

“The West Australian” Perth, Wednesday 30 June, 1909, p. 8.

PORT HEDLAND TRAGEDY

Charge of murder

The Accused Acquitted.

Broome, June 29.

The sittings of the Supreme Court were opened before Mr Commissioner Wood on the 21st inst., and the whole week was taken up with the only case on the list, that of the charge of the wilful murder of Dost Mahomet, of Port Hedland, preferred against the brothers Grigo.

The evidence showed that the elder of the accused, on seeing Dost Mahomet kick his sister (Mrs Dost Mahomet) in the stomach, and also in the act of further striking her, interfered, when a death struggle took place between the two men. Dost Mahomet had his brother in-law by the throat and the struggle continued until they both fell off the verandah. The younger brother, hearing his sister calling out “Murder!” got out of his bunk and attempted to separate the two men. He declared that Dost Mahomet had his brother by the throat and was apparently choking the life out of him. He then got a piece of jarrah and told the deceased that unless he let go his hold he would hit him. As the struggle still continued he hit him four times, and Mahomet fell off his brother, who was almost unconscious. Aid was soon obtained, when it was found that Dost Mahomet had his skull fractured and was unconscious. He lingered and died at 9 o’clock the same night.

The medical evidence showed that the blows must have been struck with considerable force.

The hearing lasted until Saturday.

On the Court assembling on Saturday to hear the last witness for the defence (Mrs Dost Mahomet) the jury informed the Court that they were prepared to return their verdict, which was one of not guilty, without leaving the box.

Mr H C Moss defended the accused. Mr Coleman, with him Mr Frank Martin, appeared for the Crown.