and eight of whom are now living, viz., five sons and three daughters.

By deceased's death, which was directly due to heart failure, there has been removed from our midst one of the most familiar and respected personages ever resident on these diggings.

It was but a fitting tribute to his memory that there should be such a large attendance at his burial in the Whroo cemetery on Wednesday afternoon, when the last sad rites were performed by the Rev. J. R. Walker.

*Minor point: This report indicates 78 years of age. The plaque in the cemetery displays 77 years.*