

HUDDERSFIELD CHRONICLE 1881 TO 1900

1 January 28 1881

BASE COIN IN THE BLACK COUNTRY At the Stafford Assizes yesterday morning, Mr Commissioner Wills QC had before him for sentence a number of prisoners charged with passing base coin in the neighbourhoods of Wolverhampton, Walsall and West Bromwich, who had been convicted on the previous day. In all the cases, the “smashers”, who are believed to have got the spurious coin from Birmingham, went to small shopkeepers and, purchasing a trifling item, tendered a counterfeit coin in payment, frequently getting change without suspicion. After remarking on the enormity of the offence, the learned commissioner sentenced George Brown, locksmith, to five years penal servitude; Harry Hanson, horse dealer, to 12 months; Thomas Goodfrey, labourer, to six months; George Fuel, slater, to 12 months; **John Farley**, boatman, six months; and Ann Davies, a bad character, to six months.

2 February 24 1881

Borough Police Court

THROWING A BOY INTO THE CANAL **George Goodier**, boatman, Wakefield, was charged with doing grievous bodily harm to Tom Fletcher, a lad of 16 years of age, on the 23rd October last. The allegation of Fletcher was that on the day in question, between half past four and five in the afternoon, he, his mother, and three boys were coming to Huddersfield from Colne-bridge, along the canal bank. When they got near the lockhouse, they passed prisoner, who was in charge of a boat. Without anything being said, prisoner, who was the worse for liquor, exclaimed, “I'll drown you young ----”, and caught hold of Fletcher by the neck and breeches and dropped him into the canal, letting go of his clothes. Mrs Fletcher asked what prisoner was doing, and prisoner replied that it did not matter to her. He however immediately pulled the lad (who was bleeding at the nose and mouth) out, and then said the rope had drawn him into the water. The witness, however, said this could not be, for the boat and the horse drawing it were standing still. Mr J I Freeman, for the defence, said that although the act of putting the lad into the canal was a most extraordinary offence, yet the charge of doing grievous bodily harm was not made out, for after putting the boy into the canal, the prisoner pulled him out. The matter therefore resolved itself into one of common assault, which he could only account for by the fact that the prisoner was not sober, and was irritated. The Bench declined to take the case as one of assault, and committed the prisoner for trial to the quarter sessions, but admitted him to bail, himself in £40 and two sureties in £20 each.

3 April 14 1881

Borough Police Court

SCHOOL BOARD CASES The following were fined 6d and costs for neglecting the education of their children : **Lister Brown**, boatman, Manchester Street.

4 June 22 1881

COMMERCIAL FAILURES.
SAMUEL CARTER, **BOATMAN** AND COAL MERCHANT, STABLES-STREET.
Yesterday afternoon, Mr. Walter Armitage, solicitor, filed a petition on behalf of Samuel Carter, of Robert Buildings, Stables-street, Huddersfield, **BOATMAN** and coal merchant, whose liabilities amount to £350.

5 July 2 1881

YORKSHIRE LIQUIDATIONS **S Carter**, boatman and coal merchant, Robert's Buildings, Stables Street, Huddersfield.

6 July 7 1881

SCHOOL BOARD CASES The following were summoned for neglecting the education of their

children : **Lister Brown**, boatman, Manchester Street.

7 July 23 1881

CHILD MURDER AND SUICIDE AT BRIGHOUSE Yesterday afternoon an inquest was held at the Woodman Inn, Brookfoot, before Mr Barstow, on the bodies of Jane Hill, 22 years of age, and Alfred Hill, 2 1/2 years of age, who were drawn out of the canal at Brookfoot on Thursday morning. Mr Richardson was elected foreman.

Shepherd Hill, cotton twiner, Purwell, said that about 10 o'clock on Wednesday morning, his wife called at the mill and sent for him out, and said that she was going to his brother's at Bradley, as she should like to see them as it was a fine day. She bid him good morning and went away. She did not come home again that day, and witness did not see or hear anything of her until five minutes to nine on Thursday morning, when she went to the mill, having Alfred with her. Witness asked her where she had been, and she said she had been to Leeds. He asked her what they had said to her at Leeds and she said that she did not know. When asked where she had stopped all night, she said at Halifax. He then asked where at, and she said she did not know. He then told her she ought to go home and be right in her head. They said nothing more, and she went away and took the boy with her. He did not see either of them alive again. Witness had received a telegram from Leeds to say that Jane Hill had been at her aunt's on Wednesday, and left for Halifax at 9.20 the same evening. He had enquired at Halifax and she had not been to her relations there. When she went to him in the mill, he thought she was talking in a silly manner. That was why he told her to get right in her head. She had complained about a deal of headache and heartburn. There had been no unpleasantness that he was aware of. In answer to the foreman, witness could not say where she slept. She had called at a shop in Brighouse on Wednesday, and asked what time there was a train from Lightcliffe to Leeds. He did not use any sharp words to her when she was in the mill on Thursday. She had not quarrelled with his mother that he knew of. She had never gone away and stayed all night except she told them she intended to do so. When they went to the mill the boy said they had been on the train. They had lived with his mother about two years. She expected to be confined in two months, and the thought of having another child troubled her a great deal. About a month ago, she said she would not have another child, and when he asked her how she would help it, she said she could do something or other, she could jump into the "cut". When he told her to hold her silly noise she laughed, and went on talking about something else.

Hiram Ledgard, Daley Croft, Brighouse, canal boatman, saw a young woman and child soon after nine o'clock on Thursday morning, going along the path, opposite the stone wharf at Brookfoot, walking towards Brighouse. He was on board their boat, and after she had passed, he went below to light a fire, and did not see them again.

Sam Schofield, Lower Hopton, Mirfield, boat owner, said that soon after nine o'clock on Thursday morning, he found on the canal bank, about 100 yards above Ganny Lock, a basket, satchel, umbrella, a woman's hat and a child's hat, and a little child's collar and jacket. The things were laid against the wall, and looked as if they had been laid carefully down. He looked into the water, but could see nothing unusual. He marked the place where he found the things and put them on the boat, and enquired at the wharf if anyone had been seen on the bank. When he got to the lock-house, he went back to the police office at Brighouse and gave information to Police-constable Chilvers, who went back with him. The policeman took possession of the things. He did not see the body recovered, as he followed his boat. Ledgard had told him when he called out that a woman in black and a child had gone down about half an hour before.

Police-constable Charles Thorpe Chilvers said that a few minutes past 10 on Thursday morning, the last witness went to him at the police office, and he returned with him and took possession of the things, and then got assistance and dragged the canal, and found the bodies opposite the place where the things were found, being a few yards apart.

Ledgard recalled, said that it was half an hour after he had seen the woman and child pass when Schofield spoke to him.

Elizabeth Clay, Parwell, had assisted to lay out the bodies of both the deceased, and found no

injuries on them. She knew Jane Hill, and had not noticed anything strange about her except that she was very quiet.

Shepherd Hill was recalled, and recognised the things found as belonging to his wife and child.

Rachel Hill, mother of Shepherd Hill, saw Jane Hill the last time about nine o'clock on Wednesday morning, when she told her that she was going to Bradley. She had complained a deal of heartburn. There had been no wrong words in the family. Deceased thought a great deal about her little boy.

In the case of the child Arthur Hill, the jury found that he was drowned by his mother, Jane Hill, against whom a formal verdict of "Wilful murder" was returned.

In the case of the mother Jane Hill, the jury returned a verdict "That she had drowned herself while in an unsound state of mind".

8 September 27 1881

A CHAPTER OF ACCIDENTS Three fatal accidents were reported to the Bolton County Police yesterday. **Elizabeth Ashcroft**, wife of a Liverpool boatman, has been found drowned in the canal at Aspull; James Boardman, drawer, has been killed by the fall of a roof in Brinsop Hall Colliery, Westhoughton; and Ellen Berry, aged seven, of Alfred Street, Swinton, has been burned to death while on a visit to a married sister in Little Lever.

9 October 1 1881

GAS EXPLOSION Yesterday morning **Geo Cusworth**, boatman, aged 29, in the employ of Messrs Robinson of Knottingley, was admitted to the Huddersfield Infirmary accident ward with a badly burnt face and left arm. It appears he was on board his employers' boat, the *Analine*, the previous night at nine o'clock, loading gas tar water at the Huddersfield Corporation Gas Works, when he found the pump was pouring water instead of tar water into the well of the boat. There was then an escape of gas, which caught the flame of the uncovered lamp he had in his hand, and an explosion occurred, with the result above stated. It would be well for boatmen thus engaged to carry safety lamps in future.

10 October 8 1881

Paddock

MAN DROWNED Yesterday morning, **Sam Schofield** of Marsden and **James Wood** of Engine Bridge, both boatmen, were proceeding along the canal bank, between Milnsbridge and Longroyd Bridge, when they saw a dead body floating upon the water. Police-constable Smith was communicated with and the body, which was identified as that of William Pearson, stonedresser, Paddock, was got out of the water and taken to the Britannia Inn, Marsden Road, there to await an inquest.

11 October 10 1881

Paddock

SUPPOSED SUICIDE On Saturday afternoon, an inquest was held at the Britannia Inn, Marsden Road, on view of the body of William Pearson, stone dresser, Paddock, Mr Barstow, coroner, presiding. Evidence was given of the finding of the deceased by **Sam Schofield** of Marsden and **James Wood**, Engine Bridge, boatmen, the previous morning, floating in the canal between Milnsbridge and Longroyd Bridge, and his being conveyed quite dead to the Britannia Inn. The verdict returned by the jury was that the deceased was "Found drowned and had probably committed suicide by drowning himself, but there was no evidence to show the state of his mind.

12 December 6 1881

Borough Police Court

PARISH PROSECUTIONS **George Jagger North**, a boatman of Rashcliffe, was charged with neglecting to maintain his wife and three children, the eldest being eight and the youngest three years of age. He left them on the 3rd of November, but returned on the 24th of November, when he broke the window of the house, entered it, and took possession of his clothes. His family became chargeable to the union, and defendant was apprehended at Saddleworth. He was now sentenced to three months imprisonment.

13 December 13 1881

FATAL QUARREL BETWEEN FATHER AND SON **Kemp Heap**, aged 53, a boatman, and his son Richard, aged 20, who reside in Gannon Lane, Burnley, went to a public house on Saturday afternoon, where they remained for a long time. They returned home, both under the influence of liquor, and on the way some quarrelsome words were used. On entering the house, Richard, it is alleged, threw his father on the floor and commenced to kick him violently in the chest with a pair of heavy clogs. Kemp was taken to bed and became worse. A doctor was sent for, but he died on Sunday night. Richard Heap was charged yesterday with causing the death of his father, and was remanded in view of an inquest being held.

14 December 29 1881

SHOCKING DROWNING CASE AT NEWPORT HEATH On Tuesday evening the dead body of a man unknown was found, cut in two pieces, in the Rochdale Canal, near the Shears Hotel Lock, Newton Heath. The head and upper portion of the body were discovered about six pm by a canal boatman named **John Williams**, whose horse line raised the object to the surface. The legs and lower portions were found between nine and ten pm by Henry Evans, a night watchman in the employment of the Rochdale Canal Company. The remains are apparently those of a man between 60 and 70 years of age. He was dressed in a black cloth coat and dark tweed trousers. He is about 5ft 7in in height, and is supposed to have been a tramp who, owing to the density of the fog, had missed his foothold and walked into the water. The body was conveyed to the Three Crowns Hotel awaiting inquest, and had not up to yesterday afternoon been identified. This is the fifth death from drowning in the district within a few days.

15 January 10 1882

Mirfield

THE NAVIGATION BYE LAWS **John Copley**, boatman, Mirfield, was summoned at the instance of **Geo Brittain**, lock-keeper, Brighouse, before the West Riding magistrates at Halifax, on Saturday, for an infringement of the bye laws of the Aire and Calder Navigation Company on the 24th November last. Mr Storey appeared for the company. He stated that on the date in question, the defendant was in charge of the boat *Humming Bird*, and was passing Cooper Bridge on his way to Brighouse, when he declined to wait for a pass from the lock-keeper for the next lock, as required by the bye laws, saying "he would make the old d---l run after him with it". When defendant arrived at Brighouse, not having a permit, he was refused permission to pass the lock. He insisted, however, in doing so, and broke off the fastenings, thus forcing his way through. Mr Boocock defended, and said that the defendant could not wait at Cooper Bridge because the Navigation Company provided no mooring place for the boats; and he called **Smith Schofield**, part owner of the *Humming Bird*, to prove this. The Bench did not regard the defence set up as valid, and inflicted a fine of 10s, with 12s costs, which was paid.

16 January 21 1882

Brighouse

A MISSING MAN FOUND DROWNED On Thursday the body of William Fairbairn Hepworth, labourer of Brighouse, was taken out of the canal near Elland. He has been missing since Monday. Yesterday afternoon, an inquest was held on the body at the Royal Hotel, Brighouse, before Mr Barstow. Betty Aspinall, widow, Lower Edge, Elland, said deceased was the son of her sister, Judy Hepworth. He was 39 years of age, and about 12 years ago he happened a very severe accident, and had lived by begging for some time past, and stayed at Bottomley's lodging house. Witness thought the accident had affected his brain. **Jno Albert Mellor**, boat owner, Brighouse, was on one of his boats near the Victoria Mills, Brighouse, on Thursday, when he saw the body of a man, sent for a policeman, and assisted to get it out. Joseph Wilson, Church Lane, Brighouse, cotton carder, said he saw the deceased about nine o'clock on the previous Monday in the Stag and Pheasant beerhouse, apparently sober, and when he left (about 20 past nine) he told witness he was going home. **Hannah, wife of Henry Clay**, boatman, Brighouse, who assisted to lay out the body of

deceased, said with the exception of a graze on his nose and cheek, she could not find any mark of violence. The jury returned an open verdict.

17 February 4 1882 West Riding Assizes at Leeds

INDECENT ASSAULT **Joseph Booth**, boatman, for an indecent assault at Sowerby Bridge, was sentenced to 15 months imprisonment.

18 February 10 1882

BOATMAN DROWNED On Wednesday evening, a young man named **John Holding**, aged 18, a boatman of Wakefield, fell into a lock at Battye Mills in the township of Kirkheaton, and before he could be rescued, he was drowned. He was drawing the shuttle up, and somehow slipped and fell into the water. **Wm Wadsworth**, boatman of Knottingley, was with him at the time, but could render no assistance. An hour elapsed before the body could be recovered.

19 April 27 1882

FOUND DEAD ON THE ROAD On Monday afternoon, Mr Wm Barstow, coroner, held an inquest at the Old Ram Inn, Marsden, touching the death of **Charles Dunlop**, a boatman, aged 58 years, who was found dead in Church Lane, Marsden, early on the morning of Saturday last. The deceased had been drinking throughout Friday the 21st inst, in company with Daniel Holdroyd, a clogger, and the latter left him at a quarter past 10 at night. This was the last time he was seen alive, and at four o'clock on Saturday morning, a boy named Charles Turner discovered his dead body in Church Lane. From the position of the body, it appeared that the deceased had been trying to open a sliding door at the side of the road, and had fallen to the ground whilst so doing. After hearing evidence, the jury returned a verdict of "Death from natural causes".

20 June 6 1882 Dewsbury Borough Police Court

ASSAULTING A STALL HOLDER IN THE MARKET PLACE **Wm Nuttall Blamire**, a boatman of Wakefield, was charged with assaulting John Roberts, a stall holder in the Market place, on Saturday night last. Complainant stated that he was packing up his goods on Saturday night when four young men began to push his pony about, which he had standing by his stall. He requested them to go about their business, but they did not take much notice of him. He then looked about for a policeman, but could not see one, so he went up towards prisoner, who seized him by the coat and threw him down and got on the top of him. A policeman then came and took him off. Police-constable Kendal said he heard a cry of police, when another officer and himself went to where the sound came from, and found prisoner on the top of complainant. They took him off and locked him up. A fine of 10s and costs, or one months imprisonment, was imposed.

21 June 12 1882

OBSTRUCTING THE LANCASHIRE AND YORKSHIRE RAILWAY At the Salford Police Court yesterday before Mr J Makinson, stipendiary magistrate, **William Gough**, 14 and **Thomas Gough**, 10, children of a boatman on the Manchester, Bury and Bolton Canal, were charged on remand with obstructing the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway by throwing upon the line near Windsor Bridge large stones and several pieces of timber. Mr Hockin (Messrs Simpson and Hockin), who appeared to prosecute on behalf of the railway company, said, looking at the age of the prisoners, he did not think that they knew the serious nature of the act of which they had been guilty and, therefore, he proposed to proceed against them under the section which gave the stipendiary power to deal with them summarily, without sending them for trial. It appeared that the prisoners obtained a number of very large stones and pieces of timber, some of which were several feet long and two or three inches thick, the remains of materials with which some workmen had been repairing the canal bank, and rolled them down the embankment of the railway near Windsor Bridge. The offence occurred on Monday evening last, about half past nine o'clock, at which time trains were passing along the railway in quick succession, and had the obstruction not been quickly

discovered and removed, a most serious accident would undoubtedly have been the result. He might say the obstructions were first discovered by Henry Bradburn, the pointsman of the engine shed cabin at Windsor Bridge, who found that something was interfering with the working of his signals. Evidence was then given showing that the prisoners were seen leaning over the embankment wall near to the spot where the obstructions had been placed, and when apprehended by an officer of the company, they both admitted the offence, and said another boy had helped them. Mr Makinson ordered the prisoners to be whipped, William to receive eight strokes and Thomas four strokes with a birch rod.

22 July 7 1882

SUPPOSED SUICIDE AT ASPLEY Shortly after four o'clock on Thursday morning, a boatman named **Michael Mullins**, of Rosemary Lane, was on the canal bank at Aspley, when he saw a hat, some shoes, a handkerchief, and one or two other articles lying on the bank near the water. He immediately informed two police officers who were in the vicinity, and arrangements were made for dragging the canal, when the body of a man was discovered in the water. It has been identified by John Ratcliffe as that of his father, Ralph Ratcliffe, who was employed at the print works of Messrs R Dewhirst and Co of Aspley. The body was removed to the Wharf Inn, Aspley, to await an inquest. Deceased was a widower, and resided in Church Lane, Dalton.

23 July 10 1882

SEQUEL TO AN OLDHAM ELOPEMENT At the Salford Police Court on Saturday, **William Fisher**, a boatman having no settled residence, was charged on remand with stealing a bedstead, two mattresses, and other articles alleged to belong to John Apsley, at present residing in Joseph Street, Pendleton. According to the evidence for the prosecution, it appeared that a few months ago the prisoner, his wife, and the prosecutor lived together at Oldham. About six weeks ago, the prosecutor left Oldham and came to live in Pendleton. The prisoner's wife was missing shortly afterwards, and it was found that she had eloped with the prosecutor and was living with him in Joseph Street, Pendleton. The prisoner found out where they were residing, and on the 30th June proceeded to Pendleton and, during the temporary absence of the prosecutor and Mrs Fisher, he forced his way into the house by the front door. He then procured a cart and took a portion of the furniture away, some of which he sold. The defence was that the furniture belonged to the prisoner's wife, but the prosecutor produced receipts showing that he had recently purchased the whole of it. Prisoner was committed for trial at the sessions, and admitted to bail.

24 August 31 1882

Borough Police Court

ALLEGED DAMAGE TO A CANAL BOAT Benjamin Dawson, collier, Back Union Street, and **George Dawson**, boatman, Post Office Yard, were charged with damaging a boat, the property of Messrs Read Holliday and Sons of Turnbridge. Evidence was given by one of the complainants' boatmen, who stated that he found the defendant George Dawson laid in the cabin of one of the boats. He fastened the man in, and sent for the police, but before they arrived the other defendant had smashed a bar to loose George Dawson out, doing about 1s worth of damage. He, however, did not see the damage done, and he had not a witness present who had. The Bench discharged the case.

25 November 7 1882

Borough Police Court

ASSAULT ON A WIFE **Charles Salter**, boatman, Watergate, was charged with assaulting his wife. Police-sergeant Callaghan said that on Saturday evening, about 10 30 o'clock, he was on duty at Longroyd Bridge, and there saw the prisoner the worse for drink. His wife was trying to get him home, but he would not go. He also used some very bad language to her, and attempted to kick her. He afterwards lifted his clenched fist and hit her on the side of the head. They got hold of him, on which he used some beastly language to them, and they took him into custody. Police-constable Carr gave corroborative evidence. The Chairman characterised the assault as a very cowardly act,

and a fine of 10s and costs was inflicted.

26 November 30 1882

Borough Police Court

SCHOOL BOARD PROSECUTIONS The following were charged at the instance of the Huddersfield School Board, with neglecting to send their children regularly to school : **Lister Brown**, boatman, Manchester Street (17 in 62). Fines of 6d and 4s 6d costs were inflicted in each case.

27 December 12 1882

Borough Police Court

NEGLECT OF FAMILY **William Lee**, boatman of no fixed residence, was charged with neglecting to contribute to the maintenance of his wife and family. Mr Sykes, the relieving officer, said that the prisoner was in regular work and earning good wages. He had a wife 25 years of age and three children, whose ages were seven years, two years, and the youngest two months. He had left his family on three several times; the first time in 1879, second in 1881 and the third in May last. The Guardians showed him every consideration, as magistrates' orders had been obtained on two occasions rather than get warrants against him. The balance which was owing from prisoner was £11 8s 11d. This kind of wife desertion was on the increase, and it was very seldom that they could find the delinquent. He hoped something could be done to stop such men. The Chairman said that it was a most abominable thing and, no doubt, deserved severe punishment. The prisoner said if the Bench would look over the offence this time, he would pay 5s per week and go back to her. Mr Sykes agreed to try the man again, and the Bench adjourned the case for two months to give him a trial.

28 January 22 1884

A MAN FOUND DROWNED AT THORNHILL LEES Last Saturday afternoon the body of a man about 30 years of age was found in the Aire and Calder Navigation Company's Canal at Thornhill by **David Marriott**, the keeper of the Mill Bank Lock. It was removed to the Savile Arms Inn, Thornhill Lees, to await an inquest. Deceased had nothing in his possession except a box of pills, and an examination of his remains showed that he was in a diseased condition. The clothing was poor, and much worn. The coat was of black cloth, with side pockets; the trousers of fustian, and mended with cloth. Deceased had no stockings, but he wore a pair of newly soled clogs, which were without laces. He had a moustache and a small beard, but his cheeks were shaven.

On Monday afternoon last an inquest was held over the body at the house of Mrs Garforth, the Savile Arms, Thornhill, by Mr Thomas Taylor (coroner) and a jury. After the body had been viewed, the first witness who gave evidence was David Marriott, of Mill Bank, Lock House, Thornhill, canal and river boatman. He said that he never saw deceased alive to his knowledge. Last Saturday afternoon at about half past one o'clock, he was getting his dinner at home, when **William Beck** of Barnsley, who was steering in an open canal boat, came up and told him that he thought he had seen a man's head in the water about 200 yards below Mill Bank Lock of the Calder and Hebble Canal. He took a boat hook, and in a few minutes he caught hold of the deceased and pulled him out. The man's clothes were not much torn, and he had on a pair of clogs without laces. There was no footpath near where the deceased was found. Sarah Ann Sowerby, wife of John Sowerby, labourer at Coombs Pit, said that she did not know the deceased before last Saturday, when she saw his body on the premises of the Savile Arms. His clothes were examined, and a box of pills were found in one of the pockets, but no money; a tobacco box and an old watch chain. His clothes had to be cut off, and the body appeared very nice when washed. The face was the most decomposed. There was no cut or bruise about the body. The deceased was wearing two cotton shirts, and was without stockings. He was dressed like a collier. This was all the evidence given at the inquest. Mr Taylor remarked that if the jury wished they could have the body opened, but he did not see that any other verdict could be arrived at if that were done than with the evidence before them. There appeared to be no marks of external violence. A verdict was then returned of "Found drowned, having no external marks of violence appearing on his body".

29 February 6 1884

Leeds Winter Assizes

ALLEGED ROBBERY WITH VIOLENCE **William Duckett**, 29, boatman and **Edward Walker** 23, boatman, were indicted for feloniously assaulting William Wilson at Skipton, and stealing from his person £1 10s on January 4th. Mr Slingsby prosecuted and Mr Blackburn defended Duckett. Mr Slingsby said that the prosecutor was a farm labourer living in Lancashire. On January 4th he was in the town of Skipton, and went to the Cork and Bottle Inn, where he met with Duckett, whom he treated with something to drink. In the evening, they both went to the Wheat Sheaf in Skipton, and it being ascertained that the prosecutor had some money, a plan was laid for plundering him. At 11 30 he was crossing Belmond Bridge when four persons attacked him. Prosecutor, examined, identified the two prisoners. He said he was knocked down, and the money taken from him. The evidence was of an unsatisfactory character. The jury returned a verdict of not guilty, and his Lordship acquitted the prisoners.

30 February 16 1884

Huddersfield County Court

CLAIM FOR WORK DONE – SMITH V BOOCOCK In this case, James Smith, a hay cutter of Cowcliffe, brought an action against John Boocock, hay and straw dealer of Beast Market, for £3 1s, the balance of account for work done and expenses incurred at his request. Mr J H Sykes (Messrs John Sykes and Son) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr Welsh for the defendant. According to the plaintiff's story, on the 19th of last March, he agreed with the defendant to go to Rawcliffe, near Goole, to cut out a stack of hay there at 4s per ton. The hay weighed about 12 tons. Plaintiff came back to Huddersfield on the Saturday, and the defendant then asked him to go down to Rawcliffe again to load the hay onto a boat and to come back with it. The defendant gave him 10s for railway fares on the 19th, and on the 26th, defendant gave him £3 for canal dues &c, and 6s for his railway fare down again. He loaded the boat on Monday the 27th March, but as the boat would not hold all the hay, by the instructions of the defendant, he loaded the remainder on to a waggon and took it to Snaith. He came in the boat to look after the hay as far as Wakefield, and from there he came to Huddersfield by rail. He paid the canal boatman £1, £1 13s at Castleford for canal dues, and his railway fares. For the defence, it was alleged that the arrangement was to pay the defendant 4s a ton for cutting and loading hay which only weighed 10 tons. It was alleged that the plaintiff did not pay the canal dues but that defendant did. The plaintiff ought not to have come back with the boat. A receipt for a payment into the Goole County Court of £1 13s, which was alleged by the defendant to have been paid for dues, was produced, but his Honour pointed out that it was for detention of freight, and he said he should like to have someone from the canal office to see who did pay the dues, and he adjourned the case for this information.

31 March 11 1884

Huddersfield County Court

A WARNING TO COUNTY COURT WITNESSES – SMITH V BOOCOCK In this case Mr J H Sykes appeared for the plaintiff and Mr R Welsh for the defendant. It was stated that the defendant some time ago purchased a stack of hay, which was in a field at Rawcliffe near Goole. Plaintiff was engaged to cut the stack up and bring it by boat to Brighouse. A boatman named **Farrar** and the plaintiff brought the boat from Goole, and on their way paid £1 13s for canal dues. The contract was for the hay to be delivered at Brighouse for £8 and, according to the plaintiff, this was to include whatever was paid for dues. Upon the hay being delivered, the defendant paid Farrar £6 7s, retaining the £1 13s, as he said he was liable to someone for the dues. Farrar subsequently sued him for £1 13s in the Goole County Court, and obtained a verdict. Smith now sued the defendant for £1 13s, alleging that he had paid the dues. Farrar had been subpoenaed as a witness, but failed to appear, and the Judge ordered him to be fined £5, and told that if he did not appear next time, a warrant would be issued for his apprehension. The case was adjourned.

32 April 10 1884

Borough Police Court

SCHOOL BOARD CASES **Lister Brown**, boatman, Manchester Street, whose child had not

attended school this year, was also fined the usual amount. (6d and 4s 6d costs)

33 April 22 1884

Huddersfield County Court

A WAGES CLAIM – SMITH V BOOCOCK In this case, James Smith, hay cutter, Cowcliffe, brought an action against John Boocock, hay and straw dealer and innkeeper, Beast Market, for the sum of £3 for wages and dues. Me J H Sykes appeared for the plaintiff and Mr R Welsh for the defendant. Plaintiff earned the wages by cutting hay in a field at Rawcliffe near Goole, and loading it in a canal boat, and paying part of the dues of the canal. The case has been before the court on two previous occasions. In one instance, it was adjourned for the attendance of a boatman named **Henry Farrar** of Goole, who it was alleged had sued Boocock for the dues paid for bringing the hay to Brighouse. At the adjournment, Farrar did not appear, although he had been subpoenaed, and the judge fined him £5. Farrar now appeared, and in reply to the judge stated that at the time he ought to have appeared, he was with a lot of others in the tideway, and could not get to Huddersfield. His Honour said that Farrar and every one else must know that when they got a subpoena to attend court, they must leave everything else to attend the Court. He would consider whether he would remit the fine. A verdict was given for £2 8s for the plaintiff, with costs.

34 May 29 1884

Borough Police Court

NEGLECTFUL PARENTS The following persons were charged with neglecting to send their children regularly to school :- **Fred Lee**, boatman, Castlegate, 38 in 57. In every case the usual fine of 6d and 4s 6d costs was inflicted.

35 June 25 1884

ADJUDICATIONS IN BANKRUPTCY **John Pritchard**, canal boatman, 49 Orchard Street, Chester.

36 July 8 1884

Dewsbury West Riding Police Court

A BAD BEGINNING OF MARRIED LIFE **David Liddell**, boatman and Edward Keech, teamer, both of Sowerby Bridge, were charged with being drunk and disorderly at Gomersal on Saturday last. Liddell was further charged with assaulting Police-constable Chapman, and Keech with assaulting Police-constable Smith. Chapman stated that on Saturday afternoon, about six o'clock, he visited the Peacock Inn, Gomersal. In the snug he found the two defendants, with other four men. The defendants were drunk, and he drew the landlord's attention to the fact. He asked for their names, and Liddell said he would show him what his name was. When they got outside, Liddell challenged witness out to fight, and struck him over the arm and breast, and kicked him. Police-constable Smith came up to assist him, and then Keech seized Smith and tried to get the defendant Liddell away. Police-constable Smith gave evidence similar to the last witness, and said that Keech struck him and made his mouth bleed. Sergeant Brown stated that he entered the Peacock Inn with the officers, and heard Keech say that outside was the place for them (the officers), and if they did not go, he would kick them out. Liddell was more like a madman on the way to the police station than anything else. Caroline Meltham of Gomersal said that Liddell had been married that morning, and the wedding party had come to their house to spend a few hours. He was no relative of hers, but Keech was her husband's cousin. They went to the Peacock Inn to stable the horse, and was not there for more than half an hour. She was going to tell them to come to their tea when she saw the officers taking them into custody. Liddell was a little the worse for beer, but the other was sober. They had come from Sowerby Bridge, and had only left that place at two o'clock. The Chairman said the Bench had no doubt that defendants were worse for liquor and that they assaulted the officers, which was a very bad beginning of married life. Each of the defendants were fined 30s and costs or six weeks imprisonment.

37 July 22 1884

Borough Police Court

THEFT OF HERBS Benjamin Dawson, labourer of Back Union Street, was brought up in custody

charged with stealing a quantity of nettles and figwort, value 6d, the property of **Francis Hirst**, boatman of Castlegate. The prosecutor missed the herbs from the top of his boat, where he had put them to dry, and the prisoner admitted taking them, but he alleged that he had permission from the prosecutor's man. This was, however, denied, and the prisoner was committed to gaol for 21 days with hard labour.

38 August 23 1884 Bradley

A DROWNING CASE AT BRADLEY About 11 o'clock on Tuesday morning, two boatmen named **Thomas Greenley** and **Fred Holdsworth**, took the body of Tom Lodge, collier, 37 years of age, lately residing at Colne Bridge, out of the canal at Bradley. Deceased was seen to leave his home about half past two o'clock on Sunday afternoon by his mother, but she did not know where he was going. He did not return, and nothing more was heard of him till the boatmen found the body on Tuesday morning. The body was taken to the White Cross Inn, Bradley, where an inquest was held on Thursday afternoon by Mr Barstow, and a verdict was returned to the effect "That the deceased had been found drowned without marks of violence, and that there was no evidence to show how he got into the water."

39 August 30 1884 Borough Police Court

CHARGE OF FELONY **Thomas Fisher** of King Street and **Richard Lockwood** of Bradley, two boatmen, were brought up in custody charged with stealing a quantity of wheat, value 2s 6d, from the barge *Diligent*, the property of Edward Leadbetter, Battyeford. The defendant Fisher was a boatman in the employ of the complainant, and was sent by him to Messrs (Hirel?) Brothers's corn mill at Deighton, from Mirfield, with a portion of a cargo of wheat. The boat was moored, and a gardener saw the two men go on to the boat and leave shortly afterwards. Lockwood was carrying a bag similar to the one produced on his shoulder. When charged with the offence, Fisher made no reply. Lockwood said, "I did not steal it ; he gave me it". The defence, so far as Lockwood was concerned (Mr Armitage appearing on his behalf) was that he had gone down and assisted the boatmen through the locks. Fisher then gave him the bag of wheat as remuneration for the trouble he had been put to. There was no concealment on his part, but everything was done in the broad light of day. The Bench gave the defendants the benefit of the doubt, and discharged them on payment of the costs.

40 September 25 1884 Borough Police Court

PARENTAL NEGLECT **Fred Lee**, boatman, Dock Street, no school; summoned by the Huddersfield School Board for neglecting the education of children by not sending them regularly to school. Defendants were fined 6d and 4s 6d costs.

41 November 1 1884 Elland

PERMITTING GAMBLING At the West Riding Police Court at Halifax on Saturday, John Layfield, landlord of the Spring Gardens Inn, Elland, pleaded guilty to permitting gambling on his premises on the 18th instant. Police-constable Preston was near the door of the house on the evening in question, and heard gambling going on and, watching closely, found that five men were playing at "chuckpenny" for beer. Layfield said he did not know that the game was an illegal one. A fine of 10s and costs was imposed. The men gambling, namely, **John Firth**, boatman, Abraham Firth, miner, Joshua Broadley, millhand, John Arthur Halliday, millhand and Samuel Heys, carter, all of Elland, each had a penalty of 9s 6d to pay, including costs.

42 November 6 1884 Borough Police Court

SCHOOL BOARD CASES The following persons were charged at the instance of the Huddersfield School Board with neglecting to send their children regularly to school :- **Fred Lee**, boatman, 5 Dock Street, no attendances since the 24th September. Fines of 6d and 4s 6d costs were inflicted in each case.

43 November 25 1884 Borough Police Court

THEFT FROM THE PERSON Margaret Riley or Wills of Post Office Yard was brought up in custody charged with stealing a purse containing a sovereign and a shilling from **Frank Hirst**, boatman of Spivey's Yard. On Saturday last, the prosecutor was in a public house in Castlegate, when the prisoner came and sat beside him, and afterwards began pulling him about. The prosecutor had been paying for something to drink, and had replaced his purse containing the money in his right hand trouser pocket. Two men saw this purse in the prisoner's hand shortly after she had been pulling the prosecutor about, and she then left the house. Information was given to the police, and the prisoner was arrested the same evening. Prisoner, who denied the theft, was committed to prison for two months.

44 January 15 1885

A MIRFIELD EQUITY CASE At the Wakefield County Court on Tuesday, an equity case, remitted from the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice, came before his Honour Judge Greenhow. Mr C M Atkinson (instructed by Mr E B Wilson of Mirfield) appeared for the plaintiff, John Lindley, carpenter of Mirfield, and Mr E T Atkinson (instructed by Messrs Rollit and Sons of Hull) represented the defendant, **William Lindley**, boatman of Wakefield. Mary Lindley, his mother, was also a defendant, but is recently deceased. The action was to recover possession of the title deeds of a small plot of land at Mirfield, which deeds had been detained as security for a loan, and ultimately a verdict was entered for the plaintiff, with costs.

45 February 5 1885

UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF DYNAMITE A canal boatman named **Henry Allen** was apprehended at Bath on Wednesday afternoon, by direction of the Home Office, for having a quantity of dynamite in his possession unlawfully. A few days ago, alarm was created near Freshford by an explosion on the banks of the Kennet and Avon. It was afterwards ascertained that a boatman in the employ of a local firm of canal carriers had possession of explosives, and was heard to state that he had secured them from the Severn Tunnel engineering works. Allen was arrested in the pursuance of enquiries, and will be charged before the Bradford-on-Avon magistrates today with being illegally in possession of dynamite.

46 February 24 1885

A BOATMAN DROWNED About half past eight o'clock on Saturday morning, **Henry Spencer**, 21 years of age, a boatman of Luddendenfoot, was drowned near Batty Mill, Kirkheaton. It appears that the man was steering a boat, when the fender commenced to slip overboard. He made a "click" at it, but in doing so he overbalanced himself and fell head first into the water. **James William Sutcliffe**, the captain of the boat, and a man named **Bray**, who were on the towing-path some yards distant, saw the accident, and at once ran to the assistance of the unfortunate man, but before the body could be recovered, life was extinct.

47 March 3 1885

ALLEGED ATTEMPTED SUICIDE **William France**, boatman, of no fixed place of abode, was brought up in custody charged with attempting to commit suicide by shooting himself. It appeared that on Friday the 27th ult, the prisoner and his wife returned to their boat, which was lying at Turnbridge, about nine o'clock. Immediately on getting there, the prisoner, who was much the worse for drink, went to a drawer to look for his powder flask, and his wife took a revolver from the same drawer and threw it overboard, being afraid that he might injure himself with it. Prisoner then took a gun, which was in the cabin, and commenced to load it. His wife told him that she would not see what he was going to do, and she got into a sleeping compartment and closed the door. Directly afterwards, she heard the report of a gun in the cabin, and on opening the bedroom door, she saw her husband lying on the cabin floor apparently dead. He had, however, received no injury. His

wife made an alarm, and the defendant was taken into custody. There were marks on the side of the vessel where the shot went. Defendant said he did not remember anything after getting the gun. He did not know how it went off. He did not remember kissing the children and bidding them goodbye. It was stated that the man was very drunk at the time. The Magistrates discharged the prisoner after giving him a good caution. Defendant was ordered to pay the costs.

48 March 19 1885 Borough Police Court

SCHOOL BOARD CASES The following persons were summoned at the instance of the Huddersfield School Board for not sending their children regularly to school :- **William Lee**, boatman, Lowerhead Row. Attendance order was made in the case of Lee.

49 March 31 1885 Borough Police Court

ALLEGED THEFT **James Ellis**, a boatman of Kirkgate, was charged with stealing a sack and a half of potatoes, the property of Messrs W and G Bletcher. It appears that the prosecutors had a boat laden with potatoes at Aspley canal basin last week. The prisoner was working on the boat, but on Friday last left off before dinner time and did not return until the men left at six o'clock at night. Later on the same night, Detective Casson went to the boat and saw the prisoner coming up the manhole with a basket of potatoes. He took him into custody, and on searching his house found in the bedroom a sack which had "G Bletcher, Huddersfield" marked upon it. A sack of potatoes had been previously missed from a dray which was loaded from the boat. The prisoner said he merely took the sack home with some firewood in it, and he meant to return it. He denied taking any potatoes. The Magistrates committed him to take his trial at the next West Riding Sessions.

50 April 9 1885 West Riding Quarter Sessions

LOCAL SENTENCES **James Ellis**, boatman, was convicted of stealing a sack, the property of George Bletcher, his master, at Huddersfield, on March 26th, and was sentenced to twelve months imprisonment with hard labour and three years police supervision.

51 April 28 1885

A MAN FOUND DROWNED NEAR BRIGHOUSE On Monday forenoon, the body of **Jabez Marsden**, boatman, aged 56 years, was found near Messrs Camm's mill, Brookfoot, in the canal. He was in Brighouse on Saturday purchasing groceries, but had not been heard of afterwards. The basket of groceries being found in the boat caused a search to be made, and the body was found immediately. It is supposed that he had become more than usually incompetent from taking beer, and for some time back he has shown very little interest in his work. The body was taken to the Wharf Inn to await an inquest.

52 May 2 1885 Borough Police Court

SCHOOL BOARD CASES The following persons were charged at the instance of the Huddersfield School Board with neglecting to send their children regularly to school :- **Lister Brown**, boatman of Love's Yard, High Street, against whom there were two cases, in both of which there were no attendances. The usual fee of 6d and 4s 6d expenses was inflicted in each case.

53 May 27 1885

A SUPPOSED ACCIDENT IN SLAITHWAITE Early on Tuesday morning, the body of **John Sykes**, boatman, a married man 64 years of age, was found in the 22nd lock at Slaithwaite by William Gledhill, gas maker, who was walking on the canal bank and saw the body floating in the lock. The deceased was last seen alive about nine o'clock the previous night by several men. He was then walking on the canal bank, and appeared to be the worse for drink. It is supposed that the deceased fell in the water when walking home. The coroner has been communicated with and will hold an inquest on the body.

54 June 18 1885

Borough Police Court

SCHOOL BOARD CASES The following persons were summoned by the Huddersfield School Board for neglecting the education of their children by not sending them regularly to school, the attendances being sworn to by officers Barry, Sykes, Mather and Durrans :- **Fred Lee**, boatman, Rosemary Lane, no school. Fine 6d and 4s 6d costs/

55 July 23 1885

Borough Police Court

SHIRKING RESPONSIBILITIES The following persons were summoned at the instance of the Huddersfield School Board for neglecting to send their children regularly to school :- **Lister Brown**, boatman, Love's Yard, High Street, six in 35 as a half timer, six previous convictions. Fined 6d and 4s 6d costs.

56 August 18 1885

DRUNK ON RAILWAY PREMISES On Saturday, at the West Riding Police Court, Halifax, **John Stanton**, boatman, Brighouse, who did not appear, was summoned at the instance of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company, for whom Mr Roberts appeared, for having been drunk and with using obscene language at the Elland Station, on the 14th of November last. The defendant had kept out of the way for several months. On both charges he was mulcted in a sum of 55s 6d, or one months imprisonment in default of payment.

57 September 3 1885

Borough Police Court

SCHOOL BOARD CASES The following persons were charged at the instance of the Huddersfield School Board for neglecting to send their children regularly to school :- **Fred Lee**, boatman, Bull's Head Yard, no attendances since the 17th of June, the date of the last conviction. The usual fine of 6d and 4s 6d expenses was inflicted.

58 September 8 1885

FATAL ACCIDENT TO A BOATMAN **John Heathcote**, 48 years of age, died at Runcorn on Monday morning from the effects of an immersion in the canal. He was employed on the flat *Snowdrop*, belonging to Messrs Mill and Sons, Brighouse, and as the boat was passing through Hulme Locks, Manchester on Wednesday, he fell into the water. He was rescued by the captain and brought home on Thursday. Inflammation of the lungs set in, and he died as stated.

59 September 10 1885

Borough Police Court

SCHOOL BOARD CASES **Lister Brown**, boatman, Love's Yard, was summoned at the instance of the Huddersfield School Board for a breach of an attendance order. There had been no attendance for six weeks at school, and there were seven previous convictions. Defendant was fined 5s including costs.

60 November 10 1885

FOUND DROWNED On Monday afternoon, Mr W Barstow, district county coroner, held an inquest at the Royal Hotel, Fartown, touching the death of John Day, aged 30 years, who lived with his brother-in-law at Spring Bank, Fartown, and whose body was found in the canal at Fieldhouse, under circumstances detailed in the evidence. It appeared from this that the deceased had not been brought up to any business because of weakness. He suffered from abscesses some two years ago, and they had ultimately made him deformed. On Saturday he was not so well, but his brother-in-law did not know anything which could cause him to commit suicide. He left home about half past one o'clock, and was seen by a girl named Mary Jane West of Fieldhouse, walking along the canal towing path near Field Mills. When he had got about 180 yards lower down and just opposite the Fieldhouse Fire Clay Works, witness missed sight of him all at once, and in a minute or two she saw him floating on the top of the water. He went towards the middle of the canal and then sank, but when a boat, which was then in the lock, passed over the place, the body again came up. One of the

boatmen said that he had seen a man jump into the water, and when the boat had gone over, the boatmen saw the body, but they went straight on without rendering any assistance. The deceased's stick was lying on the bank, and one of the boatmen took it with him, saying that he would have that, and they could have the man if they got him. A man went for Police-sergeant Roberts who, with the assistance of some men from the works at Fieldhouse, recovered the body. A purse containing £4 13s 6d was found in the pocket of the deceased, who was wearing a gold scarf pin. An open verdict was returned by the jury.

61 November 12 1885 Borough Police Court

SCHOOL BOARD CASES The following persons were summoned at the instance of the Huddersfield School Board for neglecting to send their children regularly to school :- **Lister Brown**, boatman of High Street, no attendances. Fines of 6d and 4s 6d costs were inflicted in each case.

62 December 10 1885 Borough Police Court

SCHOOL BOARD CASES The following persons were summoned at the instance of the Huddersfield School Board for neglecting to send their children regularly to school :- **Lister Brown**, boatman, Love's Yard, High Street, no school, nine previous convictions; **Fred Lee**, boatman, Rosemary Lane. Fined 5s including costs.

63 December 12 1885

BANKRUPTS

William Hirst, boatman, Marlow Street, Dewsbury Road, Leeds.

William Daniel, boatman, Canal Side, The Green, Neath.

64 December 24 1885 Borough Police Court

SCHOOL BOARD CASES The following persons were summoned at the instance of the Huddersfield School Board for neglecting to send their children regularly to school :- **Fred Lee**, boatman, Rosemary Lane; **Lister Brown**, boatman, High Street, no school since June. The case against Lee was withdrawn as the child is now at Goole or Hull, and out of the jurisdiction of the board. Other defendants fined 6d and 4s 6d costs.

65 June 22 1886

THEFT OF JEWELLERY LOST IN THE THAMES A boatman named **John Allen** was charged at Windsor on Monday morning with stealing a gold watch, chain and appendage, worth about £10, the property of Captain Graves, who had accidentally dropped the articles into the Thames. The prisoner, who recovered the valuables from the river and pawned the watch and chain in London, was sentenced to three months imprisonment.

66 July 8 1886 Borough Police Court

ASSAULT **John Pogson**, boatman of Moldgreen, was charged with assaulting Robinson G Rayner of Brook Street. The complainant stated that on Friday they were at work, when the defendant's brother began making a noise, saying that somebody had been telling tales. The defendant said that if he could find out who it was, he would hit him with the shovel. Complainant went away, but afterwards the defendant went up to him as he was on the bridge, and began ill-using him. The defendant alleged that the complainant kicked him on the leg first, and he then stood up in his own defence. A fine of 5s and 14s 6d expenses was inflicted, 14 days imprisonment in default.

67 July 27 1886 Borough Police Court

AN UNSUSTAINED CHARGE **Joseph Richardson**, boatman of Firth Street, Aspley (who had been arrested under a warrant) was charged with obtaining a suit of clothes from Mary Elizabeth Grew of King Street, by means of a forged order. Willie Lord, who resided with his mother (the

power loom weaver, who resided in Eastwood Street, Moldgreen. The following evidence was taken :- **John Milnes**, boatman, Morley, said he was in bed on the boat *Sarah* in the canal basin at Aspley on Monday night, shortly after 10 o'clock, when he heard someone shouting. Witness got up and called out to a boatman named **Thomas Senior**, and he and another man got the deceased out of the water. Thomas Senior, boatman on the boat *Benjamin*, said he was just getting ready for bed on board the boat on Monday night and heard shouting, but thinking it was a drunken man, he at first took no notice. Milnes, however, called to him that there was a man in the water, and witness told him to get a boat hook and hold the man until he came. Witness put on his overcoat and slippers, and went on board the *Sarah*, and found that a man had got hold of the deceased by the arm. Witness got hold of the deceased by the leg, and they got him on the vessel. They tried means to restore him, but without success, and when Mr Coward, surgeon, arrived shortly afterwards, he said that the deceased had been dead a quarter of an hour. George Barter, 82, Chapel Hill, willower, knew the deceased and last saw him about half past eight o'clock on Monday night at the Friendly and Trade Societies' Hall. He served the deceased with a glass of brandy at half past seven, and saw him dancing an hour later. He seemed in good health and spirits. Witness had never known the deceased to go to extremes. On his way home, he would have to pass near the canal. Sarah Armitage, widow of the deceased, stated that he left home just after breakfast on Monday morning, when a friend called for him, and she did not see him alive again. He was in good spirits, and they had not had a quarrel. Deceased was having a holiday on Monday. They had been married more than six years, and had two children. Police-constable Walters said a watch found on the deceased had stopped at about three minutes past 10. There was 3s 5d in money found upon him. Mary Ann Ward, widow, Robinson's Yard, Shorehead, laid out the body upon which there were no marks of violence with the exception of the head, there being some cuts on the forehead, probably caused in getting him out of the water. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidentally drowned".

71 February 25 1887

SINGULAR CASE OF SUPPOSED SUICIDE AT HUDDERSFIELD On Thursday afternoon, Mr W Barstow JP, district county coroner, and a jury of whom Mr H Mallinson was elected foreman, held an inquest at the Waggon and Horses Inn, Leeds Road North, touching the death of Mary Beaumont aged 21 years (daughter of John Beaumont, road foreman of Sands Terrace, Leeds Road), whose dead body was taken out of the canal at Fieldhouse on Tuesday afternoon last. The father of the deceased gave evidence of identification, and stated that his daughter worked at Messrs Thomson's mill as a woollen winder. He last saw her alive on Tuesday morning at half past eight o'clock, when she appeared to be coming away from the mill to her breakfast. She did not go home to her breakfast that morning, however, as was her usual custom. The only evidence he could give with regard to the affair was that the deceased and one of her sisters were having some words on Monday night, and he had to interfere. He told deceased that if she could not behave herself she would have to take herself away. If she could behave herself like the other children, she was welcome to stay. She replied that she had another home to go to. The tuner at the mill told him that she was at the mill until breakfast time on Tuesday. Witness and the deceased had "a bit of variance" a week before, on the Monday night, and that was the reason he told her to take herself away if she could not behave herself. She was very high spirited. She had had some "variance" with her mother, and he believed she had not exchanged a reasonable word with her for eight or nine months. She was difficult to deal with, and they never knew when they could get on comfortably with her. His daughter told him that the deceased had erysipelas appearing on Monday morning, but he did not notice it. They thought that had caused her to commit the rash act, rather than submit and go to bed, as she should have done. A sister of the deceased, named Annie Holroyd, who resided with her husband Harry Holroyd, organ builder, at Woodhead Buildings, Sheepridge, stated that the deceased called at their house on Monday night about eight o'clock. She came in and sat down behind the door, but did not speak for an hour. She then asked for a pen, with which she wrote a letter. Witness did not know to whom the letter was directed, and had not heard anything further about it. She went out of the house and did not return, though witness and her

husband waited up until 11 o'clock, expecting that she might come back. She came in next morning, just as it was striking nine, and said that she had had no breakfast, but when witness offered to get some ready for her, she replied that she could not eat it if she did. Deceased told her that she had not been home all night, and on witness saying that they had been seeking her, she replied, "Well, they may seek me, but I shan't go home". Witness replied, "Well, you're a grand 'un. There's a good home for you as well as t'other, if you will only behave yourself". Witness left her sister to sleep in the house between half past 10 and 11 o'clock to go and tell her mother that she was at their house. When she returned at two o'clock, she found that her sister (who had been to bed in the interval) had gone away. Whilst at witness's house, the deceased cried, but would not tell her what "she had had up". Deceased had a fearful temper if she could not have all her own way. Thomas Lawton, weaver, who lived near Beaumont's house, deposed to seeing the deceased on the canal towing-path near to Red Doors Lock at a quarter to three o'clock on Tuesday afternoon. They just spoke to each other and then passed on. **Ben Dawson** of Dock Street was assisting a boatman through the locks, and about three o'clock on Tuesday afternoon, when near the lock at Fieldhouse, the rope slackened. When the rope tightened, the body of deceased was brought to the surface, and they then made successful attempts to get it out. Police-constable Broome deposed to their being no marks of violence on the body, which was warm when it was laid out, and said that the letter referred to by the deceased's sister had not been found, nor had anything occurred to throw light on the matter. The father, on being recalled, stated that his daughter left home about half past seven on Monday night, directly after he had been speaking to her. She went to his daughter's house, and was afterwards on their "doorstones" until 11 or 12 o'clock at night. His eldest son went out and asked her to come into the house, but she would not do so. The Coroner : Why didn't you go and fetch her in when she was on your doorstones? Witness : Well. I thought it was her duty to submit before mine. The Coroner : Yes, there's something in that. Witness (continuing) : If I had gone and fetched her in after we had a bit of bother, she would have been worse the time following. The jury returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased had been found drowned without mark of violence, and that she had probably drowned herself, but there was not sufficient evidence to show the state of her mind at the time.

72 March 10 1887 Borough Police Court

DID NOT KNOW WHAT HE WAS DOING **John Mullen**, boatman, of 31 Rosemary Lane, was summoned for assaulting his wife, **Hannah Maria Mullen** of York Street. The complainant stated that her husband (who had been drinking) met her on the 28th ult as she was coming from her mother's house (where she had gone according to his orders), and assaulted her because she was not at home to meet him. She asked for a separation order. The defendant said he did not know what he was doing at the time, as he was drunk. He was fined 1s and expenses, a separation order was made, and he was ordered to pay 8s a week towards the maintenance of his wife and two children.

73 March 31 1887 Borough Police Court

AN UNPROFITABLE CUSTOMER **William Wibley**, boatman, of no fixed residence, was charged with stealing two sheets, value 3s, the property of Frederick William Dyson, landlord of the Golden Cross Inn, John Street. It appeared that the previous day the prisoner was seen in the public house, where he had some drink. Mrs Dyson was washing, and about half past twelve she placed the sheets amongst other things in the washkitchen. She left to go to dinner about half past 12, and on her return to the kitchen, the sheets were missing. It was then found that the prisoner had gone, but about two o'clock the same day, he was found attempting to sell the sheets. The Chief Constable asked for a remand for a week in order to make some inquiry into the prisoner's antecedents, and the magistrates granted the application.

74 April 7 1887 Borough Police Court

HE DID NOT RECOLLECT **William Wibley**, boatman, of no fixed place of abode, was summoned for having stolen two sheets, value 5s, the property of Frederick William Dyson,

landlord of the Golden Cross Inn, John Street, on the 29th of March. The case was that on the day named, the sheets were placed in the washkitchen about 11 o'clock by Mrs Dyson, and that they were missed some two hours later. The prisoner, who had been drinking in the house the same morning, pawned the missing articles at Mr Walter Craven's shop about half past 11 o'clock the same day for 1s 6d. He said he did not recollect anything about the affair, and was committed to prison for a month.

75 May 28 1887

FOUND DROWNED AT BRIGHOUSE On Sunday morning, a boy from Park Street saw a man in the canal, and seems to have concluded that he was drowning and that no one could save him. Later on, **Mr Henry Clay**, boat owner of Rastrick, found a cap near his boat on the water, and reported at the Police Office that **Walter Charlesworth**, boatman of Rastrick, aged about 34 years, was missing. After some dragging in the afternoon, the body was found and removed to the Black Swan Inn. The body was identified by Zilpah Crowther, who said on the Saturday night Charlesworth was at her house quite fresh. A boy named James Middleton said that on Sunday morning, about four o'clock, he heard someone call out. He went and found a man in the water near the stone wharf. He got hold of his hand, but could not get him out. The man seemed in drink and made no effort. He left him. The man again called out, but he went home and to bed. At breakfast time he told his mother. Witness was asked several questions, but said he had told the truth. He got up so soon because he and another boy had said they would go to Huddersfield to have a bath. The other boy did not get to the bridge. When he called for the boy, the mother put her head out of the window and said it was too cold to go to Huddersfield. He went home and to bed. He did not tell anyone because he had not sense. He told his mother at breakfast time. A juror said Charlesworth had been in Wadsley Asylum. A verdict was returned "That Charlesworth was found drowned without any marks of violence – he had probably fallen accidentally into the water while trying to get in his boat".

76 July 1 1887

Huddersfield County Court

LAMING A HORSE – HIRST V GILL AND FIELDHOUSE In this case, **Francis Hirst**, boatman, Turnbridge Terrace, Huddersfield, sued Robert Gill, of the dye-ware mills, Leeds Road, and **John Fieldhouse**, boat owner, Old Mill Lane, Barnsley, to recover the sum of £10 for damages sustained by the plaintiff through a horse belonging to him being injured in consequence of the negligence of the defendants. Mr R Walsh appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr T Drake represented the defendants. The plaintiff's case was that on March 3rd last, he, his wife, and two assistants were taking an empty canal boat from Huddersfield to Wakefield, the boat being towed by a horse. Upon reaching the works of Mr Gill, a quantity of logwood was found upon the bank. At that time, it was half past twelve o'clock, and no one was about. The driver, **Fred Lee**, removed some of the wood, but as the animal was passing between it, one piece slipped, and catching it on one of the hind legs, cut it severely. It was not thought that the horse was so bad as it turned out to be, and it was taken on to Wakefield that day, and on the following day, drew the loaded boat back to Huddersfield. It was then laid up for a fortnight, and considerable expense was incurred by the plaintiff in hiring horses, having the animal medically attended, &c. Without going into the defence, his Honour held that on two grounds the plaintiff was not entitled to recover – first, that there had been some amount of contributory negligence on the part of the plaintiff's servant in only partly removing the logwood, and secondly, the real reason for the animal's suffering was the plaintiff's conduct in taking it such a long journey after the injury it had received. There would therefore be a verdict for the defendants with costs.

77 July 23 1887

Brighouse and Rastrick

SUDDEN DEATH On Tuesday evening, **Henry Clay**, boatman, Lillands Lane, Rastrick, died very suddenly. He had been at work all day, returned home at 10.25, began to complain of internal pain, and died almost immediately.

78 August 5 1887

A MASTER COTTON SPINNER FOUND DROWNED On Thursday morning, Mr W Barstow JP, district county coroner, held an inquest at the Bath Hotel, Lockwood, touching the death of John Howe, aged 43 years, master cotton spinner of 8 Albany Terrace, Victoria Road, Lockwood, whose body was taken out of the canal at Fieldhouse on Tuesday afternoon under circumstances detailed in the evidence. Mr R H Armitage was elected foreman of the jury, and Mr C F Haigh (from the office of Mr Walter Armitage) appeared for the relatives of the deceased. The Coroner said this was rather an exceptional case. As most of them no doubt knew, the body was not in a fit condition to be viewed, and he had a certificate to that effect from Dr Macgregor. Many of the gentlemen, he understood, had seen the body. The enquiry was then proceeded with without any further preliminary. William Howe, mill manager of Paddock, brother of the deceased, gave evidence of identification, and said that he last saw his brother alive about a month ago, and he was then in his usual state of health. By Mr Haigh : The deceased was always very social and genial, and was very good company. He (witness) had never noticed anything to lead him to think that his brother's mind was in any way affected. He never dreamt of anything of the sort. Police-constable Londesborough deposed that he had known the deceased a long time, and whilst on duty on the canal bank at Aspley about 11.20 on Sunday morning, he met him just opposite the Aire and Calder Wharf. He was then walking on the towing-path towards the gate leading from the bank on to the main street at Aspley. As the deceased passed witness, he said, "Good morning". He did not see where the deceased went to, and did not notice anything unusual about his manner. He was dressed in his ordinary week day clothes. By the Jury : The body of the deceased would be taken out of the canal about a mile from where witness saw him, and there were a number of locks between. By Mr Haigh : There were several people walking on the towing-path at the same time as the deceased. It was a common walk on a Sunday morning. **Thomas Clough**, boatman of Mirfield, said that shortly before half past five o'clock on Tuesday afternoon, he was going down the canal with his boat just below Fieldhouse potteries, when he met another boat coming up. The towing rope of the latter brought the body of the deceased to the surface, and witness got it out of the water. The body appeared to have been in the water at least a day or two. By the Jury : There was nine or 10 feet of good flat ground to walk on, but if a man got close to the side, it was rather bad walking. The arms of the deceased were stretched out in front of him as if he had been making a grab at something. There was a bruise on the face, near the nose, but he thought this was done as he was getting the body out of the water. Emma Sykes, who resides at Brick Buildings, Leeds Road, spoke to assisting Elizabeth Moxley to lay out the body of the deceased. The only mark they saw on the body was a slight bruise close to the right side of the nose which bled very much. The body had evidently been in the water a day or two. The Jury, after considering the evidence in private for a short time, returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased had been found drowned, but that there was not the slightest evidence to show how he got into the water.

79 September 10 1887

Borough Police Court

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES The following persons were summoned at the instance of the Huddersfield School Board for neglecting to send their children regularly to school :- **William Lee**, boatman, Lowerhead Row, 21 in 98. The usual fine of 6d and 4s 6d costs was inflicted.

80 September 21 1887

SAD CASE OF DROWNING AT SALFORD A sad case of drowning has occurred at Salford. An inquest was held on Tuesday on the bodies of a boatman named **Holt** and a woman named **Hoyle**, with whom he had previously cohabited. They had been separated for some time, but on Saturday night they were seen together on the banks of a canal. Both of them were drunk, and they were heard quarrelling, and on Sunday their bodies were found close together in the water. It is thought that the woman fell into the water, and that the man, in trying to save her, was drowned.

Huddersfield School Board for neglecting to send their children regularly to school :- **William Lee**, boatman, Lowerhead Row (no school) fined 6d and 4s 6d costs.

87 April 18 1888

THE BANKRUPTCY ACT 1883 – RECEIVING ORDERS **Henry John Webb**, the Delph, near Brierley Hill, master boatman.

88 April 19 1888

THE DROWNING FATALITY AT UPPERMILL Mr Barstow, coroner, held an inquest at the Granby Arms, Uppermill, on Monday, on the body of Ben Holden, who was found drowned on Friday. Mrs Hannah Silson of Droylsden stated that the deceased was her brother, and that he was 58 years of age. Mr Ammon Hawkyard was the only person who came forward to swear to seeing the deceased on the night previous to when he was found, and he stated that the time was about nine o'clock, and that the deceased appeared to be drunk at the time. James Gartside, who helped to pull him out of the river, stated that there were no marks of violence on the body, nor any appearance of a struggle on the banks of the river. **John Hindley**, a boatman, also gave evidence to the finding of the body, which was laid face downwards and only partially covered with water. The jury were of opinion that the deceased had lost his way and accidentally fallen into the water, and a verdict was given in accordance.

89 April 28 1888

Borough Police Court

SCHOOL BOARD CASES The following persons were charged at the instance of the Huddersfield School Board for neglecting to send their children regularly to school :- **William Lee**, boatman, Lowerhead Row, Beaumont Street Board School, none in 40. Fined 6d and 4s 6d costs.

90 May 5 1888

Borough Police Court

SCHOOL BOARD CASES The following persons were charged at the instance of the Huddersfield School Board for neglecting the education of their children by not sending them regularly to school :- **William Lee**, boatman, Lowerhead Row, no school. Fined 6d and 4s 6d costs.

91 June 6 1888

FOUND DROWNED IN THE CANAL On Tuesday evening, an inquest was held at the Wharf Inn, Aspley, before Mr Barstow, district coroner, touching the death of Henry Hampshire (51), farmer and coal dealer of Emley Moor, near Wakefield, who was found drowned in the Canal Basin, Aspley, about nine o'clock on Sunday morning. It appeared from the evidence adduced by the wife of the deceased that the unfortunate man came to Huddersfield on Saturday, she last seeing him alive about four o'clock in the afternoon. At that time, he seemed quite well and cheerful – he never appeared better. Between 10 and 11 o'clock pm, he was seen in the bar of the Wharf Inn, and although he was not drunk, showed signs of having had some quantity of beer. The body was found by a boatman named **Josiah Shaw** on Sunday morning. No marks of violence or injury were discovered upon the body. The jury returned a verdict of “Found drowned, without any marks of violence; probably walking into the water in the dark;” and recommended that the gates leading to the London and North Western Company's yard and Mr John Smith's premises should be closed after business hours.

92 July 26 1888

Borough Police Court

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE CASES The following breaches of the Elementary Education Act were heard, the clerk of the School Board conducting the charges :- **William Lee**, boatman, Lowerhead Row, six attendances in 38. In the case of Lee, a penalty of 6d and costs was imposed, in default seven days imprisonment.

93 September 18 1888**Bradley**

THE UNKNOWN MAN FOUND DROWNED IN THE CANAL Mr Barstow held an inquest at the White Cross Inn, Bradley, on Monday, touching the death of the man who has been found in the canal at Anchor Pit, Bradley, and whose name is unknown. Mr J Drake was foreman of the jury. Charles Carter, Mirfield, carpenter, stated that about nine o'clock on Saturday morning, he and another man were in a canal boat going to West Mills, when they were informed by another boatman that he thought he had seen a man's body in the canal at Kirklees, about 300 yards below Anchor Pit in the township and borough of Huddersfield. Witness and his partner got the body out at the place indicated, and put it on the ground and sent for the police. In reply to the jury, he said the body was in the middle of the canal, and was pulled to the hauling side. He thought the marks on the face were produced by a boat passing over him. There was no hat or cap on the canal bank. In reply to the coroner, he said he thought the man had been in the water a few days. Police-constable Finch said that about 10 o'clock on Saturday morning, he went to the place where the body had been taken out of the canal, and had the deceased moved to the White Cross Inn. He thought the man was about 50 years of age, and was a dyer or millhand. Deceased had on him a pair of broken spectacles, a pencil, a small book, but there was no writing in it, or at any rate nothing that could be made out. Diligent enquiry has been made, but the police had been unable to find out who the deceased was. There was no mark of violence upon the body, which was well nourished and clean. It seemed to have been in the water about 24 hours. Jos Spivey, Cooper Bridge, farmer, said he saw the deceased, and he thought he was a dyer, because the nails were blue, but his hands were white. There was a bruise on the forehead. In the course of a general conversation, it appeared that the clothes had buttons on with the names of J C Hardy (Dewsbury) and Walker (Huddersfield) on them. The jury found an open verdict.

94 October 10 1888

DROWNED IN THE CANAL At nine o'clock on Tuesday morning, **Thomas Turpin**, a boatman of Walton near Wakefield, informed Police-constable Sutcliffe that he had seen a woman in the canal at Miles Lock, Leeds Road, Deighton. Sutcliffe proceeded to the place, and got the body out of the water, and had it conveyed to the Junction Inn, Leeds Road. In her pocket was found an imitation sealskin purse with two compartments, containing 4 1/2d in copper, and two pawn tickets, one relating to property pledged with Fisher and Blackburn, Webster Hill, Dewsbury by Patrick Garetry of High Street, Dewsbury, on the 22nd September, and the other to property pledged with the same pawnbroker by ---- Smith, of Watergate, Dewsbury, on the 15th September. From inquiries at the Police Office on Tuesday evening, it appears that the deceased woman has now been identified as Mary Ellen Smith, 23, married woman, of 11 Watergate, Dewsbury. The coroner has fixed his enquiry for Thursday at 12.45.

95 October 12 1888

FOUND DROWNED AT HUDDERSFIELD On Thursday afternoon, Mr W Barstow, coroner, held an inquest at the Junction Inn, Leeds Road, Deighton, on the body of Mary Ellen Smith, aged 23 years (wife of Arthur Smith, woollen teaser of Dewsbury), who was found drowned in the canal, near to the house, on Tuesday. Squire Crosland, 11 Watergate, Dewsbury, cloth miller, identified the body. Her husband had led a vagrant kind of life, and was now in Wakefield Gaol, serving a sentence of three months for assaulting the master of the Dewsbury Workhouse. Deceased had been married rather over a year and a half, during which time she had only lived with her husband about three months. He last saw the deceased alive on the 27th September, when she left the house saying that she was going to visit a sick friend, but would be back early so as to get the cleaning done. She had had a bad husband, who had been in and out of prison ever since they were married, but she was of a very cheery disposition, and was singing nearly the whole of that Saturday afternoon. Deceased buried a child about six weeks ago, and just seemed to be getting nicely on her feet when this happened. **Thomas Kirby** of Walton near Wakefield, said he was a boatman. On Tuesday,

about 8.15 am, the boat on which he worked was coming up the canal to Huddersfield, and the body of the deceased was washed from the banks by the sweep of the rudder when they were near Miles Lock. The body had previously been fast in the mud. Witness got the body to the side of the canal, and then fetched Police-constable Sutcliffe to the place, and then they got the body out of the water. Police-constable Sutcliffe said that the body was recovered about nine o'clock. There were no marks of violence or injury on the deceased, who was without hat or shawl when found. The jury returned a verdict of "Found drowned without marks of violence, but how or by what means she got into the water, there is no evidence to show".

96 November 13 1888

A CANALMAN CHARGED WITH MANSLAUGHTER Mr Brighthouse, county coroner, held an inquest on Monday at Ince, near Wigan, on the body of Richard Ainsworth, painter, Ashton-under-Lyne, who met his death in a singular manner. Ainsworth and three others were on a scaffold underneath the railway bridge crossing the canal, repairing the girders, when a canal company's boat came along. The men shouted to the man in charge, **James Lyon**, to pull down the boat's funnel, as it would catch the scaffold, but he took no notice and as the boat was passing, the funnel knocked down one of the planks and pitched deceased into the water. The boatman, it was stated, went on his way, but the deceased's fellow workmen attempted to rescue their comrade who, however, seemed dazed, and was dead when brought out. Lyon said he heard no shouting, but others present stoutly maintained that they frequently cried out. The jury, after careful consideration, decided that Lyon had been culpably negligent, and the Coroner committed him for trial at the assizes on a charge of manslaughter.

97 January 23 1889

A MAN FOUND DROWNED IN THE CANAL An inquest was held on Monday, before Mr William Barstow (district coroner) at the Wharfe Inn, Brookfoot, Brighthouse. Evidence was given to show that the body of a man named William McFarlane of Garside Street, King Cross, Halifax, was discovered in the canal on Friday by a boatman named **William Dixon**. Jane McFarlane, wife of the deceased, identified the body as being that of her husband, who had left his home on Wednesday the 16th inst to go to his work at Messrs Harrison and Booth's, engineers, Halifax, where he was employed as a mechanic. He had been in low spirits for some time. Jas McFarlane, brother of the deceased, also identified the body. The jury returned a verdict as follows :- "Found drowned in the canal, with no marks of violence, and had probably drowned himself while of unsound mind".

98 June 4 1889

Borough Police Court

ASSAULT **George Robinson**, boatman, Slaithwaite, was summoned by **Robert Hopkinson**, Crimble, Slaithwaite, for assaulting him on the 28th May. Defendant admitted the offence. It appeared that the parties were employed together on the canal, and in consequence of the complainant refusing to do certain work, the defendant struck him. Complainant said the defendant kicked him, but this was denied. A fine of 2s 6d and costs was inflicted.

99 September 9 1890

Borough Police Court

CASE DISMISSED **Marmaduke Carter**, boatman, Bradley, was summoned by Squire Mitchell Hartley, a lad, of Colne Bridge, for having assaulted him on the 31st ult. Mr Welsh defended. Complainant said that on the above date, the defendant chased him into a house, kicked him, and pulled him out by the hair of his head. Another lad named Tom Evans was called as a witness, and said that the defendant accused the complainant of having ill treated a little lad named Charlie Thompson. Complainant denied this; thereupon, the defendant kicked the complainant. The defence was that the complainant used very abusive language to the defendant, and that all defendant did was to pull him out of the house by the arm and then let him go. Charlie Thompson, a lad of six years of age, was called, and said that complainant was ill using him when Carter stopped him. Two witnesses were called who denied that any blows were struck. The case was

dismissed upon the payment of 5s costs.

100 September 13 1890

FOUND DROWNED About 20 minutes to six yesterday morning, Police-constable Hollas, whilst on duty at Longroyd Bridge, was informed that a man named **William Henry Brown**, boatman of Milnsbridge, had seen the dead body of a man in the canal. Hollas obtained the assistance of Police-constable Sandall, and together they got the body out. It was conveyed to the mortuary in Back Ramsden Street, and on being searched, a pedlar's certificate was found in one of the pockets, showing that the man's name was Edwin Spencer. It was afterwards ascertained that Spencer was 64 years of age, and had recently resided at the Model Lodging House.

101 September 20 1890

DROWNED IN THE CANAL An inquest was held at the Huddersfield Fire Station on Saturday before Mr W Barstow, district coroner, touching the death of a pedlar named Edward Spencer, 64 years of age, who was found drowned in the canal the previous morning. George Spencer, Northumberland Street, brother of the deceased, having given evidence of identification, Police-constable Hollis said about 20 minutes to six on the morning in question, as he was crossing Longroyd Bridge, a boatman named **Wm Hy Brown** informed him that there was the body of a man in the canal close by. He went to the place, and by means of a boat hook, pulled the body, which was floating on the surface, out of the water. The corpse had the appearance of having been in the water several days. The boatman Brown gave similar evidence, adding that he saw the body between Longroyd Bridge and Messrs Starkey's bridge. Mrs Renshaw spoke as to laying the body out, after which the jury returned a verdict of "Found drowned".

102 October 21 1890

CANAL BOATMEN SUMMONED On Saturday, at the West Riding Police Court, Halifax, **Hanson Schofield** and **Reuben Holroyd**, boatmen, Brighouse, were summoned by the Rochdale Canal Company for leaving work without notice, Schofield on August 15th and Holroyd on September 2nd. The company claimed as damages £10 from Schofield and £7 from Holroyd. Mr Jackson (solicitor to the company) appeared for the prosecution, and Mr Walter Beverley, instructed by Mr J R Farrar, defended. The facts as stated for the prosecution were that the two defendants were employed as boat captains by the Canal Company and, as such, were responsible for the loading and unloading of their respective boats, and had also to perform the ordinary duties in connection with the navigation of the boat. It was customary for all men in the company's service to give a "trip's notice" before leaving. In August last, the defendants asked Milnes, the Brighouse manager, to transfer them to other boats, but he refused. The defendants in consequence left their boats and the company's service without notice. Mr Jackson contended that the defendants were bound by the clauses of the Workman's Act 1875, which were incorporated in the Employers' Act 1880. Owing to the defendants' conduct, the boats had to lie idle several days, the loss sustained being put at £1 per day. **Tommy Milnes**, Brighouse, the Canal Company's manager, gave evidence. Witness deposed to the loss sustained owing to the defendants' conduct. In reply to Mr Beverley, witness said he was formerly owner of the two boats, but sold them to the Canal Company in 1888. The defendants had to live and sleep on the boats, and Schofield had complained to him that his boat swarmed with vermin. Witness did not promise in July last that he should have another boat on his return from the Liverpool voyage. The company owned about 50 boats. The wages of each defendant were 20s a week and "ton money". They had no printed rules with regard to the giving of notices, nor was anything said respecting notices when the defendants were engaged. The defendant Holroyd had not complained to witness that the sleeping apartments on his boat were in a filthy condition. The Bench eventually dismissed the case. Mr Beverley applied for costs, but they were refused.

103 January 12 1891

SEVERE WEATHER – STOPPAGE OF CANAL TRAFFIC The severe frosts have practically stopped canal navigation in mid Cheshire. Scores of boats have been ice bound for weeks, and much distress prevails among boatmen and their families, who are begging bread. Many are absolutely destitute. The ice in some places is nearly two feet thick, and even when a thaw sets in it will be weeks before ordinary traffic can be resumed.

104 June 13 1891

Borough Police Court

A BATCH OF SCHOOL BOARD CASES Fines of 6d and 4s 6d costs were imposed in each of the following cases for the non attendance of children at school :- **Fred Lee**, boatman of Silk Street, 28 in 78.

105 June 30 1891

West Riding Quarter Sessions

LOCAL SENTENCES **George Shillito** (34), boatman, was indicted for stealing an overcoat, value 5s, the property of Joe Radcliffe, and a jacket, value 2s 6d, the property of William Wood, at Huddersfield. Prisoner pleaded not guilty. Mr Harper, barrister, prosecuted and the prisoner was unrepresented. Mr Harper, in his opening statement, said the case, he thought, was one of the most ordinary cases that had ever come under the jury's notice. The prosecutor left his jacket hanging up in the works of Messrs Thomas Broadbent and Sons, of Chapel Hill, Huddersfield. A night watchman named Heaton, who was employed by Messrs Broadbent, saw the prisoner leaving the works. He asked him who he was, and though he was at first abusive, he subsequently offered to take Heaton to the place where he had got the clothes from. He took him through a hole in the wall, where he said he had got in, and pointed out where he had been. He attempted to escape, but the watchman held him and another man that was with him went for a policeman. He was taken to the Police Station and then said he hoped he might get four years for it. When brought before the magistrates, however, he appeared to have repented of this and said he was not guilty. Evidence was called in support of this statement, and the prisoner was sentenced to six months imprisonment with hard labour.

106 July 27 1891

ANOTHER BOATMAN DROWNED IN THE CANAL Soon after one o'clock on Saturday afternoon, Police-constable Ramsden was called to the canal bank by a man named Joseph Foster of Fartown, who informed him that he had heard a splash in the canal near the Red Doors Lock. Ramsden went to the spot indicated, and there found several people searching for the body. He telephoned to the Central Police Office for drags to be sent to him, and some three hours afterwards, a body was recovered. It was identified as that of **William O'Dell**, aged about 26, who was employed by Mr Thomas Illingworth, a chemical manufacturer of Siddal, near Halifax. He was making a journey to Halifax on Saturday, together with a man named **Taylor**. Taylor had sent him on to open the lock, and afterwards saw no more of him. The body was removed to the Waggon and Horses Inn, Leeds Road, pending the inquest being held.

107 July 28 1891

A BOATMAN DROWNED IN THE CANAL An inquest was held at the Waggon and Horses Inn, Leeds Road, on Monday, by Mr J E Hill, the deputy coroner, on the body of **William O'Dell** aged 29, a boatman, who was drowned in the canal on Saturday. The evidence showed that soon after one o'clock on Saturday afternoon, Police-constable Ramsden was called to the canal bank by a man named Joseph Foster, of Fartown, who informed him that he had heard a splash in the canal near the Red Doors Lock. Ramsden went to the spot indicated, and there found several people searching for the body. He telephoned to the Central Police Office for drags to be sent to him, and some three hours afterwards, a body was recovered. It was identified as that of O'Dell, who was employed by Mr Thomas Illingworth, a chemical manufacturer of Siddal, near Halifax. He was making a journey to Halifax on Saturday, together with a man named **Taylor**. Taylor had sent him

on to open the lock, and afterwards saw no more of him. An open verdict was returned.

108 July 28 1891

SAD FATALITY IN THE CANAL An inquest was held at the Junction Inn, Deighton, on Monday morning, by Mr J E Hill, deputy coroner, on the body of a canal boatman named **Dyson Whitworth**, 18 years of age, of Bracken Hill, Mirfield, who on Friday last was travelling along the canal in charge of a horse and boat. At about two o'clock, he was observed by a man named Frederick Wadsworth standing on the bank near Lock 3, at Bradley. A few minutes afterwards, his brother, **William Whitworth**, came along in charge of another boat, and when he reached the lock was alarmed at finding Dyson's horse standing on the bank. He had grappling irons with him and, having his suspicions aroused, began to drag. After a few minutes, he recovered the body, and at once sent for a doctor. Mr Hatchett, assistant to Dr Richards of Deighton, came, and made every effort to restore animation, but without success. It is not known how he got into the water, but it is suggested that he was endeavouring to get a bucket full of water. Evidence was given to this effect, and a verdict was returned of "Found drowned, probably through an accidental fall into the water".

109 September 7 1891

A BOATMAN DROWNED AT MILNSBRIDGE On Saturday afternoon, a man named **Frank Womersley**, aged 29, of Kirkheaton, was travelling along the canal with a boat in Milnsbridge. At about half past two o'clock, he was in the Armitage Lock, Milnsbridge, and told his driver, a man named **James Henry Sykes**, to go on with the boat. Sykes, who is a Huddersfield man, drove on, but subsequently, on looking round, saw Womersley had fallen off the boat into the water. He assisted in getting him out, but Womersley died on the bank in a few minutes. Friend Earnshaw, a millhand of Paddock, saw the deceased fall into the water. The coroner has been communicated with.

110 September 19 1891

Borough Police Court

SCHOOL BOARD CASES Fines of 6d and 4s 6d costs were imposed in the following cases for non attendance at school :- **Fred Lee**, boatman, of 15 Back Union Street.

111 October 14 1891

County Police Court

STREET AFFRAY AT LINTHWAITE John Thomas Roscoe, labourer of Linthwaite, was summoned for assaulting **John Edward Sykes** of Linthwaite, boatman, on Saturday week. Mr R Welsh (Messrs Welsh and W Sykes) was for the complainant, and Mr James Sykes (Messrs Armitage and Sykes) defended. The complainant's evidence showed that there was some dispute between him and the defendant about a shovel. Words passed between them at the Shoulder of Mutton Inn on the day in question, and before going home, he waited to let the defendant get on in front. When he was about 15 yards from his home, however, on the Manchester Road, he came upon the defendant with another man. Defendant set upon him, knocked him down, and kicked him. In cross-examination, he denied that he took off his coat or offered to begin to fight. The defence was that there was a quarrel between the two men, both of them being the worse for liquor, and that the complainant began the fight, although he was ultimately most injured. The defendant was fined £1 and 10s 6d costs with a months imprisonment in default.

112 November 7 1891

Brighouse and Rastrick

GAME TRESPASS AT BRIGHOUSE On Saturday, at the Halifax West Riding Court, **Charles Haigh**, boatman, and Henry Proctor and John Fisher, labourers, all of Brighouse, were charged with trespassing in pursuit of conies on the Toothill Estate of Mr Clement Blackburn, on the 17th ult. Haigh and Proctor, old offenders, were each mulcted in the sum of £2 13s 6d including costs. Fisher was fined 10s and 13s 6d costs.

113 November 28 1891

Borough Police Court

SCHOOL BOARD CASES Fines of 6d and 4s 6d costs were imposed for the non attendance of children at school. An order to attend was made on **Fred Lee**, boatman, of Back Union Street.

114 December 8 1891

County Police Court

OBSTRUCTING THE BATTYE LOCK **William Pepper**, boatman of Goole, and **Charles Monday**, boatman of Sowerby Bridge, were summoned for a breach of the bye laws of the Calder and Hebble Navigation by obstructing the passage at Battye Lock at Kirkheaton. Mr Jardine (from the office of Mr Walker) of Halifax, prosecuted for the Aire and Calder Navigation Company, and Mr G Furniss of Brighouse defended Pepper. The evidence showed that Pepper was in the Battye Lock coming down, and Monday was lying outside going up. Both of them refused to leave the positions they were in, and by their remaining there, other boats could not get through, nor could either of them move until the other would give way. Pepper had emptied the lock to come down, and if he had gone back he would have had to fill it again. Pepper's defence was that, as he had emptied the lock, and wanted to get out by the time the other man got there, it was not his duty to go back. Monday's defence was that the rule of the canal was one boat up and one down. It was his turn up, when Pepper went in his face and got in. Monday was fined 2s 6d and £1 costs, and Pepper 2s 6d and 11s 6d costs.

115 December 11 1891

West Riding Autumn Assizes

SHOCKING CRIME AT DONCASTER

“WORSE THAN MURDER” **John Routledge** (34), boatman of Doncaster, was charged with having, on July 18th last, unlawfully and maliciously wounded, causing grievous bodily harm, to a woman named Elizabeth Holmes, who had lived with him as his wife. Mr James Beverley prosecuted, and called evidence showing that on the night in question prisoner went home drunk and ordered the woman to go to bed. She did so, and soon afterwards he followed her and wanted to know why she was in bed. She told him he had told her, and he then dragged her out of bed and kicked her. He then went downstairs, and presently returned with a red hot poker, which he thrust into her body. Her screams attracted the neighbours, and she was taken to the Infirmary, it being found that she was almost one mass of bruises and burns, and was in a very critical state. It was also said that next day he said he wished the ----- drink was in ----, and that he did all he could to alleviate the suffering of the woman. At the end of two months, she was able to leave the Infirmary. Mr G B Wilkinson, for the defence, said that the prisoner did not know what he was doing at the time the offence was committed, and acted under the influence of drink. He thought this should be taken into consideration, inasmuch as the man had afterwards behaved kindly to the woman. In summing up the case to the jury, his Lordship said that drunkenness was no excuse for crime. He could not find that the prisoner was not in such a state of mind that he was not responsible for his actions. If that was so, society could not exist. The jury found the prisoner guilty, and when he was asked if he had anything to say, he replied that he was very sorry, but really did not know anything about the case, except what the woman had told him afterwards. He had done everything he could for her comfort since. He also wanted it to be known that he had suffered from injuries to his head, on two occasions having been kicked by horses. In passing sentence, the learned Judge said that it was difficult to find words to deal with prisoner's crime. The previous convictions against him – 25 in number – were immaterial beside the events which had been disclosed in the evidence. It was worse than murder, and infinitely worse than the conduct of any wild beast. To the credit of humanity, it had been proved that the prisoner was more or less the worse for drink at the time. Still, he must have deliberately heated the poker in the fire before going upstairs to thrust it in the poor woman's body. The sentence of the court was that he be kept in penal servitude for life. (Sensation).

116 December 17 1891

Borough Police Court

AN UNSUSTAINED CHARGE

William Pepper, boatman of Goole, was summoned for

assaulting Daniel Swift of Mirfield. Complainant stated that about a fortnight ago, he was in the Wharf Inn, when the defendant came across the room and deliberately struck him in the mouth. Complainant called a witness named Whitfield, who said he was not present when the assault was alleged to have been committed. Another man named Normanton was called, and said he was present but did not see any blow struck. The complainant, however, charged the defendant with striking him, and he said he had shoved him on the chest. The defendant said that he and the complainant had previously had some bother, and when they came out of the court, the complainant told him he had not done "with this law" yet, and would have some more. Complainant started quarrelling with his (defendant's) wife, and he simply shoved him away. The Bench dismissed the case.

117 March 5 1892

Bradley

FOUND DROWNED AT COLNEBRIDGE On Wednesday morning about 10 o'clock, **Arthur Barker**, boatman of Station Road, Mirfield, was taking his boat up the Huddersfield Canal, and when near Colnebridge Mills, Bradley, he saw a bundle on the canal bank. Thinking someone was in the canal, he stopped his boat and made a search, and came across the body of George Drake, collier, Colnebridge. Police-constable Finch was informed of the circumstances, and had the body removed to the house of the deceased's uncle, John Drake of Colnebridge, a collier. Deceased had lately been in prison, and returned to his lodgings on Tuesday. About nine o'clock on Tuesday night, he left his uncle's, saying he was going to some relations at Dewsbury. On Tuesday morning, however, at five minutes past six, he was seen in Leeds Road by Noble Schofield and others. There was no mark of violence on the body. Deceased's watch had stopped at 8.15 am. Deceased had been subject to fits. An inquest was held at the White Cross Inn, Bradley, on Thursday evening, and a verdict to the effect that the deceased had been found drowned was returned.

118 May 25 1892

THE SUICIDE OF A MIRFIELD GIRL Mr P P Maitland held an inquest on Monday at the New Inn, Crigglestone, on the body of **Elizabeth Ann North**, aged 18 years, the daughter of **George Jagger North**, boatman of Stocksbank, Mirfield. It appeared that the deceased left her home on Saturday January 23rd after quarrelling with her mother the previous night as to the amount of wages she brought home from Mr Moorhouse's Clythe Mill, where she had been employed as a cotton reeler. Mrs North stated that Mr Moorhouse had told her that the girl was idle and earned less wages than she might have done. On the Friday night, 23rd January, she brought home only 6s 7 1/2d, when she could have earned as much again, and witness hit her in the back with her open hand twice. On the Saturday morning, she left the house at 25 minutes past six, saying, "Good morning", but she did not go to the mill, and one of the hands, Mary Robinson, had since said that deceased had said to her on the Friday night, that if witness said anything to her, she would drown herself. Deceased had not been seen since, but on Saturday her body, which was very much decomposed, was discovered on the side of the river Calder at Thornes, the clothes having caught on a willow tree which was overhanging the water. Verdict : "Drowned herself in the river Calder at Mirfield, while of unsound mind."

119 August 27 1892

A BOATMAN DROWNED AT CASTLEFORD Major Arundel, the coroner for the Honour of Pontefract, held an inquest on Saturday at Allerton-Bywater, on the body of a man named **Joseph Kay**, a boatman supposed to be about 38 years of age, and to belong to Huddersfield. It was shown that deceased had been drinking at Castleford, and it was supposed that in going to his boat, he fell into the Aire and Calder Canal, where his body was afterwards found. The whereabouts of his relatives are unknown. A verdict of "Accidental death" was returned. The following is a description of the man : 5ft 8in in height, stout build, brown hair, no whiskers, thick brown moustache, and brown cord suit.

120 September 5 1892

SINGULAR DROWNING CASE On Saturday morning about seven o'clock, the body of a child named **Phoebe Coleman**, aged nine years, the daughter of a canal keel owner named **Shadrick Coleman**, belonging to High Street, Hull, was dragged out of the Aire and Calder Canal at Carlton near Barnsley. The child's death happened under peculiar circumstances. On the previous afternoon, the father's keel was staying at Carlton, and the father sent the child, at half past four o'clock in the afternoon, to the Post Office with a letter addressed to her mother, who was lying ill at home. The girl did not return, and in the course of an hour, the father being uneasy, he went in search of her. He found the envelope in which the letter had been enclosed lying open on the canal bank, but there was no stamp upon it. The father was suspicious, but there were no marks on the canal bank indicating any scuffle. He proceeded to drag the canal but could not find her, but on Saturday morning he was assisted by other boatmen and the body was dragged out of the water not far from where the envelope was found. It is supposed the child let the letter fall into the canal, and in endeavouring to regain it, fell in.

121 October 4 1892

Borough Police Court

WISHING TO WITHDRAW A SUMMONS **John Pogson**, boatman, Church Lane, Moldgreen, was charged with assaulting Frances Sullivan of 1 Denton Lane, on the 26th ult. Complainant asked to be allowed to withdraw the summons. She stated that the defendant came to her the previous night and said he was sorry for what he had done. He was out of work, and he gave her 5s 6d to settle that matter. The magistrates decided that the case must be proceeded with, and complainant having given evidence as to the assault, defendant, who did not appear, was fined 10s and costs.

122 November 26 1892

Mirfield

CHARGE AGAINST MIRFIELD BOATMEN On Monday at the Dewsbury West Riding Police Court, before Mr R I Critchley and other justices, **Hanson Schofield** of Brighouse and **John W Wainwright**, boatmen, were charged with committing a breach of the bye laws of the Calder and Hebble Navigation Company. Mr Hughes (Messrs Chadwick and Sons) prosecuted. It appeared that on the 2nd inst, **William Burt**, lock-keeper at Shepley Bridge, Mirfield, was attending to his ordinary duties and saw a barge in charge of the defendants near the locks, with two narrow boats behind. These they allowed to take their turn, and they wanted to have the next; but there was a barge above which had precedence. Defendants, however, interfered, and drew the clews partly, and owing to their conduct the canal traffic was blocked for three hours. Schofield contended, before the Bench, that it was his turn, but called no witnesses, nor did the other man. Each was fined £1 and costs, or a months imprisonment.

123 November 29 1892

FOUND DROWNED The body of a man unknown has been found in the river Calder at Shepley Bridge, Mirfield, by a boatman named **John Markington**. It is believed to have been in the mud for three months. Only an old clay pipe was in the possession of the deceased.

124 January 24 1893

THE SALTAIRE TRAGEDY While a boatman named **W Holmes** was in the act of pushing off the canal boat *Sarah* from the basin adjoining the wharf of the executors of the late Thomas Kendall at Shipley on Monday morning, he brought up with his hook the body of Laura Silverwood Yeadon, the 10 months old child of a young woman of the same name, whose body was taken from the Leeds and Liverpool Canal at Shipley about a month ago. The body was found at a distance of about 50 yards from the spot where the mother was discovered.

125 February 13 1893

CHARGE AGAINST A BRIGHOUSE LANDLORD At the Halifax West Riding Court on Saturday, Francis Job, landlord of the Anchor Inn, Brighouse, was summoned for permitting

drunkenness on the 4th inst. Police-constable Greenwood stated that he visited the house the previous Saturday night. A man named **Samuel Lee** was drunk in the taproom, and Uriah Ratcliffe, cotton spinner, was drunk in another room. The defendant, through Mr Boocock, denied that the men were drunk, and Ratcliffe avowed that he was sober at the time. The defendant was fined 24s including costs. Samuel Lee, boatman, and Uriah Ratcliffe, the two men referred to, were summoned for being drunk on licensed premises. Lee was fined 15s and costs. The other defendant was ordered to pay 5s and the costs.

126 March 7 1893

AN ELLAND MYSTERY The body of a man, whose name had not been ascertained, was taken from the canal at Woodside, Elland, on Sunday. The deceased, who was discovered by **Jonathan Wood**, a boatman of Mirfield, was about 50 years of age, and four small packets of needles were found in his pockets.

127 March 8 1893

IN DARKEST ELLAND – A HUNT FOR A BIBLE At the Royal Hotel, Elland, an inquest was held on Tuesday morning on the body of an unknown man, whose body was taken out of the canal at Woodside, Elland, on Sunday morning. When the coroner was about to swear the jury, he found no Testament in the room. Upon asking the reason, Police-constable Hart stated that a new landlord had taken possession of the house that morning, but could not find a Testament. The landlord had, however, gone in search of one. The Coroner : Indeed. It is not included in the valuation. Testaments are scarce. Police-sergeant Gould stated that the landlord did not find one in the valuation when he took hold. The Coroner : I think you will find more Bibles among the blacks, where the missionaries go, than here (Laughter). A Testament was procured shortly afterwards, and the inquest proceeded. **Jonathan Wood**, boatman, Hull, gave evidence as to the finding of the body, which he said was sent to the top by the boiling up of the water consequent on the drawing off of the lock called Leather Bucket Lock, Woodside, Elland. Police-constable Hart stated that he examined the body, and found the man's hands crossed, appearances pointing that he had tied them himself, having tied the last knot by the aid of his teeth. He had on him four small packets of needles and an old knife. The body had been in the water 9 or 10 days, a pedlar's certificate having been found about that time. The certificate bore the name Lewis Cooper (65), Mansfield, Notts, and the description on it corresponded with that given by the Elland police. The Mansfield police had telegraphed that enquiries had been made but, although the certificate was granted there in December last, nothing was known of him. A verdict that deceased had probably drowned himself was returned.

128 March 14 1893

Borough Police Court

WIFE DESERTION **Joseph J Richardson**, boatman, Garden Street, Leeds, was charged with deserting and neglecting to maintain his wife, **Isabella Richardson** of Somerset Crescent, Huddersfield. The complainant stated that she had been married to the defendant about 11 years, and had two children, but only one lived at home. The defendant left her three weeks ago last Saturday, and said he was going to work with his father at Leeds. She had not seen him since, and he had sent nothing whatever towards her support. He had often told her that he would go away. On a previous occasion, he left her for seven weeks and sent her no money. When he went away three weeks ago, he did not even know that he had left her a home, because he owed so much rent. He always spent his money in drink when he was at home. She could work to keep herself, and all she wanted was that he might be made to support the child. His wages were from 24s to 30s per week. The defendant, who did not appear, was ordered to contribute 7s 6d a week.

129 May 10 1893

THE END OF A WASTED LIFE – A BRIGHOUSE MASON'S SUICIDE Mr W Barstow held an enquiry on Tuesday at Brighouse into the death of James Walker, better known as “Jimmy Dinny”,

mason, of Brighouse, whose dead body was taken out of the Calder and Hebble Canal on Friday. The evidence showed that on Friday morning a boatman named **Teal** saw a man's cap lying on the top of the wall near the canal. Teal could not delay his boat, but gave information of what he had seen, and a young man named Robert Noble went to the place. Inside the cap was a scrap of paper – the margin torn from a newspaper – on which was written in lead pencil and in scrawling letters, the words, “James Walker, mason, Brighouse”. A piece of stone was placed on top of the paper. Noble procured a boat hook, and after a little searching, found the body in the canal. The deceased was a native of Brighouse, and was formerly a good monumental mason, especially clever at lettering. He gave way to drink, and for some years had lived a dissolute life. He was last seen alive on Thursday evening. The jury returned a verdict of “Found drowned, the deceased having probably drowned himself whilst of unsound mind”.

130 June 7 1893

County Police Court

OBSTRUCTING THE CANAL – A BOAT AGROUND **William Oates**, boatman of Mirfield, was summoned for a breach of the Calder and Hebble Navigation bye laws at Battye Cut End, Kirkheaton, on the 28th May. Mr Jardine of Halifax prosecuted on behalf of the Calder and Hebble Navigation Company, and told the Bench that the defendant was the owner and captain of a boat which plied on the company's canal. Having quoted from the bye laws of the company to show what constituted an offence, he stated that on Sunday, the 28th ult, defendant was in charge of his boat on the canal. The draught of the boat was in excess of that allowed by the company, and on approaching the Battye Cut End, he allowed it to proceed until it got stuck fast in the mud at the bottom of the canal. He could not get his boat clear by drawing it forward, and would not consent to its being drawn back. No less than 18 vessels were hindered in their course. Thomas Watson and William Henry Livesey, employed by the company, gave evidence to this effect, but defendant stated that the canal wanted cleaning out, and that it was impossible to pull the vessel either way. It was even more difficult to get the boat back than forward. It was denied that the canal was in bad condition, and the defendant was fined £1 and costs 14s.

131 June 20 1893

A MOTHER'S CRIME On Monday morning, Mary Ann Moat (27), married woman of Eldwick near Bingley, was charged at the Bingley Court House with the attempted murder of her three children in the Leeds and Liverpool Canal at Bingley, during the night of Monday the 12th inst. The prisoner seemed in a very distressed condition, and hung her head during almost the whole of the proceedings. On being formally charged, prisoner made the following statement :- “I have nothing to say. I am very sorry that I did it. I do not think I was in my right mind when I did it. I would not have done it if I had been in my right mind”. Prisoner was then committed to take her trial at the next Leeds Assizes.

132 June 20 1893

WORKING A HORSE TO DEATH At Altrincham, on Monday, **Thomas Gough**, boatman, Runcorn, was charged with cruelty to a horse. The animal was frightfully lame, and had two large wounds on the breast and back. It was so weak it could not walk to the knacker's yard, and had to be slaughtered on the spot. The Bench said the horse had simply been worked to death. The defendant would be sent to prison for one month without the option of a fine.

133 June 23 1893

MYSTERIOUS DROWNING CASE AT BRADLEY A boatman named **William France** of Battye Ford, was by the side of the river Calder near Kirklees Lock, Bradley, at a quarter past four o'clock on Wednesday afternoon, when a teamer going with his lorry and horses on Kirklees Road, Clifton, called out to him across the river, and told him that he had seen a man fall backwards into the river off the hauling bank near the railway bridge, on the Bradley side. France informed Police-constable Finch, of the borough force, of what he had been told, and Finch, with another constable,

proceeded to the place indicated, where they found a black billycock hat floating on the water. Having obtained drags and assistance, they dragged the river, and at about a quarter to seven o'clock, George Beverley, labourer of Colnebridge, brought up the body of a man, in appearance about 30 years of age. The body, which up to a late hour last night had not been identified, was conveyed to the White Cross Inn, Bradley, where an inquest will be held upon it by the coroner this morning. The following is a description of the man :-

Height 5ft 10in, thinly built, pale complexion, brown eyes, dark brown hair, light brown moustache, otherwise clean shaven, lost front tooth of upper jaw, dressed in black worsted coat with pockets behind, black worsted waistcoat, black and blue worsted trousers held up by leather braces, blue and white check cotton shirt, white cotton handkerchief with red spots, grey worsted stockings, light laced boots, all in fair condition. Property found on body, a metal watch (stopped at 4.17) minute hand missing, has "Adelphi Watch Co" on face and "S H Wood" scratched on inner case, number on works 14,270, a steel chain attached, a leather purse, 2s 2d in cash, a tobacco box and a pocket knife.

134 July 20 1893

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE IN HUDDERSFIELD Police-constables Bolton and Hinchcliffe were called to the lodging house of Thomas Lynch, Upperhead Row, on Tuesday evening, where they found a woman named Catherine Sullivan, who had been rescued from the canal. The woman stated that she had slipped into the water. The officers, however, made further enquiries, and ascertained that she had been living with her son, John Sullivan, at No 1 Denton Lane, since last October. She left there at 8.30 on Tuesday morning, and was not seen by her friends again during the day. She had previously threatened to make away with herself on several occasions, and on Monday she made application for admission to the workhouse, having told another woman that if she was not admitted, she should drown herself, or go to Manchester. It appears that she walked about all day on Tuesday, and about 10.15 pm, **Mrs Crampton**, wife of a boatman, heard someone in the canal near the boat. She called her husband, who pulled Sullivan out with a boat hook. She was taken by the constables to the police station and charged with attempting to commit suicide, and said she was sorry, and that she had been driven to it. The woman, who is 52 years of age and married, her husband living in Ireland, was brought before the borough magistrates on Wednesday morning and, on the application of Superintendent Hogg, was remanded till Friday.

135 September 18 1893

OUTBREAK OF SMALLPOX AT NANTWICH An extraordinary outbreak of smallpox has been reported to the Nantwich Local Board. A canal boatman feeling unwell, presented himself to the medical officer, who saw appearances of smallpox in the man's face, and ordered him to the workhouse. The master of that institution refused him admission, and the man was isolated on his own boat. The absence of an infectious hospital has become so pressing that the local authorities have jointly agreed to build a hospital.

136 November 11 1893

Borough Police Court

AN AWKWARD STILE **James William Brown**, boatman of 36 Manchester Street, and James Bawtry, greengrocer of Damside, were charged with gambling with coins at Fartown on the afternoon of Sunday the 29th ult. Sergeant Hanson stated that there were about a score of young fellows playing at pitch and toss underneath the railway arch on the footpath leading from Fartown Green to the canal bank. He got within 20 yards of them, saw the tossing, and also saw money change hands. When they saw him they ran away, but having to get through a stile, he caught the two defendants, one in either hand. He stated, in reply to the defendants, that he did not see them toss, but they were in the group. Brown admitted that he was there, but said he took no part in the gambling. Bawtry alleged he was not amongst the defendants, but happened to be walking in the neighbourhood when the officer ran the defendants, and was taken into custody. Bawtry, who had been previously before the court, was ordered to pay 7s 6d including costs, and Brown was ordered

to pay 5s.

137 November 18 1893

Borough Police Court

SCHOOL BOARD CASES The following persons were fined 6d with 4s 6d costs for neglecting to send their children regularly to school :- **Fred Lee**, boatman, Moldgreen, 14 attendances out of a possible 62.

138 February 22 1894

ATTEMPTED WIFE MURDER At Old Hill Police Court, on Wednesday, **William Neate** (45), a boatman, was committed to the Stafford Assizes on a charge of attempting to murder his wife Olive on the 1st inst. The evidence showed that the prisoner struck his wife on the head with a hammer, fractured her skull, and broke her collar bone and ribs. The woman's condition grew so dangerous that her depositions were taken.

139 March 20 1894

Borough Police Court

THEFT FROM A CANAL BOAT John William Coulton (22), umbrella mender of no fixed abode, and **Joseph Capsell** (22), boatman, Stalybridge, were charged with stealing two pairs of trousers, valued at 10s, the property of **Henry Greaves**, boatman, Ravensthorpe. The evidence of the prosecutor was that he was captain and part owner of a boat called the "Five Brothers". On Saturday, he left the boat lying in the canal basin at Aspley, Huddersfield. It was all right and the cabin was locked up. When he got to the boat that (Monday) morning, he found the cabin door unlocked and two pairs of trousers missing from the cabin. He gave information to the police, and identified the trousers produced as his property. Mary Ann Payton, residing at Rodgers' Lodging House, Kirkgate, spoke to purchasing one of the pairs of trousers from the prisoner Capsell on Saturday night for 1s 6d. Detective Sutton, who arrested the prisoners, said that Coulton was wearing the other pair of trousers, and when charged with the theft, asserted that he bought them from a man three weeks ago. Capsell now pleaded guilty, and said he had been led to steal by being out of work. Coulton denied being guilty of anything but going into the cabin for a night's shelter. The prisoners were each committed to gaol for one months hard labour.

140 April 6 1894

FOUND DROWNED On Wednesday morning, an unknown man was found drowned in the Calder and Hebble Canal at Batty Mill, Kirkheaton, by **William Dutton**, a boatman of Elland. He was apparently between 18 and 19 years of age, 5ft 9in in height, light brown hair, and of light complexion. He was wearing a black worsted coat and vest and a brown mixture cloth vest also, blue and grey striped trousers, blue and white plaided shirt, black stockings and laced up clogs. He had a scar on his forehead, was bald on the top of the head, and had a scar on the back of his head. From these marks, he is supposed to be a pit hurrier.

141 July 4 1894

County Police Court

A CHARGE OF EMBEZZLEMENT DISMISSED **Tom Watson**, boatman, Kirkheaton, was charged by Charles Whitfield, boat owner, Huddersfield, with embezzlement. Mr R Welsh appeared for the prosecutor, and Mr F A Reed (Messrs Learoyd and Co) for the defendant. The evidence for the prosecution was that in March last, the defendant was sent in charge of a boat to the Summit, neat Littleborough, and was given £5 with which to pay expenses. The boat was first taken to Wheldale, Castleford, to load, and whilst there some hauling was done for a man, who paid the defendant 13s. Defendant afterwards received £2 10s more from the prosecutor, making £7 10s in all, and of this amount he had paid £5 11s 10d, leaving a balance of £1 18s 2d, which he had not accounted for, neither had he handed over the 13s which he received for the hauling. It was afterwards found that the men who helped the defendant work the boat had not been paid their wages, and one of them sued prosecutor in the County Court, and obtained a verdict. After the trip was completed, prosecutor had a talk with the defendant about balancing up, and defendant said he

would see him to h—l first, and prosecutor had not seen him since. Mr Reed submitted that as regards the 13s, the defendant used the horse for his own purposes and therefore under a decision of Chief Justice Bovill in the Court for Crown cases reserved, he could not be proceeded against for embezzlement. The court pointed out that the defendant earned the money by using the prosecutor's property, and that he ought to have accounted for it, and the case was allowed to proceed. In cross-examination, prosecutor said that when in the County Court, he did not swear that the defendant was not in his employ, but that he had not engaged the man who sued him. He admitted that the defendant claimed various small amounts for corn, hay, stabling, lock penny and an extra man, but he denied that the defendant had a right to some of these charges. Mr Reed : Is it not the fact that it is a mere squabble between you and him as to these amounts? Prosecutor replied that there was a squabble certainly. Mr Reed suggested that this was an end of the case, but the court decided to proceed, and the prosecutor was further cross-examined with regard to these small amounts. Prosecutor was not aware where the defendant stabled his horse during the time he was away from the 18th to the 29th of March. The voyage lasted two days short of three weeks owing to the defendant's negligence. If the defendant was away properly for 19 days, he would be entitled to 9s 6d for stabling the horse, and his wages were 35s for the voyage, however long or short it was. He did not know what the defendant had paid to a man named Rushworth Ellis, but prosecutor had to pay him a guinea over again. The defendant was told to buy horse corn but not hay for the horse. The defendant had kept back money due before, but witness had not taken proceedings against him because he had agreed to work it off. **Tom Walker**, boatman of Mirfield, was called to prove that Whitfield handed a £5 note to him on the 18th of March, and that subsequently he gave it to the defendant at the defendant's request. Mr Reed, for the defence, described the charge as an attempt on the part of the prosecutor to obtain certain moneys from the defendant, whereas on a balance of accounts, there was really a considerable sum due from the prosecutor to the defendant. The whole of the interviews between the prosecutor and the defendant showed that the matter was treated as one of account, so that it could not by any means be construed into embezzlement, and ought to be tried by a civil tribunal. **Rushworth Ellis**, of Mirfield Moor, who took part in the voyage, gave evidence that the defendant paid him 14s in wages. He saw the defendant pay 3s for corn for the horse, and also heard the defendant express his willingness to the prosecutor to settle up with him. **Albert Lindley**, of Battyeford, Mirfield, who was engaged for part of the voyage, stated that the defendant paid him 4s 6d; and Samuel Carter, horse dealer, Kirkheaton, cousin of the prosecutor, was called to prove that he prepared a statement of account as between the defendant and the prosecutor the day before the defendant went to reckon with the prosecutor. The Bench decided that a prima facie case had not been made out, and the case was dismissed.

142 August 1 1894

County Police Court

DRUNK IN CHARGE OF A HORSE AND WAGGONETTE **Wm Roddis**, boatman, Slaithwaite, was summoned for being drunk while in charge of a horse and waggonette at Linthwaite on the 22nd July. Police-constables Webb and West gave evidence that the defendant drove recklessly about the road, and was so drunk that they had to take his conveyance home for him. Defendant denied that he was the worse for drink, or that he drove recklessly. A fine of 10s with 6s 6d costs was inflicted.

143 October 17 1894

WEST RIDING QUARTER SESSIONS At the West Riding Sessions at Wakefield on Tuesday, James Astley (37), stoker, was indicted for stealing a watch, value 10s, the property of **Joshua Armitage**, colliery boatman, Ingwell Street, Wakefield. Eighteen calendar months imprisonment.

144 October 23 1894

ATTEMPTED WIFE MURDER A boatman named **George Shaw** was remanded at Hanley on Monday on the charge of attempting to murder his wife. It was alleged that he brutally kicked the woman, attempted to hang her, and subsequently threw her into the canal, from which she was rescued in an exhausted state. She was too ill to attend the police court. Bail was refused.

145 November 19 1894

BLOWN INTO A CANAL AND DROWNED On Saturday the South Staffordshire coroner held an inquest at Tipton concerning the death of a boatman named **Thomas Hamblett**, found drowned in the Birmingham Canal. Deceased was engaged as a steerer on a boat plying between Rowley and Bradley, and on arriving at Tipton, orders were issued for goods to be collected. The weather was very rough at the time, and it is supposed that deceased was blown into the canal. Three days elapsed before the body was found. A verdict of "Accidental death" was returned.

146 January 7 1895

KILLED ON THE LINE On Saturday, the Sheffield coroner held an inquest on a boatman named **George Brooker**, whose body, horribly mutilated, was found on the Midland Railway. A driver saw a leg on the line, and afterwards an arm, and on a search being made, the body was discovered. How the deceased came on the line was inexplicable, but it is surmised he jumped on the wall protecting the railway in mistake for the canal wall, and falling 30 ft, was stunned and killed by a passing train. An open verdict was returned.

147 February 6 1895

DEATH FROM GAS SUFFOCATION IN HUDDERSFIELD On Tuesday morning, the shocking death from suffocation by gas of Friend Matthewman, aged 39 years, a whitesmith, who resided with his father at 26 Halifax Old Road, and the narrow escape of **Lewis Woodhead**, canal boatman, of Ark Hill, Halifax Old Road, were reported to the authorities in Huddersfield. It appears that Matthewman and Woodhead went to Brighouse together on Monday, and did not return till a quarter to 12 o'clock. Matthewman, finding that his father and mother were in bed, said he did not like to disturb them, and remarked that he would sleep with Woodhead for the night if the latter would let him. Woodhead, who lives with his sister, Ellen Wilkinson, a widow, replied that he was welcome to do so. Mrs Wilkinson got up to let her brother and Matthewman in, and she heard the two go to bed shortly after. They occupied a bedroom next to the one in which she was sleeping, and she heard nothing unusual during the night. About half past eight in the morning, she went to call her brother, but received no answer and, on entering the bedroom, she at once detected a strong smell of gas. Matthewman was laid on the floor with some of his bedclothes on top of him, and her brother was in bed. She tried to rouse them, but failed to do so. The room was full of gas, and on looking, she saw that the tap of the burner was about half turned on. Becoming alarmed, she at once sent for Dr Frost, who came immediately and was followed by Dr Hardy. A neighbour named Henry Platts, whom Mrs Wilkinson also called in, went into the bedroom and threw open the window. The medical men, finding both Matthewman and Woodhead unconscious, did everything in their power to endeavour to restore animation by artificial means. Their efforts were successful in the case of Woodhead, but after two hours had elapsed, they were obliged to relinquish all hopes of restoring Matthewman, and pronounced life to be extinct. The bedroom in which the men slept is without a fireplace, and there is practically no means of ventilation. Woodhead, on regaining consciousness, stated that when they went to bed, he turned off the gas as far as he knew, and soon afterwards he fell asleep, and does not remember anything more. The room is 9ft 4in high and 8ft square, and allowing for the furniture &c, there would be an air space of not more than 500 cubic feet. The coroner has been informed of the sad occurrence.

148 February 8 1895

THE DEATH FROM GAS POISONING AT HILLHOUSE – INQUEST AND VERDICT On Thursday afternoon Mr W Barstow, district county coroner, and a jury, of whom Mr Peter Goodwin was elected foreman, conducted an enquiry at the Black Bull Inn, Hillhouse, into the circumstances attending the death of Friend Matthewman (aged 38 years), a whitesmith, residing with his father at 26 Halifax Old Road, Hillhouse, who died on Monday from the effects of gas poisoning, as detailed in the following evidence.

John Matthewman, cloth dresser, the father of the deceased, gave evidence of identification. He

said that on Monday the deceased, not having to go to his work that day, went to Brighthouse with a friend named Lewis Woodhead, and did not sleep at home that night. Witness saw his son's dead body on the following morning.

Lewis Woodhead, boatman, who resides with his sister (Ellen Wilkinson, widow) at No 1 Ark hill, Hillhouse, said that he and the deceased walked to Brighthouse together on Monday, arriving there about 10 o'clock. They left Brighthouse at 11 o'clock at night in a cab, and arrived at Hillhouse at about a quarter to 12. The deceased said he did not wish to disturb his parents so late, as his mother was very ill, and witness said he could stay with him if he liked. They therefore went to the house of his (witness's) sister. She let them into the house, and he and the deceased went upstairs together into the bedroom. The gas was burning slightly, but they did not touch it until they had got into bed, when witness, who was nearest to it, sat up in bed and turned out the light. He recollected nothing further until they wakened him the next morning. He had slept in the room for years, and had turned the gas off scores of times. Witness always left the door about 6 in open, but on this occasion, the deceased went last into the room and shut the door. There was no fireplace in the room. The tap did not turn round, but had a stop halfway. He could not account for the fact that the tap was found next morning turned partially on. Witness said he was sober, having drunk nothing but port wine all day, but the deceased, who was drinking whisky, was a bit "fresh". Witness admitted that he had perhaps a dozen twopenny glasses of port wine. The top of the gas was very slack, and he turned it off as he usually did, by pressing one finger against it.

Ellen Wilkinson, sister of the last witness, corroborated his evidence as to the arrival of himself and the deceased about 12 o'clock on Monday night. About 8.30 next morning, she went to waken them. The room door was quite shut. She knocked very loudly, but receiving no answer, she opened the door and found the deceased lying on his left side on the floor, with his face covered with clothes. Her brother was laid in bed, and both were unconscious. There was a very strong smell of gas in the room, and she found the tap was turned nearly halfway on, and gas was escaping from it. There had never been any mishap of this kind before. She went for Matthewman's father, and Dr Frost was also sent for.

Dr Frost said that he arrived at the house about nine o'clock. The window had been opened by a joiner called Platts, and the gas had escaped. Both men were unconscious, but Woodhead was easily roused, and they left him to come round of himself. Matthewman, however, exhibited no sign of life, and though he and Dr Hardy (who arrived subsequently) tried for two hours to restore animation by artificial means, their efforts were unsuccessful and, in witness's opinion, deceased was dead when he arrived. He afterwards measured the room and found that it contained about 500 cubic feet which for two men was a very small air space, and was less than was allowed by Act of Parliament in common lodging houses. The room was a perfect box. There was no fireplace and no chinks in the door, whilst a mat had been put at the bottom of the door, so that there was no wonder no other occupants of the house noticed the smell of gas. The only means of ventilation was a small hole about the size of an inch in one of the panes of glass in the window. As to the position in which the deceased was found, he explained that poisoning by gas was not like ordinary suffocation because before death it gave rise to very strong convulsions, and their severity in a strong man like deceased no doubt caused him to roll out of bed. In his opinion, death resulted from poisoning by coal gas.

Walter Platts, joiner, of Halifax Old Road, who was called into the house by Mrs Wilkinson, corroborated her statement as to the state of the bedroom and its occupants. In his opinion, Matthewman was dead when he was found.

The jury returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased was accidentally poisoned by coal gas, the gas tap in the bedroom having been inadvertently left partially turned on.

149 February 9 1895

Brighthouse and Rastrick

A BRIGHOUSE BOATMAN AND HIS SON MISSING Considerable anxiety is felt as to the fate of **Asa Oates**, 45 years of age, a boatman of Brighthouse. Some time ago, Oates left Brighthouse with his boat for Hull, which he reached in safety. It is known that on Thursday January 17th, Oates had

his boat in the Alexander Dock, Hull, ready loaded for returning home, but nothing has been seen or heard of him since, and it is supposed that he fell into the dock and was drowned. Strange to say, **John Oates**, son of the boatman named, left Brighthouse on the same day as his father with another boat, and since then nothing has been heard of him either. The son also went to Hull, which he reached in safety, but his whereabouts have been a mystery since January 17th. The relatives of the two men are instituting inquiries in Hull.

150 March 9 1895

Brighthouse and Rastrick

THE MISSING RASTRICK BOATMEN On Thursday a telegram was received at Brighthouse to the effect that the dead body of **Asa Oates** (45), a canal boatman of Rastrick, had been taken out of one of the Hull docks that morning. Oates, who went with his boat from Brighthouse to Hull several weeks ago, had been missing for some time. A sad feature of the case is that Oates's son, a young man about 19 years of age, is also missing from home. He was a canal boatman, and went to Hull about the same time as his father, and it is feared that he has shared the same fate. It is supposed that both men, after arriving at Hull, fell into the dock in passing to and from their cabins in the dark, it being the custom of the boatmen to sleep in their cabins.

151 March 15 1895

A RASTRICK BOATMAN SENT TO PRISON On Wednesday, at the Halifax West Riding Police Court, **Dan Moffat Spivey**, boatman, Rastrick, was sent to prison for one month, without the option of a fine, for insulting conduct to Mrs Mary Hannah Stott, a married woman, living at Rastrick.

152 August 8 1895

A MISSING MINER A Methley miner named John Illingworth has been missing from home since Saturday, and the circumstances surrounding his disappearance are somewhat startling. It appears that he left home at half past six on Saturday night to go to Wakefield, in which town he was seen by a relative about eight o'clock. He was next heard of at the Fox Inn, Altofts, between 10 and 11 pm, and afterwards a man named Beaumont, who lodges at the inn named, saw Illingworth over the bridge crossing the river on his way home. The missing man was then the worse for drink, having broken that evening after being teetotal for some years. The interest was further heightened on Wednesday morning by the appearance at the Wakefield court house of a boatman named **Alfred Beaumont**, who was charged with stealing a watch and chain, the property of the missing man.

It appears from the evidence of Superintendent Shepley and the evidence of Police-constable Scott that Illingworth, failing to return home on Saturday night, enquiries were made regarding him. At first there was little trace of his movements after visiting Wakefield, where he was seen about eight o'clock on the night in question. Scott however, on calling at the Fox Inn, Altofts, ascertained that the prisoner and Illingworth were seen together about 11 pm on Saturday, near a bridge which crosses the river from Altofts to Foxholes. On this, Scott saw the prisoner, who lodges at the Fox Inn, and asked him if he would allow his belongings to be searched. Prisoner refused to do this, on which Scott said he would have to accompany him to Methley. Whilst crossing the ferry, prisoner said he would allow his property to be searched, and they accordingly returned to the Fox Inn. Upstairs in the bedroom, Scott found the missing man's watch secreted between the bed and the mattress, and on being asked about it, prisoner said his brother gave him that watch six months ago. Prisoner was then conveyed to Methley, where the watch was identified by Mrs Illingworth, and on being charged with stealing it, Beaumont at first made no reply, but afterwards said that the watch had been given him by the missing man on Saturday night at eleven o'clock. In consequence of a remark made by the prisoner, Scott returned to the Fox Inn, and on examining the bedclothes, found a steel chain, which also belonged to Illingworth.

Mrs Illingworth, on being called as a witness, appeared to be in great distress, and had to be assisted into court by some friends. She identified both the watch and chain, and said they were bought some time ago at the shop of Mr F K Perkin in Wakefield.

Superintendent Shepley said that he had a note from Mr Perkin stating that the watch, of which he

gave the number, was purchased from him in March 1893 by a person who gave the name of John Illingworth.

The prisoner, in answer to the charge, said he had nothing to say, and he was remanded until Monday next.

Dragging operations have been continued at Foxholes Basin, near to the spot where the two men were last seen together.

153 September 18 1895

FOUND DROWNED About eight o'clock on Tuesday morning, **John Howe**, boatman of Kilner's Buildings, Longroyd Bridge, informed the police that he had found the body of a woman floating in the canal near the Clarendon Hotel, Firth Street, something like half an hour earlier. Police-sergeant Stephenson and Police-constable Riley proceeded to the spot with the ambulance, and after recovering the body conveyed it to the mortuary. John Henry Holmes of 21 Firth Street states that about half past twelve the same morning, he was in bed when he heard a woman screaming. The sound, which continued for about five minutes, proceeded from the direction of the canal bank. He opened the attic window and looked out, but could see nothing. On the clothes of the deceased being examined, a pedlar's certificate was found upon her. This had been granted to Mary Graham of Gaol Lane, Halifax, aged 54 years.

154 September 19 1895

MYSTERIOUS DROWNING CASE AT HUDDERSFIELD – AN OPEN VERDICT On Wednesday evening, Mr W Barstow, JP, district county coroner, and a jury of whom Mr S Sykes was elected foreman, held an enquiry at the Borough Mortuary into the circumstances surrounding the death of Mary Graham, aged 54 years, hawker of Gaol Lane, Halifax, whose death was reported to the police on the previous day.

John Howe, boatman of Longroyd Bridge, stated that about 7.35 on Tuesday morning he was going along the canal towing-path from Longroyd Bridge to Aspley, when he saw the dead body of the deceased floating in the water near the Clarendon Hotel, Firth Street. He gave information at the police station, and assisted Police-sergeant Stephenson and Police-constable Riley to recover the body, which was afterwards removed to the mortuary. From the appearance of the body, the deceased must have been in the water several hours.

Kate Owens, wife of John Thomas Owens, landlord of the Foresters' Arms beerhouse, Kirkgate, said that the deceased, who was a stranger to her, was at their house from one o'clock to two on Monday afternoon. She said her name was Mary Graham, that she got her living by hawking and needlework, that she had been in the Halifax Workhouse, where she had her wrist injured through the fall of a hoist, and that the Guardians were allowing her 5s a week until she got better. She returned to the house about 10.30, and remained until 11, when she went away leaving her basket, saying she would call in the morning for it. She had had some drink, but was not drunk.

Hetty Shaw, wife of Joseph Shaw, landlord of the Clarendon Hotel, Firth Street, said that about 12.20 am on Tuesday, she heard sounds of a quarrel proceeding from the canal bank just below their house. She opened the window and looked out, and saw a number of people, perhaps four or five, moving about, but it was so dark she could not make out who they were. They appeared to be having a scuffle, as if a fight was in progress. Then she heard a woman shout, "Help! Police! Murder!" and saw some of the people going away in the direction of Aspley. The woman said, "I will make you smart for this", and then all was quiet. The body was found 20 or 30 yards higher up the canal than where she saw the people on the towing path, and there were two boats between the two spots. She neither saw nor heard anything afterwards, and nothing occurred to lead her to think there was anyone in the water.

Charles Siddle, watchman for Messrs George Brook jun at Larchfield Mills, stated that between one o'clock and half past on Tuesday morning, he was in the firing-up place, which is close to the canal bank, when he heard someone tap at the window, and a woman's voice said, "Hello". He answered, "Hello", but there was no reply, and he thought he heard the sound of departing footsteps, but could

not say in which direction the person went. He did not hear the sound of any scuffle or a splash in the water. It was not an unusual thing for females to go up the canal towing-path during the night. The window of the firing-up place was about 60 yards above where the body was found.

Mrs Jowett, female searcher, deposed to laying out the body. There was no mark of violence on it, and the clothing did not bear any evidence of a struggle. A pedlar's certificate, granted on the 10th of July 1895 to the deceased by the Halifax police was found in her pocket.

The jury returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased was found drowned, but that there was no evidence to show how she got into the water.

155 September 26 1895

FOUND DROWNED AT COOPER BRIDGE The Huddersfield Borough Police have received a report to the effect that Ellen Burke, aged 30 years, wife of John Burke of Castlegate, Huddersfield, had been found in the canal at Cooper Bridge by **James Greenby**, boatman, with whom she had cohabited for the last five years. It appears that the deceased (who has been separated from her husband for the last seven years) came to Huddersfield with Greenby on Tuesday evening. They separated in Northgate about ten o'clock, when the woman said she would return to the boat at Cooper Bridge. She was seen in Leeds Road about 10 minutes past 12 on Wednesday morning. She appeared to have been drinking, and said she was going to Cooper Bridge, where "Jimmy" would be waiting for her. Greenby returned to the boat at one o'clock on Wednesday morning, but saw nothing of the woman until he found her body in the canal about six hours later. It is supposed that she slipped into the water whilst attempting to get into the boat, as the night was very foggy. The body (on which there were no marks of violence) was removed to the "White Cross" to await an inquest.

156 December 16 1895

On Saturday, three boatmen, all residing in the neighbourhood of Birmingham, named **Worsey**, **Hodges** and **Pelfrey**, were charged with stealing a horse, the property of Henry Hodgetts, coal dealer of Winson Green, Birmingham. The prisoners were sent in charge of boats to fetch coal from Cannock, and on arriving at Great Bridge, it was alleged that they sold one of the horses, and spent the money received in payment in a spree. They were remanded until today.

157 December 30 1895

FOUND DROWNED At noon on Saturday, the body of a well dressed man about 36 years of age was taken out of the River Calder at Wakefield by a boatman named **Walker**. The man, who apparently had only been in the water a short time, had a ticket from Drighlington to Wakefield in his possession, dated Friday. He had upwards of a sovereign in his pockets, and wore blue pilot trousers.

158 February 11 1896

FOUND DROWNED AT BRADLEY About ten o'clock on Monday morning, **Thomas Ward**, boatman of Wakefield, was on his way to Huddersfield with his boat when he saw the body of a man floating in the River Calder near Holme Mills, Bradley. Information was at once conveyed to Police-constable Finch who, with assistance, got the body out of the water and had it conveyed to the White Cross Inn, Bradley. Later in the day, the body was identified as that of William Cooper, foreman carrier, of 2 Royal Park Avenue, Hyde Park, Leeds. Deceased left his home on the 13th ult, and has not been seen alive by his wife since. It is said, however, that he was talking to his wife's sister, who is a shopkeeper at Scholes, near Cleckheaton, on the 14th ult.

159 February 13 1896

THE DROWNING OF A LEEDS MAN AT BRADLEY At the White Cross Inn, Bradley, on Wednesday afternoon, an inquest was held by Mr W Barstow, district coroner, to enquire into the circumstances attending the death of William Cooper, aged 47 years, a foreman carrier, of 2 Royal

Park Avenue, Hyde Park, Leeds, whose body was found floating in the river near Holme Mills, Bradley on Monday morning.

Ann Cooper, widow of the deceased, identified the body. The deceased was in the employ of Mr Paul, Oak Tannery, Leeds. She last saw him alive on Monday the 13th January, when he left home at 8.20 in the morning to go to his work. When he did not return to dinner, she became uneasy, and on the following morning, she went to Huddersfield to enquire about him, as he had several relatives at Huddersfield. Not hearing anything about him, she came back to her sister's house at Scholes, near Cleckheaton, and learned that the deceased had been there the previous day and remained the night. Her sister expected him back for dinner, but he did not come, and witness returned home. She thought the deceased must have decided on the spur of the moment to go to her sister's house. He had been very low in his mind, and had been under the doctor for nervous debility.

In reply to a Juror, witness said her husband was not addicted to drink, and had stayed in the house a good deal.

Elizabeth Brook, wife of Benjamin Brook, cotton bleacher, Scholes, and sister of the last witness, stated that the deceased came to her house between eight and nine o'clock on Monday night, January 13th. He gave no reason for visiting her, but said his wife did not know that he had come. She thought that perhaps he had been indulging too freely the previous day, and had come to get himself right. He slept there the night, and went out at about 10.30 in the morning, saying he was going for a walk and would be back to dinner. She did not see him again alive.

Thomas Ward, boatman of Orchard Place, Wakefield, deposed to finding the body floating in the river Colne, near Holme Mills, Bradley, at 10 o'clock on Monday morning last. He gave information to Police-constable Finch and helped to pull the body out of the water and convey it to the White Cross Inn.

Police-constable Finch mentioned that the body was very much decomposed. There was a cut over the right eye, and a bruise near the right elbow, but both marks had probably been caused while the body was in the water.

The jury returned a verdict of "Found drowned".

160 February 15 1896

Brighouse and Rastrick

BRIGHOUSE TRAGEDY On Monday, Mr W Barstow held a couple of inquests at the Crown Hotel, Brighouse. The first enquiry was into the death of Reuben Drake, 75 years of age, a retired cotton operative, who resided with his married son, Thomas Drake, a Corporation lamplighter, in Garden Road, Brighouse. The evidence showed that the old man had been in a somewhat depressed state of mind for some time, and on Friday he left home, saying he was going for a walk. He was seen to go in the direction of Slead Syke, and was not afterwards seen alive. His relatives reported to the police on Friday that he was missing from home, and search was made for him all through the night. The search was continued on Saturday morning, and at about noon, a boatman, **William Clayton**, a neighbour, found the deceased's dead body in the Red Brook at Slead Syke, a small stream that divides the township of Southwram from the borough of Brighouse. The water in the beck is very shallow, and when deceased was found, his back was perfectly dry, no water having run over his head. The jury returned a verdict of "Found drowned, without mark of violence, and had probably drowned himself while of unsound mind".

161 March 10 1896

Brighouse and Rastrick

READY FOR WAKEFIELD **James Armitage** (69), boatman of no fixed abode, was charged with soliciting alms in Buxton Road. Police-constable Vizard stated that at five minutes to one the previous afternoon, he saw the prisoner at the corner of Buxton Road with his hat in his hand soliciting coppers from passers by. Witness told him that this was not allowed, and prisoner replied that he was not going to Deanhouse to be worked to death, but that he would sooner go to Wakefield. He was taken to the police station, where twelve pennies and three halfpennies were found in his pocket. The Chief Constable stated that this was a chronic case of begging. Prisoner : I'm ready for Wakefield if you want me to go. In reply to the Bench, prisoner said he came from

Brighthouse to seek work, but he repeated that if they wanted him to go to Wakefield he was ready. The Chairman : Have you been there before? Prisoner said he had, but it was 13 years since. He did not like being at the Workhouse, as he was not brought up to it. The Bench inflicted a fine of 2s 6d with 8s 8d costs, or in default seven days. The prisoner : Seven days then.

162 April 30 1896

ANOTHER DROWNING CASE AT LEIGH On Tuesday night, the body of **James Chantler**, aged four years and eight months, son of Thomas Chantler, boatman of Lime Street, Leigh, was found in the Manchester Ship Canal Company's canal at Butts Bridge, Leigh, by his brother, John Chantler. Deceased had been missing since Saturday at noon, when he was sent to buy some oranges, and never returned. This makes the fifth fatality at Leigh this month.

163 June 2 1896

Borough Police Court

BEGGING James Armitage (69), boatman of no fixed abode, was brought up for begging in Market Walk on Saturday afternoon. Police-constable Horner proved the case, and added that when searched, prisoner was found to have a shilling in coppers and a shilling in silver upon him. He had been previously convicted. Prisoner : I had seven days before ; I'll have a month now. The Bench complied with the prisoner's request and committed him to gaol for a month.

164 June 18 1896

Borough Police Court

STEALING A FOWL Dan Muffett (36), boatman, Bradley, pleaded guilty to stealing a fowl, valued at 4s, the property of Dick Liversidge, landlord of the Junction Inn, Leeds Road, Deighton. The fowl was missed by the prosecutor on Monday, and Police-constable Schofield Townend found the prisoner the same day sitting in a field at Deighton with the fowl dead by his side. The prisoner said it was through beer that he did this. He had spent 2s at the Junction Inn, and had had twelve pints that day. The magistrates committed the prisoner to gaol for one months hard labour.

165 August 20 1896

AN UNFORTUNATE FAMILY On Wednesday morning, **George Jaggar North**, aged 45, a boatman, who resided at Low Fold, Battyeford, was found hanging by a rope in his own house. When cut down, he was quite dead. He was a widower, his wife having died recently and left two children. Some time ago, a daughter was found drowned at Mirfield.

166 November 6 1896

THE DROWNING CASE AT FIELDHOUSE – THE INQUEST Mr Barstow, coroner, held an inquest at the Peacock Inn, Leeds Road, on Thursday morning, on the body of George William Kilner, aged 49 years, warehouseman of 45 Spring Street, who was found drowned in the canal on Tuesday morning.

Alfred Kilner, railway agent, 17 West Hill, brother of the deceased, gave evidence of identification, and said deceased was a bachelor, and had resided with his sister. Witness last saw him at his sister's house on Sunday evening. Deceased had been poorly for several days, but he then looked better than he had done recently. He still complained, however, that he was not better, and had pains in the stomach. He did not know whether he would be able to go to business on the following morning, and he thought he would pay a visit to Dr Robinson, New North Road. Deceased talked cheerfully. He had eaten some walnuts, and Dr Robinson said it was indigestion he was suffering from. Deceased usually had very good health, and witness had only known him to be ill twice before. Deceased left home about 6 pm on Monday, saying he was going to Dr Robinson's. Witness, however, had ascertained that he did not call. He had never noticed any depression of spirits on the part of his brother. On the contrary, deceased had always been of a cheerful disposition, and there had not been anything to trouble him.

John Roebuck Clark, chimney sweeper, Fitzwilliam Street, deposed that he saw the deceased shortly after nine o'clock on Monday night near the polling station in St Peter's Street. He was

amongst the crowd of persons waiting for the declaration of the result of the poll for the North Ward. Witness could not get near him to speak to him. He had been an intimate friend of his for 30 years, and he seemed to be in as satisfactory a mood as ever he was in. He could not say whether he had a friend with him or not.

Charles Schofield, boatman, Battyeford, stated that between 8 o'clock and 8.30 on Tuesday morning, when steering a boat on the canal at Fieldhouse opposite Messrs Brooke and Co's fireclay works, the body of the deceased came to the surface of the water. He got the body to the side. It was quite cold, and deceased appeared to have been dead some hours. Witness found an overcoat in the water about 200 yards below where he found the body. It belonged to the deceased. There were no clothes or papers on the canal bank. Deceased's trousers and waistcoat were unfastened, suggesting that he had been answering nature's call. There was a dangerous spot near where deceased was found, and he might have fallen down some steps into the canal. Witness was of opinion that the affair was accidental.

Police-constable Hy Smith, who was fetched from his station at Deighton to the place where the body was found and took charge of the body, said that on examining it subsequently, he found no marks of violence. Monday night was a very dark one. Witness was near the spot where deceased was found shortly before midnight on Monday, and it was very dark there then.

The Foreman (Mr Jno Hy Smith) said he was of opinion that the deceased, whom he knew well, being interested in the election on Monday, was going round from one station to another in that neighbourhood, and that was probably how he came to be at Fieldhouse.

The jury returned a verdict that deceased was drowned probably through accidentally falling into the canal in the dark.

167 November 7 1896

Borough Police Court

BOATMEN SUMMONED FOR CRUELTY TO A HORSE **Thomas Kelly, Henry Farrar and John Barnfather**, boatmen of Goole, were summoned by Inspector Brown of the RSPCA for having cruelly treated a horse. Mr F A Reed (Messrs Learoyd and Co) appeared for the prosecution. From the statements made to the magistrates, it appeared that on Tuesday night, the 13th ult, Inspector Brown, from information he received, went to a garden at the White Cross Inn, Bradley, where he found a bay gelding lying on the ground. It was a very old animal, and was in a very emaciated condition, excessively weak, and was groaning and grinding its teeth, being evidently in very great pain. It was unable to stand, and its bones nearly protruded through the skin. One of the defendants told the inspector that the horse had not had anything to eat since the previous Sunday dinnertime, and when the animal was slaughtered, no food was found in its stomach except a little given it by the inspector on the Tuesday night. Only Farrar (the owner) and Kelly (a youth) appeared before the magistrates. Kelly and Barnfather were employed by Farrar, and they had taken over a week to travel as far as Mirfield from Goole with a boat laden with 50 tons of logwood. Farrar said they should not have been more than three days. Kelly said Barnfather would not allow him sufficient money with which to buy food for the horse, and he (Barnfather) remained with the boat at Cooper Bridge. He (Kelly) could not make anything of him, and he was therefore unable to get food for the horse. Barnfather told him that he had no money. Farrar said he sent Barnfather plenty of money to get food with. The magistrates dismissed the summonses against Farrar and Kelly, and fined Barnfather 20s and costs, in default 14 days imprisonment.

168 November 9 1896

SINGULAR DROWNING CASE The Bolton County Coroner held an inquest at noon on Saturday at Nob End, Little Lever, concerning the death of **Joseph Lansdale**, boatman (29), who was drowned in the Bolton and Bury Canal at Little Lever during a dense fog. Both Lansdale and his horse walked into the canal, and Lansdale's body was found underneath his boat, the horse having swum to the banks. It was found quietly grazing in a field close by. A verdict of "Accidentally drowned" was returned.

169 March 19 1898

SUDDEN DEATH OF A CHILD **George Richardson**, the three months old child of George Henry Richardson, boatman, New Laith Hill, Newsome, died suddenly yesterday morning before medical aid could be procured. Dr Mackenzie afterwards expressed the opinion that the infant had died in a fit. It was apparently strong and healthy a few minutes previously.

170 March 29 1898 **Borough Police**

CRUELTY TO A HORSE **William Oates**, boatman, Walker Street, Ravensthorpe, was summoned by Inspector Brown of the RSPCA for having cruelly treated a horse on March 3rd. Evidence was given that the defendant thrashed a horse which was drawing a boat on the canal at Folly Hall, although it was doing its work satisfactorily. The captain of the boat, **George Tunnicliffe**, and another man named William Schofield, remonstrated with him, but defendant continued his conduct, and eventually the horse fell off the towing path into the canal. When it had been got out again by Schofield, the defendant walked away, leaving the animal in its wet state. The horse was starved, and Tunnicliffe fetched his coat and placed it upon the animal. Inspector Brown, who examined the horse the following day, said it was then very stiff, and was suffering from a contused wound on one of its legs, which was evidently newly inflicted. Defendant told him that it fell in the water by accident. Defendant denied before the court that he thrashed the horse more than it was necessary to do. It was feeding at the time so the magistrates could tell whether he was ill treating it or not. It was accustomed to going into the water rather than work. A fine of £1 with costs was imposed.

171 May 17 1898

INQUEST AT THE TOWN HALL An inquest was held at the Town Hall on Monday, touching the death of Joseph Garside (25), presser, of no fixed place of abode. Sam Garside, landlord of the Dog and Gun Inn, Ramsden Street, identified the body of the deceased as that of his brother whom he had last seen alive a fortnight before. The deceased had been out of employment for some time and had given way to intemperate habits. **William Lee**, boatman, deposed to finding the body in the canal basin at Aspley. A verdict of "Found drowned in the canal with no evidence to show how he came there" was returned.

180 May 21 1898

FOUND DROWNED An inquest was held by Mr Barstow, coroner, at the Borough Police Court on Monday evening, on the body of Joseph Garside, aged 26, a cloth presser, who was found drowned in the canal at Aspley on Sunday morning. Samuel Garside, landlord of the Dog and Gun Inn, Ramsden Street, said the deceased was his brother. Witness did not know where the deceased had lived during the last three months, but before that he lodged at Turnbridge. Deceased had not worked regularly for about a couple of months. Witness had not seen him to speak to for a fortnight. His brother had been addicted to drink. Witness did not know that he had anything to commit suicide for. **William Lee**, boatman of 20 Fountain's buildings, Leeds Road, deposed that about 10.30 on Sunday morning, he was walking down by the basin of the canal at Aspley, when he saw something like the body of some person. He pulled it out with a boat hook, and his mate went for Police-constable Mercer. The body was then conveyed to the Mortuary. By its appearance, he was of opinion that the body would have been in the water a week. William Briggs of Kirkgate said he knew the deceased, and saw him drunk on Saturday night, the 7th inst, at 10.55. Deceased was going towards Sykes's lodging house, Kirkgate, where he had been residing. Witness lived at the same place, but had not heard of anyone seeing him alive since. Deceased had told witness above once that he would do away with himself, and had said he would drown himself, but witness did not think he would carry out his threat. Deceased would not have to pass the canal before he reached his lodgings. Mrs Jowett, female searcher to the Borough Police Force, spoke to laying out the body, which was very much decomposed. So far as she could tell, there were no marks of violence upon it. The jury returned an open verdict – that deceased was found drowned, without any visible

mark of violence, but there was no evidence to show how or by what means he came to be drowned.

173 May 25 1898

A BRIGHOUSE YOUTH FOUND DROWNED On Tuesday morning, **Henry Hirst**, boatman of Hull, whilst proceeding along the Calder and Hebble Canal with his boat, found the dead body of Frederick George Bentley, 15 years of age, cabinetmaker's apprentice, son of George Bentley, millhand, of Thornhill Bridge, Brighouse, floating in the water near the lock at Cromwell Bottom, Southowram. The lad had been missing since Monday week ; he left home at noon as if returning to work. He was last seen the same afternoon on the Elland Road, which leads to the place where the body was found. It is supposed he has committed suicide, but the motive for such a rash act is not accountable.

174 January 14 1899

Borough Police Court

TOO LIVELY TO DIE **William Hunt** (43), boatman, Leeds, was charged with being in possession of a horse of which he could not give a satisfactory account on the previous day. Prisoner was also charged with having done wilful damage to the extent of 6s to 14 panes of glass and an electric bell in one of the cells at the Police Station. On the first charge, prisoner was remanded for 14 days to allow enquiries to be made, and with respect to the second, it was stated by Inspector Hall that prisoner had continually rung the electric bell, and when attended to, had behaved in a very violent manner, and smashed the windows of the cell. Prisoner said that he had only been out of hospital a week, and that he suffered acutely from internal pains, and at times was hardly responsible for his actions. He wanted some assistance, and had to make someone come to him by some means or another. He thought he was going to die. The Bench imposed a fine of 5s and costs, and ordered the prisoner to pay the damages, or to go to gaol for 14 days with hard labour.

175 January 16 1899

SUPPOSED SUICIDE AT FIELDHOUSE A boatman named **William Beck** of Goole was going along the canal bank at Fieldhouse at 9.30 on Sunday morning, when he noticed a man's topcoat on the rails of a bridge, and on looking into the canal, he saw a walking stick floating in the water. He dragged the canal with a boat hook, and came across the body of a man who was afterwards found to be William Clough, aged 74, coal dealer, Aspley. It appears that the deceased left home on Saturday morning and had dinner and tea at the house of a son at Sheepridge, afterwards leaving apparently with the intention of going home. He was seen on the canal bank at nine o'clock on Sunday morning by a man named Arthur Brook, residing at Sheepridge, but he noticed nothing to lead him to suspect that the man intended committing suicide. However, it is conjectured that the deceased did cast himself in the water, for when found there was a long piece of string attached to his stick and fastened to his coat, his object having been, it is presumed, to afford anyone who saw the stick an opportunity of easily discovering what had occurred.

176 January 17 1899

FOUND DROWNED IN THE CANAL Mr J E Hill, deputy coroner, held an inquest at the White Horse Inn, Leeds Road, on Monday morning, on the body of John Clough, aged 74, widower, coal merchant, Colne Street, Aspley, who was found drowned in the canal at Fieldhouse on Sunday morning. The evidence adduced was to the effect that the deceased had dinner and tea at the house of his son, John Clough, labourer, Deighton, on Saturday, and that he appeared cheerful all the time he was there. He left about 5.30, saying that he was going home. Nothing more was known of his movements until nine o'clock on Sunday morning, when a man named Arthur Brook, employed in the yard at Fieldhouse Pottery Works, which are on one side of the canal, saw him on the towing-path on the other side. He was walking along leisurely with his overcoat on one arm and with a walking stick in his other hand. Brook had no occasion to speak to him. Half an hour later, **William Beck**, a boatman of Goole, who was on the boat *Effort*, observed an overcoat hanging upon the rails of a footbridge over the canal in the same neighbourhood. Suspecting someone was

in the water, he made a search with his boathook, and found a string was attached to a walking stick floating in the water. The stick was passed beneath the band of a man's felt hat, and there were also tied to it a couple of pocket handkerchiefs. On drawing up the string, he discovered that the other end was tied round the body of the deceased. The body was taken out of the water and removed to the "White Horse". In answer to the deputy coroner, deceased's son said his father was not in want of anything. It was further stated that there were no marks of violence upon the deceased, but that he had a large tumour below the breast. The jury returned a verdict that the deceased was found drowned, and that there was no evidence to show how he got into the water.

177 January 28 1899 Borough Police Court

FROM WAKEFIELD GAOL TO ARMLEY In the case of **William Hunt** (43), boatman of Leeds, who had been arrested on suspicion of having stolen a horse, and who did damage while in the cells, for which he was committed to Wakefield Gaol for 14 days, the Chief Constable explained that in the interval, it had been found that the horse had been stolen from Leeds, and the defendant was met by the Leeds police as he was leaving Wakefield Gaol and taken to Armley.

178 February 14 1899

WOMAN FOUND DROWNED – SUPPOSED SEQUEL TO RELIGIOUS MANIA At the Borough Police Station on Monday morning, Mr J E Hill, deputy coroner, conducted an enquiry into the circumstances touching the death of Ellen Hutchinson, spinster, aged 37 years, whose body was found in King's Mill Dam on Saturday afternoon. Ann H Smith, spinster, residing at Storths, Moldgreen, gave evidence of identification, and said that the deceased was her companion. She had lived with witness on and off for many years. The last time deceased left home to come to stay with her was on December 28th last. She was then indisposed, both bodily and mentally. Witness did not consider she was fit to come to her, mainly because she suffered in her mind. The Deputy coroner : What from? Witness : Well, religious mania really : but she had brain fever at home. She further stated that deceased left her (witness's) house on January 25th, between five and six in the evening, and she had not seen her alive since. Witness employed people to search for the body, as she thought deceased had intended wandering back home. Caroline Smith, school teacher, Penistone, said she knew the deceased, and she saw her in King's Mill Lane on January 25th, about 7 pm. Deceased talked about religion. She wondered whether she was "condemned" and spoke of her future life in a very strange and depressed manner. Witness ultimately left her, bidding her, "Good night". Deceased made no reference to doing away with herself. **Tom Roscoe**, boatman, Smithy Lane, Moldgreen, deposed that he was searching for the deceased with a boat hook, and he found the body about four o'clock on Saturday afternoon. His brother was with him, and they took the body from the water. Deceased was fully dressed, except she had no hat on. Elizabeth Dawson, one of the attendants at the police station, who laid out the body, said there were no marks of violence upon it. In deceased's pockets were a pair of gloves, a bottle of arnica, a small text book, and other articles, including some letters from her friends. The Deputy coroner intimated that a letter, handed him by the Chief Constable (Mr Morton) had been received from Dr Rowley of Barnsley, as follows :-

I have been asked by Mrs Smith of Low Mill, Silkstone, who is sister to Miss Ellen Hutchinson (who had now been missing under suspicious circumstances for some days) to write to you regarding her mental condition. I was attending her from November 5th to December 18th last. She was then suffering from depression and religious mania, and gradually recovered so much that she was allowed to go out alone. I have no doubt from what I know of her and from what I have since heard that if she has (as is presumed) committed suicide, it has been done when she was not accountable for her actions.

The jury then returned a verdict that the deceased was found drowned, and that she probably drowned herself whilst of unsound mind.

179 May 13 1899

Borough Police Court

SCHOOL BOARD CASES Altogether 15 persons were summonsed by Mr Gaunt, clerk to the School Board, for neglecting to send their children to school regularly, and those mulcted in the usual penalty of 5s including costs included **Marmaduke Carter**, boatman, Colne Bridge.

180 May 20 1899

At Leeds Assizes on Tuesday, **John Cunningham**, boatman, was acquitted on the charge of the manslaughter of William Haigh at Mexborough.

181 October 27 1900

Borough Police Court

NEGLECTED EDUCATION At the instance of the Huddersfield School Board, the following persons were summoned for neglecting to send their children regularly to school :- **Marmaduke Carter**, boatman of Colnebridge Lane (no school). Attendance order was granted.

182 November 23 1900

FOUND DROWNED About 11 o'clock on Thursday morning, the dead body of a man was found in the River Calder near Kirklees Lower Lock, Bradley, under peculiar circumstances. **Thomas Cooper**, boatman, Greenwood's Lock, Ravensthorpe, stated that he was going down the river, at the above-mentioned place, in his boat, and whilst passing another boat, his tow rope got entangled in something about two yards from the side. The obstacle was discovered to be the body of a man. Police-constable Finch removed the body to the White Cross Inn, and when it was laid out, no marks of violence were found. The man was fully dressed, but had no hat on. He is described as being from 25 to 30 years of age, about 5ft 6in in height, thin build, fair complexion, brown eyes, good teeth, dark brown hair and moustache but otherwise clean shaven. He has a small mole on the back of his left shoulder and a large wart under each arm. He was dressed in a grey slate-coloured cloth suit, the usual number of pockets, and the trousers unlined. He had a short fawn overcoat and a green and narrow white striped flannel cloth shirt on him. The shirt is lined inside with lamb's wool, and he wore pants and grey wool socks, a leather strap round the waist, a white front with a brass collar stud in, white tie, light laced boots, which have been soled. The clothes are in a fair condition, and in his pockets were found an old pearl handled pocket knife, a combined pen and pencil, a briar wood pipe, a watch key, and a red and white pocket handkerchief. The body appeared to have been in the water a few days. Up to last night, no identification had been made.

183 November 26 1900

MYSTERIOUS DROWNING CASE AT BRADLEY On Saturday morning, Mr E H Hill, the deputy coroner, held an enquiry at the White Cross Inn, Bradley, into the circumstances attending the death of a man who as yet is unidentified, and whose body was found in the River Calder, near Kirklees Lower Lock, Bradley, on Thursday morning last week. Mr John Holmes was elected foreman of the jury.

Thomas Cooper, boatman, Greenwood's Lock, Ravensthorpe, spoke to finding deceased on Thursday morning, in the course of a journey from Elland to Shepley Bridge. His boat had just got into the River Calder when they met another boat, and they drew across to the other side and let their lines go under it. Upon pulling the line out of the water, they found a body attached to it, the right arm being round the rope. They made the body fast to the boat, and brought it up at the next mooring post. Information was afterwards given to the police.

Police-constable John Finch stated that he was called from his station at 1.30 am on the 22nd inst to the place mentioned by the last witness. He found the deceased tied to the boat, and he had the body landed. The deceased was fully dressed with the exception of hat. His suit was of slate coloured grey cloth, and he also wore a short fawn overcoat. He had a pair of light laced boots, which had been soled. His shirt was of green flannelette, with narrow white stripes, lined with lamb's wool. He also wore an undershirt, pants and woollen socks. The clothes had been pretty well worn, but were quite respectable. The man also wore a white front and white tie. In his

pockets were found a briar wood pipe, a pen, an old pearl handled pocket knife, a watch key, and pocket handkerchief, but no money. Witness described the deceased as having dark brown hair and moustache, brown eyes and a good set of teeth. He had a wart under each arm, and a small mole on the back of his left shoulder.

Hannah Elizabeth Sharpe of Brook's Yard, Bradley, said she had laid the body out, and in her opinion the man had been in the water about three days. There were no marks of violence on the body.

The jury agreed with the coroner that there was no evidence to show how deceased had got into the water, and they returned an open verdict.

184 December 11 1900

Borough Police Court

SEQUEL TO A FIGHT – ALLEGED STABBING **Wright Carmichael** (21), boatman, St Andrew's Terrace, Goole, and Thomas Stringer (28), plasterer, Moldgreen, were charged with having been drunk and disorderly in the Aire and Calder Yard, Aspley, on Saturday. Mr R Welsh appeared on behalf of Carmichael.

Police-constable Percy Wharf stated that shortly after 11 o'clock on Saturday night, he was called to the yard mentioned, where he found the defendants being separated. He was told they had been fighting. Stringer complained of having been stabbed, and pulled off his shirt. There was a wound behind the left shoulder, and witness took Stringer to the Infirmary, where three stitches were inserted. Witness found an open pocket knife near where the men had been fighting.

Mr Welsh said that Carmichael was in the Ship Inn on Saturday night when the man Stringer was very abusive, and wanted to fight him. Carmichael wished to have nothing to do with him, and on leaving the place, Stringer followed him down to the wharf yard, and attacked him most savagely. Carmichael's badly swollen cheek and marks thereon must have been caused by a kick. Being on the ground, he certainly did draw his knife, but the wound was only skin deep, and therefore no charge had been made against him in respect to the assault. The man was not to blame, as he was going about his business quietly at the wharf when attacked by Stringer.

Stringer told the magistrates that he and Carmichael, as well as another boatman, had been in the Ship Inn for hours. When they got outside, they commenced "fratching", and he (Stringer) left them. They followed him, and on his reaching the Wharf, they all started arguing again. Carmichael "stuck" him with a knife in his shoulder and the leg, and then he (Stringer) struck Carmichael in self defence. Defendant exhibited his blood stained shirt to the Magistrates, remarking that that showed whether he had been injured or not.

The Chief Constable (Mr Morton) remarked that the matter was quite of a trivial nature, and the injury was absolutely without danger.

The Magistrates' Clerk (Mr Mills) said it was a serious matter for a man to use a knife at all whether the injury inflicted was great or not.

The Chief Constable added that had proceedings been taken for stabbing, the case would have had to go for trial, and that would mean a lot of expense. The whole evidence would have shown that the injury received was of a very trivial nature, and hence nothing had been done in the matter.

Stringer said he could get witnesses to prove that Carmichael commenced the bother, and the Magistrates' Clerk thereupon suggested that the case ought to be adjourned to allow him to do so.

Mr Welsh commented upon Stringer's previous character, and remarked, "Look at the man's record".

The Magistrates' Clerk – Yes, and the record on his shirt.

The case was adjourned until Wednesday, both defendants being bound over to appear then.

185 December 13 1900

THE WHARF YARD AFFRAY The case adjourned from Monday in which **Wright Carmichael** (21), boatman, Goole, and Thomas Stringer (28), plasterer, Mold Green, were charged with having been drunk and disorderly in the Aire and Calder Yard, Aspley, on Saturday night, was again called. The case had been held over to allow of Stringer, who alleged that he had been stabbed by

Carmichael, calling witnesses to show that the latter was the aggressor. Practically all of the statements given on Monday and summarised in Tuesday's *Chronicle* were repeated. There were now called John Henry Holdsworth and John Greaves, fishmonger, Moldgreen, both of whom happened to see the men quarrelling. Their evidence showed that defendants were talking about fighting. The latter were both the worse for drink, as were also two other men who were with them. They had not been fighting more than a few moments when Stringer shouted, "He's stabbed me". The men were then separated and a policeman came on the scene. Cross-examined by Mr Welsh (who appeared on behalf of Carmichael), Greaves said that Stringer went down the yard and then Carmichael pulled his (Stringer's) coat off. Nothing at all was done in the way of actual fighting before Stringer went into the yard. The man who was with Stringer gave Carmichael's mate two black eyes.

Mr Welsh said Stringer had no right to go into the yard, which was private property leading to the boats, where the two boatmen, Carmichael and his friend, lived. Stringer was the aggressor, and perhaps it was allowable under the circumstances for Carmichael to take out his knife and attempt to defend himself.

The Chairman : You don't dispute that he stabbed the other?

Mr Welsh : Well, I agree that he took out his knife to defend himself.

The Chairman : Then there is no question about them both being drunk and disorderly, and I don't see why we need go further.

Mr Welsh : If I were attacked in my garden and I defended myself, I cannot be accused of being disorderly.

The Magistrates' Clerk : But then the other man asserts that your client invited the fighting?

Mr Welsh : But we deny that.

Evidence was then given by Carmichael, who denied that he was the aggressor, and said he did not fight Stringer at all.

Thomas Clay, boatman, Goole, the young man who was with Carmichael, said that the challenging to fight was on the part of Stringer only. After witness had left Carmichael in order to go to his own boat, he was attacked from behind by someone who knocked him down and gave him two black eyes. He and Carmichael had not sought any quarrel.

Stringer again gave his explanation of the affair, and also said that Carmichael remarked, "Let's two him". He (Stringer) then said he would fight them one by one. He proceeded on his way home, and on reaching the wharf yard, he was shoved in and almost immediately he was stabbed. Then he was thrown against a wall, and he had to do the best to defend himself.

In reply to Mr Welsh, he said he was bound over last May to keep the peace for six months, and he had also been up for other offences.

What were you doing in the yard? Because I was enticed by this man.

You went there to fight him? Yes, because he challenged me to fight.

The Chief Constable said he had no record against Carmichael, but Stringer had been convicted nine times previously for different offences.

The Chairman, after consulting with his colleagues on the Bench, said that the men seemed to have been as bad as one another, but Carmichael had no business to draw out his knife, and therefore he would be fined 10s and 9s 6d costs, while Stringer would have to pay 5s and 8s 4d costs.