

SUDDEN DEATH OF
CAPT. M. S. SMITH,
COMMISSIONER OF POLICE.

All Perth was startled this morning by a rumour being circulated that Capt. Smith, the Commissioner of Police, had suddenly died at Albany while on a visit to that port. At first the news was received with general incredulity; it was soon made known that the report was but too true. At five minutes past noon to-day we received the following telegram from our Albany correspondent:—"At about four o'clock last Saturday afternoon Capt. Smith was sitting at dinner, when he was suddenly taken very ill. He at once left the table and retired to his room, when a severe attack of vomiting set in and he threw up large quantities of blood. As the vomiting could not be subdued by the employment of ordinary means Dr. Rogers was sent for at about six o'clock. But despite the doctor's utmost efforts, the vomiting continued at intervals throughout Sunday, with greater or less violence. At seven o'clock on Sunday evening Dr. Rogers was again in attendance upon the deceased, when it was evident he had sunk into a very low state. Early this (Monday) morning the doctor was again sent for, but his patient continued to lose strength until at last he fell into a state of coma shortly before seven o'clock, and passed peacefully away at a few minutes to eight. The cause of death was internal hæmorrhage."

Capt. Smith formerly held a commission in H. M.'s 44th regiment, and did good service throughout the Crimean and China wars, for which he received the Crimean medal with the Alma, Inkerman and Sebastopol clasps, a medal from the Sultan of Turkey of the 2nd class of the Order of Medijie, and a third medal for his services in the China war. Subsequently, about sixteen or seventeen years ago, Capt. Smith emigrated to this Colony, and upon his arrival in Perth accepted the appointment of accountant in the National Bank. But while acting as Administrator of the Government, Colonel Bruce was so convinced that he was not occupying a position suited to his talents that, on his death-bed, he recommended his employment by the local Government. This wish Governor Weld carried into effect in 1869, when upon the decease of Major Crompton he appointed him to the responsible post of Superintendent of Police. That office Capt. Smith filled with both credit to himself and

superintendent of Police. That office Capt. Smith filled with both credit to himself and to the advantage and benefit of the service until last year, when (during the temporary absence of the Hon. Malcolm Fraser) he was appointed Acting Colonial Secretary. The deceased performed the duties of that high office in the most satisfactory manner, and during the last session of the Legislative Council surprised his friends by the tact he exhibited as leader of the Government in the House. Upon the Hon. Mr. Fraser's return and resumption of duty Capt. Smith was relegated to his old office with the new title of Commissioner of Police. Capt. Smith was one who never made a personal enemy in his life, and dies profoundly mourned by everyone who had the privilege of knowing or the opportunity of meeting him. He leaves a vacancy in the Civil Service which the Government will experience considerable difficulty in filling to the satisfaction of the public; for few are the men in this colony who are gifted with the peculiar abilities Capt. Smith possessed for the adequate and efficient discharge of the onerous duties entailed upon him by his position as Commissioner of Police.