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THE DUNSTAN.

(FROST THE DAILY TIMES CORRESPONDENT.)

The body mentioned is probably the one referred to in my last letter. Several other bodies have been seen floating down the river by several persons, and one of the parties engaged by Mr Hill, the timber rafter from the Lakes, and who is stationed at the Kawarau Junction, states that he frequently sees dead bodies floating above the river. That it has been a fatal river to many, none can doubt; but whether the loss of life has been so large as those reports would convey is doubtful. Some may be missed who will never more be heard of and their bodies never found. The Molyneux may in many instances account for some of these missing men. Anxiety is felt as to whether some of these have not been murdered, and their bodies thrown into the turbulent and rapid waters of the river. Solitary parties walking in remote and secluded spots would easily become the prey of desperadoes, and their bodies once consigned to the river it would probably be some time before deeds of violence would be made known. At an inquest held the other day it was found that the body must have been in the water from the beginning of last September. The flesh was quite denuded from the bones. These things partly account for the anxiety felt regarding these reports, but I believe that they are exaggerated fears.

No doubt there were many people murdered and their bodies thrown into the rivers. This is what Philip Levy (later part of the Burgess gang on the West Coast) and his gang were alleged to have done in the Kawarau gorge. There is no proof that actually happened.