

SHIPLEY TIMES AND EXPRESS 1882 to 1899

1 4 February 1882

Early in the morning, a young boatman named **George Hardman**, from Todmorden, was found lying insensible on the towing path of the canal at a lonely spot in the outskirts of Rochdale. He was bleeding from wounds on the head, and died soon after he was discovered. It is supposed that he has been murdered.

2 25 February 1882

Mary Rafferty was charged before the Chester magistrates with wandering about in a nude state on the previous night. The woman said she had been quarrelling with her husband, a boatman, and that he first stripped her naked, and then carried her to the canal bank, where he left her. The prisoner could not be put in the dock, and the Bench granted a remand until clothes could be obtained for her from the workhouse.

3 11 March 1882

The funeral of **Benjamin Evans**, boatman, Carmarthen, upon whose remains the verdict of *felo de se* was lately returned, occurred at the local cemetery a few days ago, although the family of the deceased have a grave in St David's parish churchyard, and the coroner's warrant directed the burial there. The vicar, the Rev S R Waters, refused permission to open the grave, stating that the law did not require it, as Carmarthen possessed a public burial place in the cemetery. The matter being urgent, and the vicar obdurate, a grave was hastily prepared within consecrated ground at the cemetery, and here deceased was at half past ten placed without service of any sort. A very large concourse of people attended, the procession being fully 600 yards long, but most orderly and decorous throughout.

4 11 March 1882

BRADFORD WEST RIDING COURT, MONDAY

WILFUL DAMAGE ON THE RAILWAY **Frank Smith**, boatman, Shipley, was charged with committing wilful damage on the Midland Railway. It seems the defendant was travelling on the railway, drunk, and broke one of the carriage windows. On being spoken to by the guard, he at first promised to pay for the damage, but afterwards refused to do so. When the train arrived at Shipley, he was with great difficulty got into the booking office, where he became very violent. He was ordered to pay for the damage done, and in addition a fine of 1s and costs.

5 3 June 1882

BINGLEY PETTY SESSIONS, WEDNESDAY

DRUNK AND DISORDERLY **John Denby**, boatman, Bingley, was charged with being drunk and disorderly in Main Street, Bingley, on the 26th inst, and was fined 5s and costs.

6 10 June 1882

A NEGLIGENT BOATMAN – ALLEGED PERJURY At the Bradford County Court, before Mr W T S Daniel QC, judge, Messrs Abraham Kendall & Son, coal merchants and general carriers of Shipley, sued **Craven Hird**, a boatman, for £4 2s, the cost of raising a sunken canal boat, and for money lent. Mr Last appeared for the plaintiffs and Mr Morgan (Messrs Morgan and Morgan) defended. It appeared from the evidence that in July 1879 the defendant was employed by the plaintiffs as the captain of one of their canal boats. The defendant took the boat, laden with Yorkshire stone, to Leeds, and while passing through a lock at that town, the boat was sunk. It was alleged that the defendant had neglected his duty, in not tying up the boat stern to the head of the lock. The consequence was that the head of the boat went back, and as the stern caught the stonework of the lock, it was swamped and sunk. The defendant's wife was asleep on board the boat when it foundered, and she narrowly escaped being drowned. The cost of raising the boat was

£2 8s, paid to the Aire and Calder Navigation Company, 14s was paid to men for labour, and Mr Kendall sen lent the defendant £1 17s. The defendant promised that he would pay £5 towards the expense of raising the boat, and he had paid £1 12s of this amount, the remainder to be paid by instalments. The balance of the £5 and the money lent was £4 2s, the amount claimed. His Honour said it was a new thing to him for a servant to be liable for damage to his master's property. Mr Last replied that the plaintiffs founded their claim on defendant's promise to pay the damage in consideration that he should not be discharged. It transpired subsequently that the defendant was not the plaintiffs' servant in a technical sense, inasmuch as he was engaged by the voyage, and the terms of payment were to have one half the nett earnings of the boat. The Judge said the plaintiffs were suing in a contract of the defendant to pay, but the contract had not been proved. The only remedy, if there was one, was on the ground of the defendant's negligence. Mr Last then applied for leave to amend his particulars, and to sue for damages for negligence, and this was allowed, on condition that the costs of the day be paid. For the defence, Mr Morgan said that the sinking of a boat was a pure accident, and was caused by a projecting stone in the lock, of which his client was not aware. The defendant was then called, and denied that he ever promised to pay anything towards the cost of raising the boat. Neither did he borrow any money from Mr Kendall, and never repaid any money. When the boat sank, he had gone to the stable to feed the horse, but before going he tied the boat up, and if anyone had loosened it he could not say. His Honour expressed himself satisfied with the defendant's negligence, as by his own admission he was away from the boat when it sank. He was liable to proceedings for perjury for his statements that he neither borrowed nor repaid money. They were wilfully and corruptly false, for Messrs Kendall's books, which contained the items, were perfectly satisfactory. Judgement was given for the plaintiffs for £4 2s.

7 17 June 1882

BINGLEY PETTY SESSIONS, WEDNESDAY

TRESPASSING **William Varley**, boatman, Bingley, was charged with trespassing on the 8th inst in a field at Bingley, belonging to the Bingley Co-operative Society, and doing damage to the amount of 1d. Constable Snowball said that on the date mentioned, he was on duty and saw the defendant walking across the field. Defendant did not appear, but was understood to plead guilty to the charge, and was fined 2s 6d and costs, in addition to 1d damages.

8 1 July 1882

BRADFORD WEST RIDING COURT, THURSDAY

NEGLECT OF FAMILY **Samuel Barstow**, boatman, late of Windhill, was charged with neglecting his family and allowing them to become chargeable to the North Bierley Union. It appears the prisoner, who had been apprehended on a warrant, left his wife and family in Windhill in the year 1880, in consequence as he alleged of the unsatisfactory terms on which they lived together. He went away to Hull, and since he left Windhill his wife has died, leaving four children who have cost the North Bierley Guardians £13 16s 0d in maintenance. The prisoner said he did not wish to run away. He had gone out of the road altogether because of the unpleasantness, but he had now returned and been caught. He was willing to do something for his children if they would allow him. The Bench ordered him to be detained in the Wakefield goal for one calendar month with hard labour.

9 29 July 1882

STRANGE DEATH OF A WOMAN AT WINDHILL On Monday morning last, an inquest was held at the Blue Bell Hotel, Windhill, before Mr Thomas Taylor, district coroner, and a jury of whom Mr Chippendale was foreman, upon the body of **Jane Bartram**, commonly known as **Jane Cooper**, who met with her death under unusual circumstances on Saturday night last. The following evidence was given :-

Grace Smith said she was the wife of Joseph Smith, joiner, residing at 20 Waterloo Place, York Road, Leeds. She had seen the body of the deceased and recognised it as that of her sister-in-law

Jane Bartram. She passed by the name of Jane Cooper, but she (witness) did not think they had been married. The deceased was 50 years of age, and she accompanied **Joshua Cooper** on the boat. She had been married before to Joseph Bartram, an engine fitter who went away to Egypt and died there. The deceased had been living with Joshua Cooper about five years. Cooper was a canal or river boatman. She saw the deceased last on Sunday the 16th of July, when she and Cooper were at her (witness's) house. Cooper was drunk at the time, and without his coat. The deceased took some flour with her and asked to be allowed to bake. On being allowed to do so, she baked some bread. While the baking was going on, Cooper went out several times, and each time he came back he said he had been getting some beer. They both left her house together at about a quarter to nine the same evening. The deceased had only been to her house twice before during the last three years. On the day mentioned, the deceased said that if the boat did not go away on the following morning, she would call in and see her, for she had something she wanted to tell her.

Mr John James Rutherford said he was a physician and surgeon practising at Shipley. He did not know the deceased. The first time he saw her was at six o'clock on that (Monday) morning. Constable Woodall showed him the body. He found one ecchymosis spot, about the size of a shilling, four inches above the ankle on the outer side of the right leg. This had been caused within 24 hours of death. He should say it had taken place a few hours before, but he could not state to an hour. There was no abrasion, and it had undergone no discolouration, thus showing it to be recent. There was also an ecchymosis under the scalp on the crown of the head. The body was well nourished. There was an old mark about one inch in length on the forehead, a little to the left of the middle line. There was no other external mark of violence about the body. He examined the head first, when a large quantity of fluid blood escaped from the base of the brain. There was no fracture, the substance of the brain being healthy. He then made an incision at the back of the neck, in a line with the vertebral column, when he found the upper dorsal vertebral disconnected, with complete laceration of its ligaments posteriorly. All the other organs of the body appeared to be healthy, except the heart, which showed signs of fatty degeneration. In his opinion, the cause of death was dislocation of the upper dorsal vertebral with laceration of its ligaments. Instant death would ensue after such injuries. A fall from a height or violence would be likely to cause such injuries as he found. From the appearance of the ecchymosis on the crown of the head, he was satisfied that the injuries had not been caused by a blow. The stomach was full, and gave evidence of the deceased having partaken of a good hearty meal of meat and other eatables shortly before death. By Inspector Varley : The bruise on the crown of the head might have been caused by a fall, but the position of the head with regard to the body gave evidence of the body having undergone considerable twisting in the fall. The appearance of the wound was sufficient to show that the deceased had fallen on the crown of her head, and that dislocation of the vertebral was the next result. By the Coroner : The deceased was a short woman, probably about 5 feet 2 inches in height, and would weigh perhaps eight or nine stones.

Elizabeth Illingworth, wife of **Joseph Illingworth**, boatman, of Windhill Crag, said she knew the deceased, Jane Bartram, who had been known by the name of Jane Cooper. The deceased had gone with their boat along with Joshua Cooper, as his wife. Their boat was called the *Susan* of Bradford. She saw the deceased on Saturday last. She went with her into the town of Bradford at about half past nine on Saturday morning, and left her at Well Street at about one o'clock (noon). Their boat was at Bradford, and she got back to it at about 2 o'clock, when Cooper said the deceased was in bed. They brought the boat to Windhill Lock, arriving there between seven and eight o'clock in the evening. The deceased, who took the horse to the stable, was then sober. The whole four of them (witness and her husband, Cooper and the deceased) went to the Blue Bell together. The deceased got a glass of beer, after which Cooper and she went out together. This would be between seven and eight o'clock. She did not see the deceased again until Cooper fetched her and her husband out of the New Inn, Windhill, and said he wanted both of them to go to the boat, as he believed their Jane was dying. Cooper was not sober, he was a bit fresh. Witness went with him, and on asking Cooper how it had happened, he said, "She fell off the plank end, she wouldn't speak to me". She found the boat moored where they had left it. They got to the boat over a single plank, which they

usually carried on the boat for that purpose. She found the plank just as it had been left. They had no light with them, but it was a fine moonlight night. She could not see the deceased from the plank, so she went to the stern deck, and could then see the body but was unable to see the deceased's head. She went for her husband, and did not go into the hold to see whether the deceased was living or not. Cooper did not go into the hold while she was there. When she saw the deceased, her head was under the plank against the side of the boat, and her body was stretched out. By Inspector Varley : Cooper said his wife had fallen over the plank end, and he believed she was dead. She had never heard the deceased and him quarrel. They had lived together like little "barns".

Joseph Illingworth said he was the husband of the last witness. He last saw the deceased alive at about seven o'clock on the previous Saturday at the Blue Bell. Cooper was with her at that time. They went out together. He next saw Cooper standing alone near the Fox and Hounds, Shipley, at about nine o'clock. The next time he saw Cooper was at the New Inn, Windhill, when he came and said his wife had fallen into the hold, and she would not talk to him. Witness said to his wife, "She has fallen down the hold, and you had better go with him and help to get her up". He stopped till eleven o'clock, and then went towards the boat. He met his wife on the way, and Cooper followed immediately behind her. Cooper said, "Oh, you are coming", and then ran back. When he got to the boat he found that the woman was dead, and he told Cooper that he had better fetch somebody, as she was dead. He found the deceased in a sitting posture with her back against the side of the boat. Some of the things she had brought from the market were lying under her. Cooper went for a policeman, and soon after Constable Woodall arrived. Cooper seemed as if he was "sharpish fresh". The deceased had got a "fresh" at Bradford in the morning, but had been in bed all afternoon. She seemed quite sober when she was at the Blue Bell in the evening. By Inspector Varley : Cooper did not tell him how the thing had happened, except that she had fallen off the plank end. Nor did he tell him how long he had stayed with her. By a Juror : He did not feel whether the body was warm or not. He did not touch her at all. She was laid in such a queer state against the boat side that he felt sure she was quite dead. By Inspector Varley : Cooper asked him if the b--- was dead. By the Foreman : He had known Cooper five or six years.

Samuel Cordingley, greengrocer, Leeds Road, Windhill, said he had known the deceased about five or six years. Jane Cooper was the name he knew her by. He saw her at about twenty minutes to eleven on Saturday night, opposite his shop door. Cooper, who was with her, called in and bought some beans. They were both "beerified". He did not notice in which direction they went, but they both went together. About half past eight on Sunday morning, he heard that the woman was dead, and he had since seen and identified the body.

The Coroner, in summing up, said there had been nothing in the evidence so far to criminate the man Cooper, and he was not forced to say anything, but if he wished to give evidence he could do so. All he could ask him would be to corroborate the age, and say whether they were married or not.

Cooper – who had been accommodated with a seat in the room, and had heard all the evidence – here said that they were not married.

The Coroner, resuming, said they had heard that the woman got some beer at Bradford in the morning, but she had been in bed all the afternoon, and came in the boat to Windhill Lock. When they got there, the deceased appeared to be all right again, for she was able to see to the horse. She had subsequently been at that house and had a glass of beer. From the doctor's statement, it was perfectly clear that she had partaken of a good meal somewhere shortly before her death, and whether she had got any more beer or not was not proved. The last witness, Cordingley, had however said that they were both alike in being "beerified". A few minutes after being seen by that witness, it was said that Cooper gave information at the New Inn that the deceased had fallen down the hold. The difficulty was in ascertaining what caused her to fall, especially as it was a fine moonlight night. There was nothing unusual about the plank, it was one which they had constantly used. They had seen the depth of the hold, and the spot on which the plank was laid, and they had now to try to account for the fact of her alighting on her head and so coming by her death. Whether

the woman omitted to notice how the plank was laid down, or whether she was helped, of which there was no evidence – he could not say. It was for the jury to say whether they were satisfied that the cause of death was an accidental fall, or whether there were any real suspicions that she had been pushed to cause her to fall. It appeared from what Illingworth and his wife had said that the woman was under the plank when they saw her. But she had evidently been moved. If they inferred anything from Cooper's remark that he could not get her to speak, it would be that he had gone down into the hold, lifted her up, and tried to get her to speak. That might account for her being under the plank in that way. The only thing that could possibly lead to any suspicion was the way in which Cooper asked if she was dead. But the way in which these people were in the habit of talking must be taken into consideration. Such an expression as he used at that time was a common style of conversation amongst that class of people. They had simply to say whether they considered the matter one of misadventure, or they would leave it open on account of suspicions.

The room was then cleared until the jury considered their decision. After a short consultation, they came to the conclusion that the deceased came to her death through falling into a boat hold, alighting on her head and dislocating her neck, but they were of opinion that the evidence was not sufficient to show whether the fall was accidental or otherwise, therefore they returned an open verdict.

Cooper, who had been in custody since Saturday night, was then liberated on the authority of the Coroner.

10 7 October 1882

BINGLEY PETTY SESSIONS, WEDNESDAY

IMBIBING TOO MUCH **Mark Moore**, boatman of no fixed residence, was charged with being drunk and disorderly in a stable near Park Road, Bingley, on the 3rd inst. Defendant, who was without means, was dismissed with a caution.

11 4 November 1882

WINDHILL

A VIOLENT INEBRIATE **Thomas Cooke**, boatman of Windhill, was brought up in custody at the West Riding Petty Sessions held at the Courthouse, Bradford on Monday last, charged with being drunk and disorderly on the previous Saturday night, at Windhill Wood End. He was also further charged with assaulting the police while in the execution of their duty. Constable Forster stated that about half past eight on Saturday night, the 29th inst, he was in his station when someone informed him there was a man in the street in a drunken and disorderly state. He immediately went out and found the prisoner very drunk and abusing a woman in a shameful manner. The prisoner was very excited, and a great crowd of people had gathered round him. On attempting to apprehend him, the prisoner became very violent, swore that it had taken five policemen to lock him up last time, and it would take five again. On trying to put the handcuffs on the prisoner, witness was knocked down and kicked by Cooke, who bit him on the arm and otherwise ill-treated him. He had to call the public to assist him to put the handcuffs on. Eventually Constable Scott came up, and with great difficulty they managed to take the prisoner into custody. He bit, struck, cursed and swore in the most frightful way, and drew together an immense crowd. They had to put two pairs of handcuffs on, and to put him on a cart with his legs tied before they could get him away. Constable Scott corroborated the evidence of the former witness, and stated that he was kicked on the leg several times by the prisoner. Col Pollard, in passing sentence, remarked that the prisoner had been before them on many previous occasions. He had been fined 10s, 20s and 40s, but small fines did not seem to do any good, so he would be sent to Her Majesty's Prison at Wakefield for two calendar months with hard labour.

12 11 November 1882

A gross case of cruelty came before the Potteries Stipendiary at Hanley a few days ago, in which **William Bagnall**, boatman from Coventry, was charged with working a horse which was in a

shocking condition. He was fined 20s and costs, or a month's hard labour.

13 16 December 1882

A BOY DROWNED A sad accident occurred on Tuesday night to a boy named **John Slingsby**, aged 10 years, and son of **Thompson Slingsby**, Bridge Street, Shipley. The father is a boatman, and the lad had accompanied him along with the boat. On the night in question, while near to Rothwell Haigh at about ten o'clock, the boy was in the act of walking on the boat's deck, when from some cause or other he slipped off the boat side into the water. Every endeavour was made to rescue him, but without avail. As the boat was in the middle of the canal and the night dark, he was not found until life was extinct. An inquest was held on the body at the Queen's Hotel, Hunslet, on Wednesday last, before Mr T Taylor, district coroner. After evidence had been given by the boy's father substantiating the above statements, a verdict of "Accidental death by drowning" was returned. The body is to be interred at Windhill Crag Cemetery today (Saturday).

14 13 January 1883

STRANGE SUICIDE OF A YOUNG WOMAN AT WINDHILL On Tuesday evening, Mr Coroner Taylor held an inquest at the Bluebell Inn, Windhill, with regard to the death of Anne Lucy Denby, who resided with her mother at 13 Waterhouse Place, Church Street, and who had committed suicide by drowning, under somewhat unusual circumstances. The first witness called was Sarah Raistrick, who deposed as follows :- I am the wife of John Raistrick, and the deceased was my daughter. She would have been 21 next March. She was a power loom worsted weaver. She has not been such a strong girl, and could not 'bide speaking to. She was a spinner up to July last, when she commenced weaving. She has not had any particular ailment, but has been low spirited ; and as she had not got on very well with her weaving, and could not bring much money home, I believe it put her about. Sometimes she talked about her work. She was in the habit of staying out late. On Saturday night she stayed out till twenty minutes to eleven, and I spoke to her about it. On Sunday night she stayed out late again, and I complained to her about it. She did not say anything, except that she had been to the Salvation Army, and went upstairs to bed. She said she had been to the Salvation Army every night when she was late, but they don't hold so late as that. On Monday morning, I did not see her before she went to work, but when she came home to breakfast at eight o'clock, I told her she was ruining her constitution by staying out so late. She was eating her breakfast when I spoke to her, and she took up her shawl and went out without finishing her meal. I did not hear her say anything, as I am rather deaf, but my lad Tom, 12 years of age, said to me, "Did you hear what she said, mother?" I replied that I did not, and he then said, "She says you will know when you see her again". She had gone when he told me this. I went out, saw her in the road and followed her down to the bottom of Church Street. She went into a passage in Leeds Road, and I went to her, and asked her why she was not going to her work. I said to her, "Be a good lass, and do as I want you". She came up the road with me, and said she would go to work, and I left her at the bottom of the street ; but as I could not see her when I looked round, I turned back and saw that instead of going to Mr George Deacon's mill, she went up Leeds Road and turned down "toid loine", and I missed her. I went to the mill to see if she had gone to her work, but found she was not there. The same morning I heard she had been taken out of the canal. I had nothing to complain about, except her staying out and reading so much when at home. The Coroner : Why complain about that? Witness : I thought it used to make her low spirited.

Emma Petty, 18 years of age, said : I live at Wood End and am a spinner. I have known Anne Lucy Denby for some time, but have been her companion only a week or two. Last Sunday night, we went together to the Salvation Army meeting at Shipley. The meeting was over at eight o'clock, and then we walked round Shipley about an hour, and then went home. A young man at Saltaire had been courting Anne, but she gave him up a week before Christmas, and said she did not want to see him again. She has not said anything to me about having regretted giving up this young man. On Sunday night, she was right cheerful all the time I was with her. She was always cheerful when she was with me. As we were going home on Sunday night, we met Mrs Raistrick in Leeds Road, and

she said she was looking for Anne, and before she left me the latter said her mother would call her for staying out so late.

William Batty said : I am a lampman in the employ of the Midland Railway Company. About nine o'clock on Monday morning, I saw the deceased loitering about in Whiteley's stoneyard, on the Windhill side of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal. I was on the main line, cleaning the lamps of the distant signal. Deceased was between the main line and the Otley and Ilkley Branch, about 100 yards from where I was. Whilst I was watching her, a man and a woman came along the canal bank in opposite directions, met, and then went towards Windhill together, deceased getting behind a heap of stones, as if she was watching them. When they had gone, she followed them up the lane and sat down on the wall, and I did not see any more of her. Five or six minutes afterwards, a man – Thomas Chew, an inspector – who was on the Otley and Ilkley Branch, called out to me that she was in the water. I ran down, and when I got to the water's edge she put her legs out, her face being under the surface. I at once went to the farmhouse near to get something to reach her out, and after an absence of about two minutes returned with a pitchfork, but she had then sunk. A boatman was there when I returned, and he got her out of the water.

After hearing the evidence of Thomas Horsman of 20 Hudson Fold, Shipley, who spoke to the recovery of the body by **Josh Lambert**, a boatman ; Mrs Mounsey, who laid out the deceased, said the body was well nourished, and there was nothing the matter with the young woman. As a neighbour, Mrs Mounsey said she believed deceased's parents always behaved to her as a father and a mother should do.

The verdict of the jury was that the deceased had drowned herself while of unsound mind.

15 20 January 1883

FOUND DROWNED On Thursday morning, notice was given to the Bradford police that a body had been seen floating in the Leeds and Liverpool Canal basin, Bradford, and some officers were dispatched to the spot. The body was recovered by a boatman named **George Barraclough** of Windhill Crag, and it had evidently been disturbed from its position in the mud by the bottom of Barraclough's boat. From the condition of the body, it was apparent that it had been in the water some time. The remains, which are supposed to be those of William Reynolds, 18 Jermyn Street, lately carrying on business as a fishmonger in Manningham Lane, and who has been reported as missing from his home since December 22nd last, were removed to the mortuary to await formal identification.

16 3 February 1883

SUSPICIOUS DEATH OF A CHILD AT WINDHILL

REVELATION OF A LOW STATE OF MORALITY On Thursday morning last, Mr Coroner Taylor held an inquiry at the Queen Hotel, Windhill, into the circumstances attending the death of a child sixteen months old, which took place under somewhat suspicious surroundings on Monday. The first witness called was

Jane Mottley, who said : I am the wife of Charles Mottley, platelayer of Thornton. Deceased was one year and four months old, and the daughter of **Elizabeth Ann Gray**, who is my daughter, and now the wife of **Thomas Jennings**, a canal and river boatman. The child has only cut two teeth, and lately has gradually wasted. I have not seen her during the last month. Jennings does not drink. My daughter has had another girl, three years old. She lives with me ; I am taking care of her, and mean to do so. My daughter had two children before she married. She married with my consent. By Inspector Varley : I have not heard my daughter's husband say anything about the deceased child. By the Foreman (Mr Bateson) : I have heard him say he did not like the child – he did not like to maintain another man's bairn.

Mr J J Rutherford, physician and surgeon of Shipley, deposed : I never saw the child alive. I first saw the body yesterday, when Constable Woodall showed it me at the house about eleven am. Externally the body was much emaciated, but showed no signs of violence. The legs were both swollen. It was the full length but very light in weight, only weighing 8 lbs. For its age, it should

have weighed a stone more. I opened the head, and found the brain and membranes healthy, but sparingly supplied with blood. The lungs were healthy ; so also the heart was healthy. The pericardium contained a small quantity of fluid. The stomach contained a small quantity of liquid food – apparently gruel – undigested. No organ itself showed signs of disease. The liver was healthy, but the gall bladder was filled with bile. The spleen was hard and contracted. Both kidneys were hard and in an unhealthy condition, and quite unable to do their work. The intestines were thin and badly nourished, and the mesenteric covering almost absorbed, and the glands diseased. My opinion is that the cause of death was mesenteric disease of long standing. This is not an uncommon disease among children, but it is a very difficult disease to combat with if not approached at an early period. The disease might be brought on in many ways ; by improper feeding, or by living in a cold and damp place. If it could be shown that the child had not sufficient food and clothing, then the neglect would be criminal. By Inspector Varley : Continual exposure would aggravate the disease from which the child died, and might have been the primary cause of it. Elizabeth Ann Jennings : My husband's name is Thomas Jennings. We live at Lane Bottom, Windhill. My husband is a boatman. The deceased child, Jane Elizabeth Gray, was my daughter. I was married in July last at Calverley Church. The child was wasting away with her teeth when we were married, and has only two teeth now, and is sixteen months old. She was a fine little thing before she began to take “pobs”. She was then three weeks old ; but she did not do so well afterwards. We had plenty of food and clothing for the child. When I have gone out, I have taken the child with me. On the 23rd December, I took the child to Mr Bryden, and my mother has also taken her to him. When I came from Leeds on Monday afternoon, I took the child to Mr Bryden's again, and he said I was to take it home as soon as possible, as it was dying. I started home, but she died in my arms on the way down Fountain Street. I had always kept the child as warm as I could. I had insured the child's life, but it was within a week from being entitled to benefit. When I left my husband on Monday, and the child was then alive, he said I was to get her buried if I could before he came home.

The Coroner remarked that the case was one of grave suspicion, but still there was no evidence of actual ill-usage of the child. The husband may have wished the child dead, but if he did nothing to injure it, he is not criminally liable.

It transpired during the inquiry that Charles Mottley, the husband of the first witness, is the father of the deceased child, and of the one referred to as being three years old ; both of which are the offspring of his stepdaughter.

The jury at once returned a verdict of “Death from natural causes”.

17 17 February 1883

DRUNK AND DISORDERLY At the West Riding Petty Sessions held at Bradford on Monday last, Edward Driver, mechanic, Morton Banks, was charged with being drunk and disorderly in Bingley Road near the Ring of Bells Inn, Shipley, on the 10th inst. Constable Thornton proved the case and the defendant, in whose pocket was found a bottle of rum, was fined 5s and costs. At the same time and place, **Frank Bridgenorth**, a boatman of no settled residence, was charged with having committed a similar offence in Otley Road, Shipley, on the 8th instant. Constable Buttle said he was on duty in Otley Road on the date mentioned about a quarter to twelve midnight, when he found the prisoner in a very drunken and disorderly state. Prisoner refused to give any account of himself, and he was therefore locked up. They offered to release him on the following morning, but he said he would as soon be in as out. He had been found guilty of a similar offence on several previous occasions, and he had always gone to gaol. The magistrates declined to send him to prison on this occasion, and ordered him to pay the costs out of the little money he had in his possession. They told him he would not be allowed to live at the expense of the county.

18 24 February 1883

BINGLEY

A BOY DROWNED On Wednesday, Mr Malcolm, the Leeds Borough Coroner, held an inquiry at

the Millgarth Street Mortuary into the circumstances attending the death of William Hird, aged nineteen, of Park Road, Bingley. Mrs Mary Hird, mother of the deceased, said that on Monday morning her son left home, and at dinner time she received information that he had gone with a canal boat to Leeds. She knew that he was subject to fits of dizziness, and he had on one occasion fallen into some water in a fit. **Joseph Beck**, boatman, said that the deceased came on to his boat and asked leave to go with him to Leeds. Hird received permission, and that night he slept on board at Armley. On Tuesday morning, the journey to Leeds was continued, and the deceased opened three locks for the boat to pass through. He got off the boat to open a fourth lock, and soon afterwards disappeared from view. His hat was seen floating on the water, assistance was at once obtained, and in about three quarters of an hour his lifeless body was found. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death", thinking it probable that Hird had either fallen into the water during a fit of dizziness, or by being tripped up whilst running to the fourth lock.

19 12 May 1883

A BACCHANALIAN BOATMAN At the Bradford West Riding Police Court on Thursday last, **Thomas Cooke**, boatman of Shipley, was charged with being drunk and riotous. Constable Whitehead proved the case. Defendant had been convicted 18 times before, four times during the last year. A fine of 40s and costs, with the alternative of a month's imprisonment, was inflicted upon the defendant, who did not appear.

20 2 June 1883

BINGLEY PETTY SESSIONS, WEDNESDAY

HEAVY PENALTY FOR DRUNKENNESS **William Denby**, a boatman of Barrage Street, Bingley, was charged with being drunk and riotous in that street on the 21st May. Constable Snowball proved the case. Defendant did not appear, and Superintendent Ireland stated that he was a very idle man, who was in the habit of abusing his wife, and was a general nuisance. The man had been convicted on many previous occasions, and he would ask the magistrates if they thought it wise to send him to prison without the option of a fine this time, and see if that would have any effect. The magistrates said the defendant had a disgraceful record, and they inflicted a fine of 40s and costs, with the alternative of one month's imprisonment.

21 16 June 1883

STRANGE REVELATIONS OF BOATING LIFE At the West Riding Police Court at Bradford on Thursday last, **James Tempest**, boatman, plying on the canal boat *Charles*, and living at Valley Road, Shipley, was charged by his wife, **Ann Tempest**, with having committed an assault upon her on the 6th instant. It appears that on the day named, the complainant went to the boat at half past ten, but her husband was not there. Going again about eleven o'clock, she found him in bed on the boat, and after speaking to him he used violent language to her, and threatened to take away her life. He often treated her in this way, and she had never had anything but blows since they were married, fourteen years ago. In reply to questions put by the defending solicitor, complainant admitted that she had been living with another man at Dewsbury for four and a half years, but alleged that her husband had lived with four different women, one of whom was the wife of another man plying on the same boat with himself. The Chairman considered it unnecessary to go further into the case, and ordered the defendant to enter into his own recognisances in £5 to keep the peace for six months.

22 16 June 1883

FOOLS AND THEIR FOLLY At the Bradford West Riding Police Court on Thursday last, **Fenton Whiteley**, boatman of Jane Hills, Shipley, was charged with a similar offence (being drunk and riotous). Constable Robinson stated that he found the prisoner lying in a drunken sleep in Saltaire Road, Shipley, at about quarter past one that morning. On wakening him and asking if he knew where he was, he replied, "Yes, I'm at Apperley Brig". He had to get the assistance of Sergeant

Bradbury to remove him to the police cell. Prisoner was seven times before the court between the years 1876 and 1879, but nothing was known against him since that time, and though he had been on three former occasions fined 40s and costs, he was let off this time with a fine of 20s and costs.

23 23 June 1883

A SHIPLEY BOATMAN IN TROUBLE At the Skipton Petty Sessions on Saturday, **Joseph Waterhouse**, boatman of Shipley, and employed by Mr U Woodhead of Bradford, was charged on remand with obtaining £6 1s 10d under false pretences from Zachariah Sandall, the Skipton agent of Messrs Bower and Co, colliery proprietors, Allerton, on the 4th inst. Mr Gordon, from the office of Messrs Terry, Robinson and Gordon, solicitors, Bradford, prosecuted, and the prisoner was undefended. Mr **Uriah Woodhead** stated that the prisoner had been in his employ about six months. On the date named, he told witness that he was about to go with a load of coal to Skipton for Messrs Bower. Witness then told him that he must not draw anything for the freight ; if he required any money, he had better get it then. Prisoner answered that he should want 30s, and it was given to him. Mr Z Sandall, agent for Mr Bower, deposed that on the day in question, prisoner brought a cargo to Skipton for his firm. He asked witness if he could pay the freight, as he had been ordered by his master to draw it. He also said, "I have only the cargo booked to Stockbridge, and I want some money to pay the dues with". He accordingly paid him the demand and obtained his signature. Constable Mallinson stated that he arrested the prisoner at Leeds on the 18th inst, and charged him with obtaining money under false pretences. He replied, "It was my money as much as his". Prisoner pleaded not guilty. He was committed to take his trial at the next Wakefield Quarter Sessions.

24 23 June 1883

WINDHILL

MORE REVELATIONS OF BOATING LIFE At the West Riding Court, Bradford, **William Allott**, a presser of Windhill, who has recently been plying on the canal boat *Mary Jane*, was brought up on a charge of assaulting **Edmund Hillas**, boatman of Windhill, and also with assaulting **Thomas Hollis**, captain of the *Mary Jane*. Edmund Hillas stated that on the 19th inst he was talking to the captain on the boat, when the prisoner came up to him and said, "Have you done your work?" He replied that he had no work to do, when prisoner took him by the neck and throttled him until he was black in the face. If it had not been for the Captain interfering, he might have been killed. He spat blood for some time after. He was also kicked from one end of the boat to the other by the prisoner. By the Prisoner : He had business on the boat. He was speaking to the Captain. Thomas Hollis said he saw the prisoner take Hillas by the neck, hold him with his back against the wall, and throttle him until he was black in the face. He then went to the assistance of Hillas, when prisoner took him by the neck and threatened to throw him into the canal. Prisoner turned round and kicked Hillas the length of the boat. Prisoner, who has been convicted on 15 previous occasions, was sentenced to one calendar month's imprisonment on each charge, the magistrates characterising the assault as a most violent and unprovoked one.

25 30 June 1883

SILSDEN

A BOY DROWNED An inquest was held on Monday at the Bridge Inn, Silsden, before Mr T P Brown, concerning the death of Alfred Read (7), son of Robert Read, gardener, Wood Nook Cottage, Howden near Silsden. It appears that the deceased had been in the habit of going to Booth's Bridge on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, and turning off the bridge when boats were passing, the boatmen rewarding him with halfpence. On Saturday he left home at two o'clock, and was last seen alive at four o'clock, at which time he turned off the bridge for a boatman called **Stephen Green**. His cap was found on the canal bank about an hour afterwards. As he did not return home, his parents became uneasy, and a search was made for him in the woods, and ultimately in the canal. At about half past eleven the body was found under the bridge. The jury

returned a verdict of "Death by drowning".

26 7 July 1883

WEST RIDING MIDSUMMER QUARTER SESSIONS, TUESDAY

STEALING A FRIZINGHALL BOATOWNER'S HORSE James Lister, labourer, was charged with stealing a horse of the value of £10, the property of **George Patchett** of Frizinghall, on the 27th of April. From the evidence of the prosecutor, it appeared that the prisoner accompanied him with a boatload of goods to Chapel Haddlesey, and when the cargo had been discharged, the prosecutor gave prisoner some money to make several purchases, and told him when he had bought the goods to start for home. Instead of doing so, however, prisoner acknowledged that he went up to a public house at Chapel Haddlesey known by the sign of the Jug, where he met a man named Precious, who said he wanted a horse. Prisoner suggested that he had got one which would just suit, the animal was fetched, and a bargain was concluded for £4 10s or thereabouts. The horse was afterwards "swapped" for a donkey and cart, and ultimately found its way to Selby. Prisoner was apprehended at Hull. He was found guilty, and sentenced to six months' imprisonment.

WEDNESDAY

A SHIPLEY BOATMAN CONVICTED OF FRAUD **Joseph Waterhouse**, boatman of Shipley, was brought up charged with obtaining by false pretences from Zachariah Sandall, the sum of £6 1s 10d, with intent to defraud, at Skipton on the 4th June. Mr Uriah Woodhead of Bradford stated that the prisoner had been in his employ a few months. On the 4th June, prisoner told Mr Woodhead that he was about to go with a load of coal to Skipton for Messrs Bower and Co, colliery proprietors of Allerton. Mr Woodhead told him he was not to draw anything for his freight ; if he required any money, it should be given him. Prisoner then said he should want 30s, which was handed to him by Mr Woodhead. **Edward Harrison**, the agent of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal Company at Skipton, said Mr Woodhead had an account for canal dues at Skipton. On the 4th of June, the prisoner came to the office of the company to render an account of the coal from Stockbridge to Skipton, and said he could either pay the dues, or they could be placed to the account of Mr Woodhead. Recalled, Mr Woodhead said none of his captains ever paid canal dues. He had an account with the company at Skipton, and they rendered it monthly. All his men knew that. Mr Sandall, agent for Messrs Bower, said on the day in question the prisoner brought a cargo of coal to Skipton for his firm, and asked if witness would pay the freight, as he had been ordered by his master to draw it. Prisoner also said, "I have only the cargo booked to Stockbridge, and I want some money to pay the dues with". Witness accordingly paid prisoner £6 1s 10d, and obtained a receipt. When apprehended, the prisoner replied, "I got the money ; it was mine as much as his (Woodhead's). I got the freight". The Chairman, in summing up the case to the jury, pointed out that so far from the prisoner having been told by his master to draw the freight, he was distinctly forbidden to do so, and money was given him to pay expenses. Instead of carrying out his employer's orders, however, prisoner went and said, "I want the dues, as I am authorised by my master to receive them". The prisoner thus falsely pretended that his master had ordered him to draw the freight, and it was on that representation that the money was paid. The jury at once found a verdict of guilty. The Chairman, after reading to Mr Woodhead a list of four previous convictions against the prisoner, asked if it was usual for him to employ men who had been repeatedly in prison. Mr Woodhead replied that it was not ; but it seemed that nearly all captains of boats were alike untrustworthy. The prisoner was sentenced to four months' imprisonment with hard labour.

27 7 July 1883

SHIPLEY

DRUNKENNESS AND ITS EFFECTS At the Bradford West Riding Courthouse on Monday last, **Thomas Waterhouse**, boatman of Piccadilly, Shipley, was charged with being drunk and riotous in Otley Road, Shipley, on Saturday night last, and the case having been proved by Constable Whitehead, defendant was mulcted in the penalty of 2s 6d and costs.

28 14 July 1883

BINGLEY PETTY SESSIONS, WEDNESDAY

A LONG LIST OF INEBRIATES (including) **Joseph Ingham**, boatman of Burrage Street, Bingley, fined 20s and costs.

29 25 August 1883

IDLE

ALLEGED THEFT OF A HORSE On Monday last, at the West Riding Court, Bradford – before Major Middleton (in the chair) and Mr E P Arnold-Forster – Benjamin Horne, labourer of Idle, was placed in the dock on a charge of having stolen from a field at Idle a bay mare, the property of Mr W Williams, who lives in Shipley Fields and carries on business as a coal dealer at Frizinghall. Mr Williams said : I have seen the bay mare in the possession of the police, it is my property and is worth about £40. The prisoner had no authority to take it out of my field, or to offer it for sale. I was sent for yesterday (Sunday) to Idle to see the mare. **Caleb Padgett**, boatman, said : I am employed by Mr Williams. I was driving the mare in question on Friday last, the 17th August. I put her into the field about eight o'clock at night, and again saw her there on Saturday afternoon. When I went for her this morning, I found she had gone. I had employed the prisoner a fortnight in my boat. William Moore, landlord of the White Hart Inn, Idle, said : I saw the prisoner about half past four yesterday afternoon, when he came to my house riding a bay mare. He called for a pint of beer, and had the mare put into the stable. He said he came from Kirkstall, had the mare for sale, and would take £15 for her. I told him there must be something wrong about it, but he said there was not. I went to look at it, and asked him what it had been working at last, and he replied that he had been working it for the Oulton Corporation. I had my doubts about the truth of these statements, and sent privately for Constable Scott, who took the prisoner into custody at my house, and took the mare out of the stable. Constable Scott, stationed at Idle, said : From information received, I went to the White Hart Inn, Idle, yesterday afternoon about five o'clock. I there saw the prisoner and took him into the stable where the bay mare now in my possession was stalled. I asked him whose property it was, and he said it was his own. I knew the mare, and charged prisoner on suspicion with having stolen it from a field at Shipley Fields. He still asserted it was his own property, and I then apprehended him, and took the prisoner and the mare to the police office. I fetched Mr Williams, and he identified the mare as his own. The prisoner, having been formally charged, pleaded guilty, and said he was in beer at the time, or he would not have taken the mare. He was then committed to take his trial at the ensuing Quarter Sessions to be held at Wakefield.

30 25 August 1883

At West Bromwich, a boatman named **Joseph Whitehouse**, of Greet's Green, whilst steering a boat near Bromford Ironworks, fell into the canal and was drowned. The deceased had only commenced work that day after five weeks illness. It is supposed that he was seized with a fit. He complained of feeling unwell before leaving for work in the morning.

31 20 October 1883

DISORDERLY INEBRIATES At the Bradford West Riding Police Court on Thursday last, **Thomas Cooke**, boatman's labourer of Shipley, pleaded guilty to being drunk and riotous at Shipley on Monday last, and was fined 5s and costs.

32 5 January 1884

BINGLEY

SUDDEN DEATH An inquest was held on Wednesday at the King's Head Inn, Bingley, before Mr Barstow, coroner, touching the death of **Stephen Lund**, boatman, Bingley, who was found dead in bed on Sunday morning. Sarah Ellen Lund, sister of the deceased, identified the body, and stated that deceased had recently complained of pains in the stomach. On Friday night and Saturday, witness made some poultices for him, which gave him relief. He got up on Saturday, and went to

see Dr Crocker. After he had retired to rest on Saturday night, witness sat up with him, and applied warm flannels to his body. She sat with deceased till five o'clock on Sunday morning, and then went to bed. When she got up about two hours afterwards' she found him dead in bed. John Speake, foreman of Bingley Gasworks, stated that the deceased worked at the Gasworks. He began to work there on Thursday night. Dr Crocker stated that on Monday evening he made a *post mortem* examination of the body, assisted by Dr Craig. There were no marks of violence on the body, but the internal organs were in an advanced state of disease, the heart, lungs and liver being affected. In his opinion, death had resulted from congestion of the lungs. The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence.

33 26 January 1884

BINGLEY PETTY SESSIONS, WEDNESDAY

THEFT OF A HORSE COVER **Joseph Beck**, boatman, Bingley, was charged with stealing a horse cover, the property of Hartley Slater, coal merchant of Stocks Bridge near Keighley. Prosecutor stated that on the 20th November last, the prisoner was working for him on his boats plying on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal. A horse cover, value £1, was then on the boat ; but on the 31st of December following – the day on which he dismissed the prisoner from his employ – the article was not to be found. The cover produced, which was marked “HS,K” was his property, and the one he had missed. **George Patchett**, coal boat owner of Frizinghall, said that during the last six weeks he lent the prisoner 2s 6d on the cover produced, which he had since handed over to Constable Shaw. The officer named deposed to apprehending the prisoner on the 17th instant, on the canal at Calverley Bridge. On charging him with theft, prisoner replied, “I wanted the money for horse corn”. Prisoner was committed to gaol for two months.

34 26 January 1884

A GANG OF GAMBLERS CAUGHT At the Bradford West Riding Courthouse on Monday last, Joseph Myers, Frederick Dakin, Thomas Peat, Joseph Pearson and Fred White, all labourers residing at Windhill, were charged in custody with gambling. The prisoners pleaded not guilty to the charge. Constable Holstead deposed that at half past ten on Saturday last, he was in Thackley Old Road, between Windhill and Thackley, in company with Constable Garnett, in plain clothes, when they saw a number of men tossing with money. After watching them some time from behind a wall, they went towards them. One of the men, however, who was on the look out, put up his hand as a signal for the others to run. Several of the men got away, but they had succeeded in apprehending the five prisoners. Constable Garnett corroborated these statements. White, having been several times previously convicted, was committed to gaol for two months ; Myers and Pearson, who had also been previously convicted, for one month each ; and Dakin and Peat, against whom nothing material was known, were only ordered to pay a fine of 5s and costs. At the same court on Thursday last, two other members of this gang, William Dawson, quarryman, and **Thomas Jennings**, boatman, were charged with the same offence, and Benjamin Whitfield, quarryman (all the men hailing from Windhill) was charged with aiding and abetting the others in gambling. Constable Holstead gave evidence in substantiation of the charges, and Jennings and Whitfield were each fined 5s and costs, while Dawson, who did not appear, was mulcted in the penalty of 10s and costs.

35 2 February 1884

A MAN FOUND DROWNED AT DOWLEY GAP On Monday morning last, the dead body of a man was found in the Leeds and Liverpool Canal at Dowley Gap near Bingley. The body having been recovered from the water, was removed to the Granby Inn. It was that of a man apparently about 50 years of age, 5 ft 9 in high, of stout build and fresh complexion, with blue eyes, brown hair turning grey, and a clean shaven face. The body was dressed in a black velveteen shooting coat, with trousers of similar material. On the feet were a pair of Blucher clogs. On Wednesday morning, an inquest was held at the Granby Inn before Mr Coroner Barstow, when

the following evidence was given :-

Hartley Wildman, labourer, King Street, Bingley, said : I saw the dead body of the deceased on Monday last. It is that of a man I saw in the Sun Inn, Main Street, Bingley, betwixt ten and eleven on Friday night, the 25th January. He only stayed a few minutes, and had a pint of beer. He seemed quite sober at that time. He offered an umbrella for sale, and appeared to be an umbrella hawker. Neither I nor anyone else in the company knew the man, but before he left, a person entered with whom he appeared to be acquainted.

Charles Gates said : I am lock-keeper at Dowley Gap. About 7.30 am on Monday, a boatman informed me that he had seen something floating in the canal, and on going to the spot I got out, with the assistance of a boatman, about eight o'clock, the body of the deceased. There was nothing whatever to show how the man had got into the water.

Constable Yardy : Deceased has no marks of violence or injury about him. He had in his possession 3s 11d in money and a door key. The body has not been identified.

The jury returned the following verdict :- "Found drowned, without marks of violence, there being no evidence to show how he came into the water".

36 9 February 1884

THE ALLEGED WIFE MURDER NEAR SALTAIRE The Borough Coroner held an adjourned inquest at the Town Hall on Tuesday evening, touching the death of Susan White, of 256 Sticker Lane, Bowling, who was thrown into the Leeds and Liverpool Canal by her husband, near Saltaire, on the 18th January last. Joseph Whitfield, a quarryman of Windhill, was now examined. He stated that on Friday the 18th January, about three o'clock in the afternoon, he was walking on the bank of the canal near Hirst Lock at Shipley, going in the direction of the Fisherman Inn, when he heard a splash in the water. He ran forward and saw a man and a woman in the water near to Hirst Lock. The man had his arm about the woman's neck. They sank under the surface of the water. With the assistance of a boatman he got the two out. The man retained his hold of the woman until they were drawn on the bank insensible. After applying restoratives, the man and woman regained consciousness. They were taken to a house near, where the woman was put into bed. Witness asked them how they got into the water, and the man replied, "We must have slipped in". Sergeant Bradbury, Shipley, said in consequence of information he received, he went to the Hirst Lock, Shipley, on the 19th of January last with a cab. He then invited deceased to get in, but she replied, "I dare not get in unless you get in with me, he threw me into the canal and tried to drown me. I am afraid he will do something with me". This statement was made in the hearing of the deceased's husband. Witness then got them both into the cab and drove them to Shipley Police Station, and when there, he charged the man with attempting to murder his wife, and he replied, "Nothing of the sort". Deceased's husband afterwards said to witness, "If you knew what they had done to me by trying to put stuff into my meals, you would have done something". Samuel Lodge, surgeon, deposed to attending the deceased up to the date of her death. After death he made a *post mortem* examination of the body. He was of opinion that the cause of death was inflammation of the lungs and pleurisy. The jury returned a verdict that deceased died from inflammation of the lungs, due to the immersion in the water, but how the parties got into the water they had not sufficient evidence to show.

37 16 February 1884

SHIPLEY

DRUNK AND NOISY At the Bradford West Riding Court on Thursday, **Thomas Cooke**, boatman of Shipley, was charged with being drunk and riotous in Otley Road, Shipley, on the 4th inst. Constable Russell proved the case. Defendant, who did not appear, has been convicted at the same court on fifteen former occasions, but has invariably served a term of imprisonment for his offence. The magistrates now imposed a fine of 40s and costs, with the alternative of a month in gaol.

38 23 February 1884

BINGLEY PETTY SESSIONS, WEDNESDAY

WORKING A LAME MARE **Daniel Turner alias Robinson**, captain of the boat *Ino*, residing at 13 Croft Street, Burnley, was summoned for working a mare while in an unfit state ; and **Hartley Barrett** of Foulbridge near Colne was summoned for permitting the same. Constable Webster said that on the 6th of February last, he saw the defendant working a black mare at the Three Rise Locks, Bingley, drawing the boat *Ino* on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, laden with hides and nuts to the weight of 36 tons. He found the mare was suffering from two large wounds on the shoulders, from which matter was running. There was a large patch of blood and matter on the collar where it had been pressed upon the wounds. On calling Turner's attention to the state of the animal, he said he had spoken about it to his employers on the morning of the 5th inst, and he thought by working it short days it would soon recover. Both defendants pleaded guilty, and the magistrates considering that the case was a bad one, inflicted a fine of 20s and costs upon each defendant.

39 1 March 1884

At Rickmansworth, the dead body has been recovered of a canal boatman named **Gabriel Archer**, in the employ of Messrs Nelson and Co, Stockton-on-Tees, who accidentally fell at night into one of the locks adjacent to the Grand Junction Canal at Batchworth. The deceased, who was of middle age, leaves a sick wife and two children at Braunston, Northamptonshire.

40 12 April 1884

WEST RIDING SPRING QUARTER SESSIONS These sessions were resumed on Tuesday morning in the West Riding Court House, Wakefield. Mr W Aldam of Frickley Hall near Doncaster again presided.

The following sentences were passed :-

Nine months' imprisonment – **Edward Walker** (23), boatman, stealing a quantity of rope, the property of T and R N Bowers at Skipton on February 13th.

41 19 April 1884

DRUNKENNESS On Thursday last at the Bradford West Riding Courthouse, **Fenton Whiteley**, boatman of Shipley, on a similar offence (being drunk and riotous) having been proved against him by Constable Poole, was fined 5s and costs.

42 3 May 1884

BRADFORD BANKRUPTCY COURT, TUESDAY
(BEFORE MR REGISTRAR GARNETT-ORME)

IN RE **JOHN SENIOR AND SON**, BOAT BUILDERS, SHIPLEY This firm, who have been made bankrupts, appeared to pass their public examination. Mr J H Richardson, solicitor, Bradford, appeared for the bankrupt, Mr J J Wright for one of the creditors, and Mr Shaw of Leeds for another of the creditors. The Official Receiver (Mr J A Binns) stated the bankrupt's affairs were in a very unsatisfactory state. No books had been kept, and the business had been carried on for a time mainly by accommodation bills and by having recourse to money lenders. The statement of affairs, which showed liabilities £725 18s and assets £393, submitted by the bankrupts, had been drawn up from memory, loose notes &c. Speight Senior, son of John Senior, who died last Saturday week, was called, and in answer to Mr Binns said he was in partnership with his father for four and a half years as a boat builder. They kept from eight to fourteen men, and paid on the average about £15 per week in wages, or about £300 a year, and yet they kept no books. They repaired on the average 25 boats a year at about £40 each, and built on the average one boat, the price of which was about £200. He could not say what the average income of the firm was per year. The firm had been pressed by the creditors since the commencement of the year, and they mortgaged certain property to Mr Hinsley, bill broker of Leeds, for £300, the greater part of which went to pay interest on money previously advanced. There was about £30 of the sum which he could not account for as

having received, and he presumed it went in bonus or interest to Hinsley for advancing the loan. A sum of £46 10s appeared in the statement of affairs as due to Messrs A Parker and Sons, Shipley, auctioneers and brokers. That firm held as security a boat, and as they had now taken the boat, the sum should be struck out of the statement. Messrs Parker also held a bill for £43 drawn by the firm upon a boatman named **George Patchett**, whose signature as accepting it appeared upon the face of it. Patchett's income was only from £1 to 30s a week. The firm had frequently to borrow money to pay wages and to pay off previous borrowings. The more work they got, the worse they seemed to get, and about Christmas they found they had not been charging enough for their work. Since they found they were in difficulties, they had paid two or three of the creditors who were pressing them, by borrowing money. In addition to the mortgage held by Mr Hinsley, he was an unsecured creditor for £54 10s, £45 of which the firm received on a promissory note. In answer to Mr Shaw, the debtor said the promissory note on which he received £45 was drawn for £50, and the remaining £4 10s was the expense of certain legal proceedings. Ultimately, the debtor was allowed to pass his examination.

43 10 May 1884

BREAKING WINDOWS AT JANE HILLS At the West Riding Courthouse, Bradford, on Monday last, **Fenton Whiteley**, boatman, was charged by **Isaac Illingworth**, also a boatman, with wilful damage by breaking windows at Shipley on the 3rd inst. Complainant said he lived at Jane Hills, Shipley, and the prisoner had been lodging with him. On Saturday night last, the prisoner went home shortly before eleven, somewhat the worse for liquor. When complainant wanted to go to bed, prisoner demurred, and asked for his shirt and stockings. He then went out, but soon afterwards returned, and he again went out and again returned. Complainant did not open the door this time, but said if prisoner would go to bed he would open it. As Whiteley would not promise to go to bed, the door was not opened, whereupon he deliberately broke the windows. The Chairman (Col Pollard) said as the damage was a large amount, the prisoner would only be fined 5s and costs, but he would have to pay the damage, £1 1s 6d.

44 23 August 1884

WINDHILL

INFRINGEMENT OF THE AIRE AND CALDER CANAL BYE LAWS At the West Riding Police Court, Bradford, on Thursday, **William Wadsworth**, captain of a boat plying on the canal, was summoned under the Canal Act. Mr Vint (Killick, Hutton and Vint) stated that the defendant was charged under the 28th, 29th and 48th bye laws of the company "that he, being a person in charge of a boat, did not obey the directions of the lock keeper as to the passing through a certain lock". It appeared that on the 18th August the defendant was in charge of a boat on the canal, and when within 70 yards of Pricking lock, he attempted to pass another boat, contrary to the regulations of the company, which stated that they should not pass within 150 yards of a lock. The captain of the Aire and Calder fly boat, which the defendant attempted to pass, warned him, but the defendant persisted, and the boats became locked together. **Thomas Hardwick**, keeper of the Pricking Lock, Windhill, told defendant to let his boat go astern, but he refused to do so and caused a great loss of time. The Bench imposed a fine of 20s and costs in the first case, and 2s 6d and costs in each of the others.

45 25 October 1884

THE MYSTERIOUS DROWNING CASE AT BINGLEY The adjourned inquest on the body of James Craven, stone miner, 37 years old, of York Street, Bingley, was held on Monday last at the Star Inn, Bingley, before Mr Coroner Barstow and a jury. It will be remembered that the body of deceased was found in the Leeds and Liverpool Canal on Saturday morning the 11th inst by a boatman named **John Carrodus** of Windhill. At the previous inquiry held on Monday the 13th, Carrodus deposed to the finding of the body in the canal about 40 yards on the Bingley side of Dowley Gap. Another witness – Samuel Rushton, of Horsfall Street, Bingley – said he saw the

deceased at the Fisherman's Inn drinking on the night of the 4th inst, and William Parker, of Parker's Road, Windhill, said he saw the deceased sitting on a wall near Dowley Gap on Sunday the 5th. At this point, the inquiry was adjourned for the purpose of learning whether anyone else had seen the deceased after Saturday night. At the adjourned inquiry on Monday :-

Christopher Anderson of Gilstead deposed : I am a quarryman. I knew deceased well. On Monday morning the 6th inst, I met deceased about 6.55, coming on the lane leading to Gilstead, as I was going to my work. I spoke to him and he replied, but we did not stop. He appeared sober and all right in his mind. It was about half a mile from home where I met deceased. He was dressed in better clothes than he worked in, and seemed as if he had not been long awake.

Emily Illingworth : I am the wife of Benjamin Illingworth and live at Gilstead. I knew deceased very well, and last saw him alive on Monday September 29th. I told the officer I had met him on the 6th inst, but have since found out I was mistaken, and that it was three weeks ago that I met him.

Mrs Craven, widow of the deceased, said : My husband was dressed in his better clothes when he left home on Saturday afternoon the 4th inst, and I did not see him again alive. I never knew deceased sleep out before, but he had been away at his brother's at Shipley for two nights, when he got a sup of beer and was locked up. But this was some time since.

The jury, after a short consultation, returned a verdict of "Found drowned in the canal, without marks of violence, but how deceased got into the water, there is no evidence to show".

46 1 November 1884

WINDHILL

INQUEST On Friday evening, the 24th ult, before Mr T Taylor, coroner, an inquest was held at the New Inn, Windhill, touching the death of **Joshua Sugden**, aged 43, boatman of no fixed abode, who died about 6.30 pm on the 23rd ult at Shipley. From the evidence produced, it appeared that the deceased had for a few weeks past been in the Clayton Workhouse, but on the 21st October, **Thomas Rhodes**, captain of the boat *Atlantic* of Shipley, took the deceased into his employ as mate, at Rodley, and they proceeded to Weldale Colliery near Leeds and took a load of coal for **Mr James Fyfe** of Shipley, owner of the boat. About four o'clock am on the 23rd ult, deceased was taken ill, and complained to the captain that "his body had come down", he having been ruptured for some time ; and in consequence, a man named **John Patchett** was hired to do deceased's work. During the day, Sugden took nothing to eat, but drank some tea ; nothing particular, however, was noticed on the way, until they arrived at Shipley and moored alongside the junction dock, when (about 5.30 pm) deceased was taken worse, and Captain Rhodes sent for Dr Brydon, leaving the man Patchett with deceased. The doctor sent Rhodes to the overseer, and on returning to the boat, Sugden was dead. The jury returned a verdict that deceased died from natural causes.

47 20 February 1886

A MAN'S BODY FOUND IN THE CANAL On Wednesday morning, Mr Coroner Barstow held an inquest at the Sun Hotel, in the circumstances surrounding the death of Harry Teale, aged 28 years, whose body was found in the Leeds and Liverpool Canal at Shipley on the previous day. From the evidence of Mary Ann Midgley, deceased's sister, who is the wife of Thomas Midgley, wool drier, Queen Street, Baildon Woodbottom, it appeared that Teale visited their house on the evening of Saturday the 9th January, about ten minutes past nine o'clock, and left about twenty minutes later, saying he was going to Bradford. He was somewhat the worse for drink, but could walk steadily. Deceased was a single man, and lived in lodgings at Micklethwaite, near Bingley. The night of the 9th January was very frosty. **Joseph Fowler**, boatman for **Mr James Fyfe** of Shipley, deposed that on Tuesday morning about half past eleven o'clock, he was walking on the canal bank near Mason's Bridge, when he saw the body of a man floating in the water. Witness obtained the help of a man named Coleman, and got the body out of the canal in the presence of Sergeant Smith. Mrs Ann Pawson, residing in Atkinson Street, said she helped to lay out the body. The head was much cut and bruised, and the right arm was broken in two places. The injuries might have been caused by passing boats. The verdict of the jury was "That deceased had been

found drowned, having possibly accidentally fallen into the canal”.

48 10 July 1886

CRUELTY TO A HORSE At the County Police Court, Bradford, on Thursday, **William Holmes**, a boatman, was summoned for ill-treating a horse. Sergeant Garnett stated that last Friday evening about a quarter to six o'clock, he was on duty near the Leeds and Liverpool Canal towing path, and saw the defendant Holmes in charge of a horse which appeared to be very uneasy. He stopped it, and on making examination, found on the near shoulder a large old wound about the size of a five shilling piece, and on the off shoulder a wound about the size of half a crown, and two or three others. He drew the defendant's attention to them, and the latter said he did not know they were so bad, and that they had got worse that day. Inspector Sinclair stated that shortly before nine o'clock on the same night, his attention was drawn to the animal in question, which he found to be an aged roan horse, in the condition described. In defence, Holmes stated that the animal had only been doing ordinary work. Inspector Sinclair stated, however, that the horse had been at work from half past three in the morning till six o'clock in the evening, drawing a heavy load of coals. A fine of 20s and costs was imposed.

49 28 August 1886

DEATH BY DROWNING AT WINDHILL Mr Taylor, the district coroner, held an inquest on Wednesday at the Blue Bell Hotel, Windhill, to inquire into the circumstances attending the death of Ann Ludlam, who resided with her parents at the above hotel in Leeds Road, and was found drowned in the canal on Tuesday morning.

William Ludlam, father of the deceased, stated that his daughter was 34 years of age, and had assisted him in attending to the house. She always had good health and spirits. He saw her alive for the last time about 11.30 am on Monday, when he set out for Keighley, and never heard any more of her until she was brought home drowned about half past six on Tuesday morning. He did not know that his daughter was courting James Davison, nor had he heard of any quarrel between them. Davison occasionally visited his house, and he had seen him since the occurrence, but nothing had been said about the event. His daughter only stayed out all night but once before, and that was about six weeks ago.

Eliza Tennant, wife of Fred Tennant, overlooker of Thomas Fold, High Street, Windhill, said that she had frequently assisted at the Blue Bell Hotel, and was intimately acquainted with the deceased, who had always been of a cheerful disposition. On one or two occasions, she had seen the deceased slightly the worse for liquor. The last time she saw Miss Ludlam was about eleven o'clock on Monday, when the deceased was passing along the road. At that time she was very cheerful. She (witness) saw her again when brought home on Tuesday ; at that time she had on a bonnet and a black dress. Subsequently, with the aid of one of the sisters, she laid deceased out, and found the body in good condition, the only mark being one about the size of half a crown on the right leg. In reply to Inspector Varley, witness said she saw the body about twenty minutes past six o'clock. She examined it very minutely, but could only find the mark mentioned, nor did she smell any liquor about deceased.

Johnson Tillotson, engineer of Dumb Mill Place, Heaton, said that on Monday, about ten minutes past nine, he was at the end of Shipley Fields Road, and saw two persons, one being a female and the other a male. They were going towards Shipley, and both appeared to be under the influence of drink. They had not proceeded far before the woman fell, and after she had got up, she said to the man who was with her, “I have had plenty of bother with you today ; take your hook”, swearing at the time. The man never spoke, and the two went different ways. About ten minutes afterwards, however, he saw the man returning, and that was the last time he saw them. In answer to Inspector Varley : Deceased seemed to be wearing a short figured velvet jacket, but he could not swear to the one produced as being the same. He did not notice the man much, but he was tall and thin, appeared to be dressed in a brown mixture suit, was rather inclined to be ginger, and had a long chin.

Amelia Watkins, wife of William Henry Watkins, out porter of Waverley Street, Shipley, said that on Monday she saw James Davison pass the bottom of their street, between a quarter and half past ten o'clock. She did not know the young woman, but was aware that it was not his wife. Davison had hold of the woman's arm, she apparently not being able to walk without assistance. She could not say whether Davison was drunk or not ; the last time she saw them was when they crossed the Old Beck Bridge. The woman was a small person, and was dressed in dark or black clothes. Her hat was also a dark one, with something light, a feather or a flower, in it at the front.

Jane Shutt, wife of William Shutt, labourer of School Hill, Windhill, said she knew the deceased by sight, and saw her about a quarter or twenty minutes past ten on the Old Beck Bridge whilst attending to a small wooden shop she keeps at the end of the bridge. Deceased was with Mr Davison, and they passed her and her husband. They were "linking", and Davison seemed to be almost carrying her. She (witness) and her husband followed on their way, and on getting underneath the bridge that crosses the canal, saw the two stood against the wall, which is about eight or ten yards from the canal. They were talking, but did not seem to be quarrelling. By Inspector Varley : Davison had hold of her when they were under the bridge, and appeared to be endeavouring to take liberties with her, while she, considering her condition, seemed to be doing her best to resist him, but did not scream.

John Pitts, mason of 248 Briggate, Windhill, said he knew Ann Ludlam by sight. On Monday night, he was in bed about ten minutes past eleven, when he heard someone talking loud on the canal bank. On getting up and opening the back window, he discerned two persons, a man and a woman, who appeared to be struggling, and talking directly opposite his house on the other side of the canal. He heard the woman exclaim twice, "I won't have it ; I won't have it", after which he (witness) called out, "Now then, ye're off from there". They did not seem to go away just then, and he whistled and called of Shaw's watchman. He did not reply, but soon after the other persons went away in the direction of Pricking Locks. By Inspector Varley : His back window is almost opposite Shaw's dyeworks, and 100 yards from the old bridge.

Joseph Ellis, dyer of 27 Victoria Street, Windhill, said that on Tuesday morning he was on his way to work at Shaw's, about half past five o'clock, and when he had got out of the canal towing path, from Windhill Bridge, he found an umbrella about four yards from the end of Shaw's buildings. The umbrella was closed and quite dry, and there was a handkerchief close by, but it bore no name. About ten minutes to six, he was informed that a woman had been found in the canal and went to the place, and saw her taken out about 80 yards from the place where he found the umbrella. By Inspector Varley : Subsequently he gave the umbrella to the landlord of the Blue Bell Hotel, who said it was the property of his daughter.

James Dodgson, labourer, Crag Row, Crag End, Windhill, said that about twenty minutes to six, a boatman drew his attention to a body in the canal, floating with the face downwards. He did not stay to see it got out, going on to his work.

James Davison, agent, 21 Thompson Street, Shipley, said : I knew Ann Ludlam, and saw her last Monday in Market Street, Bradford, about three o'clock in the afternoon, at which time I was going into Wakefield Road. She asked if I would pay for her a glass at the Queen Hotel in Bridge Street, which I did. She got 2d worth of whiskey, and I then left her. I next saw her about 7.30 in the evening, as I was coming down Kirkgate. I had had part drink, and she stopped me and said, "I'll stand a glass of whiskey for you". We went into the bar of the Shoulder of Mutton Inn, and both had 4d of whiskey each. We then went to the Midland Station and booked for Shipley. As we got through the gateway, the train was just going out. She showed signs of intoxication, and I left her, going back to the Shoulder of Mutton. She followed, and I told her to go, as I was not going into the Midland Station again that night. I paid for one or two drinks there, and then told her to go to the station, as I was going to Manningham. She, however, followed, stating that she dare not go home, owing to having slipped out in the afternoon. I went to Manningham and got into the train there, and she, having followed, did the same. By mistake, I got out of the train at Frizinghall, and deceased accompanied me. I again warned her to go home, and at that time she seemed to walk very well. I made a stoppage, and did not see anything of her again until I got into the Britannia,

where I again found her. I was not aware that the deceased was there when I entered. She was sat down with a portion of a glass of beer before her. I got a glass of whiskey for myself, but do not recollect paying for any more for her. We left there, and as she appeared stupid, I took her by the arm and walked along until we came to Pricking Bridge, and there she said, "I will not go any further". Whilst I was endeavouring to get her along, two respectably dressed young men, whom I did not know, came up, and deceased recognised one of them. He said he lived at Windhill, and would see her right, the other bade, "Good night", and went on Valley Road, and I also went home. That is all. I could not swear to the men ; I believe she called him "Jack", but I would not swear. I said to his friend, "He will see her all right", and he replied, "Yes ; he knows her well enough". In reply to questions, Davison said that deceased did not fall except under the bridge, where, through stupidity, she laid herself down. He saw a lot of people whilst coming along Valley Road, but none he knew. When the young man referred to went away with deceased, he did not notice whether or not they crossed the Old Bridge into Briggate, or went along the canal bank, because at the time both he and the other young man were lighting their pipes. When he (witness) was under the bridge with deceased, it would be about eleven o'clock, and it was about half past ten o'clock when they turned to cross Pricking Bridge. Inspector Varley : What were you doing from half past ten to eleven o'clock under the bridge? Witness : I tell you she was stupid and would not go home. In reply to further cross-examination, Davison said he had not seen Mrs Watkins that night. After getting out of the train at Frizinghall station, he never saw deceased again until he got to the Britannia. He did not go by way of Shipley Fields Road, but on Midland Terrace and over the bridge.

Constable Titcombe said that he had known deceased to be intoxicated, and had occasion some few months ago to summon her for being drunk and incapable. On Tuesday morning, he received information, about ten minutes to six whilst on duty at Briggate, that there was a body in the canal. He went to the place and obtained a boat hook from a boat moored there, and having turned the body over, he recognised it. After being drawn out of the water, the body was taken to her father's house and there searched. The body was near an empty vessel.

James Paley, lock-keeper of Windhill Lock House, said the boat in question went to the place on Monday loadened with coal for Shaw's, and it was tied up all night there. The captain of the boat, however, said he had never heard anything during the night. The boat was fastened by means of ropes attached to rings, and he could not say whether the ropes touched the ground or were slightly elevated.

In addressing the jury, the Coroner said that from the evidence that could be brought forward, it was quite clear that the deceased left home on Monday with the intention of going to Bradford. There, as was admitted, she met Davison, but it could not be ascertained whether he got as incapable as it appeared she did. The way in which he had brought his story to a conclusion, however, was not very satisfactory. If he did not know how their meeting terminated he might have said so, for then the circumstances would have looked less – he was going to say suspicious, but at all events it would have given greater satisfaction. It did seem quite easy for the deceased, if she had wished to have got home, to have done so, because there were no doubt many people about who knew her and would have put her in the way, and even seen her thither. The evidence of the other people appeared to be trustworthy, and to coincide with the various circumstances. Deceased had lost her umbrella, which was afterwards found near to the place where the witness Pitts had seen the two persons on the night previous. After he had alarmed them, they went in the direction of Pricking Bridge, and it was not impossible that Davison might have left her there, and she, in endeavouring to find her way home, fell into the canal by tripping over a mooring rope ; or, being so incapable, might have walked in without tripping over anything. Or there was the other surmise – somebody might have put her in, though what motive they could have in doing that, he did not know. Moreover, there were no particular marks of violence externally to support that view, and it seemed probable that she never sank at all but, keeping in an upright position, met with her death from suffocation. The difficulty was to decide how she came to her death. If there was not sufficient evidence to show that she willingly destroyed herself, for it was impossible to say it was an

accident, the jury could only say that the deceased had been found drowned without any marks of violence.

The jury retired, and after an absence of about a quarter of an hour, returned a verdict of "Found drowned".

50 9 October 1886

GALLANT RESCUE FROM DROWNING A gallant rescue from drowning was effected on Wednesday by a boatman named **Isaac Illingworth**, 60 years of age, who resides on the canal bank at Jane Hills, Shipley. About two o'clock on Wednesday afternoon, a little boy, Frank, son of Anthony and Emma McCromick, who also live near Illingworth, was playing near the canal, and accidentally fell into the water. Mrs McCromick raised an alarm, which roused the man Illingworth, who was in bed at the time, and he, without stopping to dress himself, rushed on to the bank. Ere he arrived, however, the mother had jumped to the rescue of her child, and being in deep water the two were in imminent danger of being drowned. Illingworth entered the water, and after a severe struggle succeeded in getting them on to the bank. On jumping into the canal, however, his foot came in contact with a stone, and he sustained a rather severe injury to his right ankle, which caused his removal to the Saltaire Infirmary. He is now progressing very favourably under the care of Dr Carter, and was able to leave his bed this (Friday) morning.

51 30 October 1886

MYSTERIOUS DEATH OF A BRIGHOUSE YOUTH On Wednesday morning, the dead body of William Henry Mann, aged 13, son of a mechanic at Brighouse, who has been missing since the 15th inst, was found in the Calder at Ravenswharf, Dewsbury, by a boatman named **John Oates**. In the evening, an inquest was held at the Ravenswharf Inn, before Mr P P Maitland, deputy coroner. Mr Robert Love, surgeon, deposed that he had examined the body and found two wounds, one over the right eyebrow and the other over the left temple, as well as several abrasions of the skin on the face and legs. He was of opinion, judging from the external appearances, that the wounds and abrasions were caused after death, and that death resulted from drowning. John Mann of Waring Green, Brighouse, the father of deceased, said he saw his son alive the last time on the 15th inst, at six o'clock in the morning. He left him in the house, and on returning home at night, Anne Sutcliffe, deceased's aunt, told him that his son had not been to his work during the afternoon and was missing. She also told him that a farmer named Womersley had been racing his son and some more boys for crossing his field and stealing turnips from a field occupied by Abraham Sharpe. Shortly before ten o'clock, he went to Mr Womersley's house, but he was told by his wife that he was in bed, and that he must call the following morning. He called on the Saturday morning, and told Mr Womersley his boy had been missing since the previous night, but the latter said he knew nothing about it. Witness then told Mr Womersley that he had heard he had been racing and thrashing some boys. The latter replied he had no need to thrash them, for when he caught a boy named Hatfield he told him the names of the others. Hatfield had since told him (witness) that Mr Womersley had thrashed him with his fist. Another boy, named Harrison, told him on the following Tuesday that deceased said to him, "Let us have a half day off, for I dare not face Womersley ; look how he is hiding Tommy" (meaning Hatfield). There is a beck near Womersley's field which runs into the river. The other five boys went to their work, and deceased was never seen alive again. Owing to the peculiar circumstances which came out at the inquest, the jury decided to adjourn the inquiry so that Mr Womersley and two of the boys who were with the deceased shortly before he was missing might be present to throw further light on the case.

52 30 October 1886

BINGLEY PETTY SESSIONS, WEDNESDAY

A WANDERING INEBRIATE **John Umpleby**, a boatman of no fixed residence, was charged with being drunk. Constable Atkinson stated that at the untimely hour of nearly two o'clock on the morning of the 26th inst, he found the defendant drunk in the street and trying various house doors

and otherwise endeavouring to get in. Defendant appeared, and had nothing to say for himself, but as this was his first appearance in the character of a midnight wanderer, he was let off with half a crown and costs.

53 27 November 1886

BINGLEY PETTY SESSIONS, WEDNESDAY

HIGHWAY OBSTRUCTION John Lee of Trinity Place, Bingley, quarry owner, was charged with obstructing the highway at Crossflatts on the 22nd inst, by causing to be tipped thereon a cart load of stones, the road being 3 1/2 yards wide and the stones covering two yards. Constable McCrone proved the case, and said that Richard Maskin Lees, driver, had told him his master had ordered him to tip the stones on the place named, as there was a boat going to take them away. **John Ellis**, captain, and **Christopher Bates**, boatman, also said that they could not get along the road when the stones were there. The defendant denied that he had obstructed the highway, and the Bench ordered the case to stand over for fourteen days.

54 1 January 1887

THE SAD CASE OF DROWNING NEAR BINGLEY – THE INQUEST On Friday afternoon, December 24th, Mr J E Hill, deputy coroner for the district, and a jury of which Mr Joseph Cockett was foreman, held an enquiry at the Fisherman's Inn, Gilstead, touching the death of Albert Webster, Primrose Hill, near Bingley, stonemason, whose body was found in the Leeds and Liverpool Canal between Shipley and Bingley.

Mary Ann Webster, wife of the deceased, said her husband was 25 years old. She last saw him alive on the 26th November, when he said he was going to Shipley. She asked him not to go, as it was so very dark. He was a steady sober man, and they had not had any quarrel, and so far as she knew the deceased had nothing on his mind affecting him. They had two children.

Henry Preston, Eldwick, Bingley, said he knew the deceased well, and last saw him in front of the Ship Inn, Bingley, about eleven o'clock on the night of the 26th of November. Deceased was not drunk. He had had some drink, but nothing to affect him. He could walk and speak all right, and said he was going home. The night was a very dark and foggy one. Witness did not know which way the deceased generally went home, but the road along the canal bank, which he took when they parted, would be the nearest way. They had been together from nine o'clock, but in the "Ship" only about a quarter of an hour, the rest of the time being spent in the Sun Inn, Bingley. The deceased did not say whether he had been to Shipley or not.

Richard Aspinall, Burscough, Lancashire, boatman of the *Spider*, said he was travelling along the canal about half past ten in the morning on the 23rd December, when he noticed the body on the winding bridge. He believed it had been stirred by the motion of the boat. He stopped his boat and, with assistance, got the body out of the water, and it was taken to the Fisherman's Inn. Witness did not examine the pockets or anything. He left that to the police.

Sarah Hird, Dubb Row, Bingley, wife of John Hird, gave evidence that she had been called to lay out the deceased after he was taken out of the water. The only mark about the body was a small cut on the face, which appeared to have been caused by the dragging irons. The pockets of the deceased contained 4 1/2 d, a pocket knife and handkerchief. The body was not much decomposed. The Coroner said probably the deceased had been accidentally drowned by walking into the canal ; but they were without evidence on that point, and the only verdict they could give would be "Found drowned", to which the jury assented.

55 9 July 1887

BRADFORD WEST RIDING COURT, MONDAY

AN IMPUDENT THEFT Dennis McAllister of no fixed abode was brought up on remand, charged with stealing a coat, the property of **Charles Hird**, a canal boatman of Shipley. Superintendent Symons said that the prisoner, when apprehended last week, had given the name of John Price. He had been remanded that enquiries might be made respecting his previous character,

and he had since stated that his true name was Dennis McAllister. The offence with which he was charged was committed on the 24th ultimo. It seemed that on that day, the prosecutor, who was a boatman residing at Hall Lane, Shipley, had left his boat, which was lying in the Bradford Canal at Windhill, and on his return he saw the prisoner enter the boat, go into the cabin, and return shortly afterwards with the coat in his possession. Hird attempted to detain the prisoner, but he got away with the boat, and was afterwards arrested in Bradford. This statement was confirmed by the prosecutor Hird. Constable Lee said he apprehended the prisoner near to the Bradford Gasworks after chasing him over a mile. When charged with stealing the coat, he replied, "It's all right, I took it". Prisoner pleaded guilty. Mr Symonds said he had been convicted several times previously on smaller charges. The Bench ordered him to be imprisoned with hard labour for three calendar months.

56 9 July 1887

SAD DROWNING CASE AT WINDHILL On Friday afternoon last week, Mr P P Maitland, deputy coroner for the district, held an inquest at the Bluebell Hotel, Windhill, on the body of Hannah Harrison, aged four years, daughter of Mary Ann Harrison of 4 Albert Terrace, Windhill. The mother stated that on Monday afternoon, having to go to work, she left the deceased and another of her children in charge of her son, a boy of ten years of age. She had repeatedly cautioned them not to go near the canal, and before leaving home on Monday she again warned them of the dangers of going near the water. On her return home at about 7.30 in the evening, the children were not in the house, and she went in search of them. On nearing the Bradford Canal, she espied two of her children, in company with other boys, pretending to fish in the water, but deceased was not with them. She called to her children, and they at once ran away. She afterwards ascertained that the deceased had gone down to the canal with the other children, but after they commenced fishing she was not noticed. With several neighbours she made a diligent search about the district for the child, but nothing could be seen or heard of her. The next day the canal was dragged, but without success. The body was not recovered until Thursday. By a Juror : The child had never been subject to fits ; she was able to walk, but could only speak a few words. **Robert Cowman**, boatman of Bradford Arms, Shipley, said he was assisting to drag the canal, near the Junction Bridge on Thursday afternoon at 4.40, when he saw the body of the deceased rise to the surface and float in the water. Every effort was then being made to find the body. Several persons swam and dived into the water for the purpose of ascertaining if the body was in that part of the canal, and men with drags were there. The body was not injured in any way. A verdict of "Accidental death" was returned.

57 17 December 1887

BRADFORD WEST RIDING COURT, MONDAY

DRUNKEN CASES The following persons were convicted of drunkenness and fined in the respective amounts :- **James Jennings**, boatman, Windhill, 10s ; **Fenton Whitley**, boatman, Shipley, 5s and costs.

58 28 January 1888

FOUND DROWNED On Tuesday last, the dead body of **Joseph Duckworth**, 37 years of age, of Bradford Arms, Shipley, was taken out of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal at Bullock Bridge, Rothwell, near Leeds. The deceased was a boatman in the employ of Messrs **Thomas Kendall** and Sons of Shipley, and had been missing since the 24th December. On the night of that day, he was left on his boat at the place where the body was afterwards found by his mate, **William Brook** of Windhill, and when the latter returned in about half an hour the deceased was not on the boat. Thinking the deceased might be gone for a "spree", Brook thought nothing about the matter until the Tuesday following, when the matter was reported to his employers, who made all enquiries, but without avail. An inquest was held on Wednesday, and a verdict of "Found drowned" was returned. The deceased leaves a widow and two children.

59 26 May 1888

BRADFORD WEST RIDING COURT, MONDAY

A WINDHILL SQUABBLE **John Feeney**, canal boatman, and John Lilley, hawker, both of Albert Terrace, Windhill, were charged with committing an assault on Elizabeth Bell, residing in the same terrace. Feeney did not appear, his mother, in his absence, representing him. Complainant stated that on Monday night last about 9 o'clock, the defendants came into her house and "pawed" her. Mrs Feeney also gave her many a "bat" at the side of the head. Complainant did not know the reason for this. She had been coming up the road, when they had insulted her and followed her up to the house. They knocked her down, and whilst she was down kicked her on the side of the head. (Complainant here took a handkerchief from her head and showed her left eye dreadfully blackened and cut). This, she said, had been done by the defendants. She had had the doctor to sew it up. Henry Heywood, with whom the complainant lives as his wife, gave evidence that the defendant Feeney "knocked the complainant down and pawed into her with his clogs". (Witness here held up to the Bench two rough aprons covered with blood which, he said, had flowed from the complainant's face). Martin Bell, son of the complainant, said his mother came to him, bleeding, and he went to her assistance. In defence, Feeney's mother swore that the complainant struck at her son first with a fire shovel, and after that, it was true he struck her, but it was in the street and not in the complainant's house. The complainant was a woman of bad character, and Heywood was not her husband. The complainant's eye was not hurt by the defendants, but was caused by Heywood thrashing the woman on Saturday. It was not true that either of the defendants used the complainant's poker to strike with, but the defendant Lilley took the poker out of Heywood's hands. The complainant was very drunk, and so was Heywood. Mrs Jennings gave evidence for the defendants. She considered the complainant "had got what she deserved". Other witnesses spoke to the same effect. Inspector Bielby said that on Monday at 11.30 pm, the complainant came to the Police Station at Shipley, having with her two aprons completely saturated with blood. She was bleeding from a large cut on the eyelid, three quarters of an inch in length, and was under the influence of drink at the time. The officer inquired into the truth of the complainant's story, and advised her to have the cut sewn up. Sergeant Norwood said he had inquired into the case. The Chairman said the Bench were satisfied that the complainant had been very badly assaulted by the two defendants, and had it not been that the complainant herself had been very irritating, they would have committed them to Wakefield without the option of a fine. As it was, a fine would perhaps meet the case. Each defendant would be fined £3 including costs, out of which a guinea would be allowed for the doctor's fee, and 20s for the complainant.

60 14 July 1888

BINGLEY PETTY SESSIONS, WEDNESDAY

THE DRUNKEN LIST Charges of drunkenness were preferred against **Thomas Hawkesworth**, boatman, Bingley, 20s and costs (four previous convictions) ; Martha Ann Hawkesworth, married woman, Bingley, dismissed.

61 18 August 1888

DROWNING FATALITIES AT BINGLEY On Saturday afternoon, the bodies of two men were taken out of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal at various points near Bingley. The first was that of Harry Hargreaves (75), residing in Park Lane, Keighley. It appears that he left home on Saturday morning about ten o'clock, telling his wife he was going for a walk, and it is believed that he intended to visit a son who lives at Micklethwaite. At about four o'clock in the afternoon, he called at the Royal Hotel, Crossflatts, being at the time perfectly sober. Charles West, the landlady's son, asked him if he was going to see his son, and he replied, "They don't want me up there". When he was leaving the house, West asked him again if he was going to Micklethwaite, and he said, "Good bye", and walked in the direction of Micklethwaite. About three quarters of an hour later, **Richard Bryan**, boatman of Hunslet, was engaged in a boat on the Morton side of Micklethwaite bridge, when he saw a person floating in the water. Thinking that someone was bathing, he did not pay

much heed. A little later a woman shouted to him, but he still was of opinion that it was someone bathing. Eventually he went to the place and got the body out by means of a boat hook, life being quite extinct. The body was taken to the Royal Hotel to await an inquest. About the same hour on Saturday afternoon, **Sam Foster**, boatman of Silsden, saw a body floating in the canal at Seven Arches, near Bingley. The body was taken out of the water and conveyed to the Granby Inn. The deceased is apparently about 45 years of age, but nothing was found on him to identify him. Walter Henry Denton, painter, Frizinghall, states that he saw the man at the Fox and Hounds, Shipley, on the 4th inst, but nothing further is known.

An inquest was held at the Royal Hotel, Crossflatts, Bingley, before Mr J C Hill, deputy coroner, on Monday evening. Nothing of any moment transpired at the inquest. One of the jurymen expressed his opinion that the boatman might have been much quicker in getting the body out of the water. A verdict of "Found drowned" was returned. Shortly afterwards, an inquest was held at the Granby Inn, Bingley. In the other case, a verdict of "Found drowned" was returned.

62 1 September 1888

BRADFORD WEST RIDING COURT, MONDAY

A SHIPLEY RUFFIAN GETS HIS SIX MONTHS QUIETUS **Fenton Whitley**, boatman of Shipley, was charged in custody with being drunk and riotous, and with assaulting Constables Russell and Lee. Constable Russell stated that about five o'clock on Sunday evening, he was in Kirkgate, Shipley, when he saw the prisoner at the back door of the Cricketers' Arms beerhouse. The landlord was putting the prisoner out. The prisoner was drunk, and witness requested him to go away. He did so, but witness saw him again twenty minutes later in the Market Place, making a disturbance. Witness then took hold of the prisoner with the intention of taking him to the police station, when he kicked witness in several places, and also bit him. Witness called Constable Lee to his assistance, and the prisoner kicked the latter on the head. The prisoner, asked by the Chairman whether he had any questions to ask the witness, said, "I've no questions to ask, he is telling a lot of lies, that's all". Constable Lee said he went to the assistance of the last witness. When they got hold of him, the prisoner threw himself on to the ground, and kicked witness on the head. Witness had suffered in his head in consequence since that time. The prisoner also tried to break witness's finger, and was very violent all the way to the police station. Sergeant Poole said he assisted the last two witnesses. The prisoner was very violent, and swore that "if he had powder and shot, he would shoot all the b----- policemen there were in Shipley". John Hardaker, landlord of the Cricketers' Arms, said he refused to serve the prisoner with drink, because he had had enough. E Colbridge, Shipley, said he saw the prisoner creating a disturbance. In answer to the Chairman, the prisoner said, "I have nothing to say. It is no use saying here that I know on". Superintendent Symons said he had known the prisoner for years as a most violent man. The prisoner had been before the court on eleven occasions variously for being drunk, and for assaults on the police. The prisoner had been convicted of like offences at the Bradford borough court. The prisoner was committed to gaol for three months for each assault, one term to follow the other. Six months in all. They would not deal with the case of drunk and riotous.

63 22 September 1888

BRADFORD WEST RIDING COURT, MONDAY

DRUNK ON LICENSED PREMISES **Isaac Illingworth**, boatman, Jane Hills, Shipley, and Henry Wheeler, moulder, Shipley, were summoned for this offence. Sergeant Norwood said he found the defendants in one of the rooms of the Fox and Hounds Hotel, Shipley. Both defendants were drunk. Illingworth was fined 2s 6d and Wheeler, who did not appear, was fined 5s and costs.

64 29 September 1888

Dr Churton of Chester has held an inquest at Eastham into the death of a young lady unknown, whose body was found there by **Henry Lewis**, boatman working on the Manchester Ship Canal. Constable West said he saw the body on the shore, and found the young woman had sustained

several deep cuts over the eyes. There were no other marks of violence. He searched her pockets, and found a black leather purse in her dress, containing 1s 8 1/2d in money, and a printed leaf of poetry, much torn. She wore a horseshoe brooch and a pair of black woollen gloves. Her shoes and stockings were subsequently found on the shore. The name Kate Steel was written on the purse. The inquiry was adjourned in order, if possible, to have the body identified.

65 16 March 1889

BRADFORD WEST RIDING POLICE COURT, THURSDAY

GROSS CRUELTY TO A HORSE **Thomas Wright** and **Stephen Noble**, boatmen of Shipley and Bingley, were summoned for cruel treatment to a horse. Inspector Sinclair, RSPCA, prosecuted, and Mr Holland (Messrs Neill and Broadbent) defended. John Rhodes of Windhill stated that on the morning of Sunday the 3rd of March, he was walking from Thackley to Windhill along the old road, when he heard a noise from the direction of the canal bank, and on looking he saw two persons at a distance of 200 yards. One of them was leading a horse by the head, and the other was behind beating it with a stick. After the horse had gone a few yards it fell down, and with some difficulty it was got up again. Again the man behind began beating it. When it had gone a distance of about four or five yards, it again fell on the bank, and was again beaten with the stick. Witness could hear the blows, and saw it struck at least twenty times. Alberta M Hodgson of Thackley said that she saw the two men beating the horse, and also saw it fall. Constable Eke said that from information received about eleven o'clock, he went on the canal bank, and there saw the defendants in charge of the horse, going in the direction of Leeds. Witness followed, and from observation at a distance, he thought the horse was ill and wanted to stop. Noble was leading it by the head, and Wright was behind beating it with a stick. After witness had been following some distance, Wright turned round and saw him, and he then threw the stick into the canal. Witness asked a passing boatman what was the matter with the horse, and the boatman replied, "What the ---- have you to do with it?" Witness then shouted to the defendants to stop. When witness got up to them, he asked them what was the matter with the horse. One of them said, "Nothing", and the other, "What have you to do with it?" Witness told them he had seen Wright beating it, and seen him throw the stick into the canal, and Wright replied, "You're a ---- liar". Witness told them the horse was not fit to travel, and they would not have to take it further. They replied that they had sold the horse to a man at Leeds, and were going to take it. Ultimately witness took the horse into a neighbouring stable, and on examination he found a number of marks on the flank, as if it had been beaten. It was evidently in great pain. Inspector Sinclair said he examined the horse on the following day. It was in fairly good condition, but had evidently been suffering from "gripes", which had caused it to fall. It must have been in great pain. Mr Holland explained that the horse had to be taken to Leeds, and contended that no unnecessary violence had been used. He called two farmers named Kendall of Windhill, father and son, who spoke to having assisted the defendant to physic the horse, which was ill, and they saw no beating of the horse. They did not, however, see it at all before it fell. The magistrates fined the defendants each 20s and costs, in all 44s 6d each, which was paid.

66 4 May 1889

WINDHILL

FOUND DROWNED The dead body of a man at present unidentified was found this morning in the canal at Windhill by a boatman named **Barraclough**, who was proceeding with his barge in the direction of Apperley Bridge. The attention of the police was at once called to the discovery, and the body was removed to the Alma Inn to await an inquest. The body appears to have been in the water a considerable time. Nothing was found in the clothing to assist identification. The following description has been prepared by the police with the view of having the deceased recognised :- Mixture trousers, ribbed ; brown mixture jacket with black bone buttons ; dark grey mixture waistcoat, union shirt, grey ground with narrow red and white stripes ; woollen scarf round neck, blue and red ; no stockings ; laced boots, toe capped. In the pockets were found two sixpenny pieces and a penny ; a knife with black horn haft, and a small strap. An inquest was held on

Wednesday, a verdict of "Found drowned" was returned. There is as yet no clue to identification.

67 25 May 1889

WEST RIDING POLICE COURT, THURSDAY

REFUSING TO QUIT **John Carrington**, boatman of Morecambe, was summoned for refusing to quit the Fox and Hounds Hotel, Shipley. The landlord (Mr Phillips) said that on the 19th of May, the defendant came into the house and made a disturbance. He wanted to fight. Constable Nicholson corroborated, and a fine of 5s and costs was imposed.

68 29 June 1889

BRADFORD WEST RIDING COURT, THURSDAY

"IF HE WERE TEN YEARS YOUNGER" **John Farmland**, canal boatman, was summoned by **David Scott** of the same occupation for assault. Complainant stated that on Friday afternoon last, he was on the canal bank near Apperley Bridge, when the defendant came up to him and kicked him, knocking him down. He had offered no provocation. If he had been ten years younger, he would not have brought the defendant to the Court, but would have settled with him on the spot. Defendant, who did not appear, was fined 20s and costs.

69 21 December 1889

DROWNING ACCIDENT AT IDLE

STRANGE EVIDENCE BY AN EYE WITNESS During the fog which prevailed on Sunday night, a delver named William Alsop, 68 years of age, who resided at Highfield, Idle, walked into the Leeds and Liverpool Canal and was drowned. He was returning to his house along Apperley Road, from Apperley Bridge, about 10.30, when he was observed by two men named Bottomley and Garnett, who were close behind, to leave the highway and walk into the canal close to the bridge. They followed immediately to the spot where he had stepped from the canal bank, but they did not succeed in rescuing him. They then communicated with the police, who dragged the canal, and about midnight found the dead body of Alsop, who was upright with his head out of the water.

An inquest was held on Tuesday at the George and Dragon, Apperley Bridge, before Mr P Maitland, deputy coroner, and a jury of whom Mr J Briggs was foreman.

Ruth Alsop, widow of the deceased, said her husband was in his sixtieth year. They had been married 38 years. He was a strong healthy man, and his eyesight was all right. Without saying where he was going, the deceased left his home at eleven o'clock on Sunday afternoon. He did not return to his dinner, and the only time she heard of him during the day was that he was at the New Inn, Idle. She waited up for him on Sunday night, but he did not return, and on Monday morning she called at the public houses to find him. Then the police communicated with her.

Henry Bottomley, butcher and farmer, Town Lane, Idle, said he knew the deceased. On Sunday night about 10.30, in company with James Garnett, he was coming from Apperley Bridge station, along Apperley Road in the direction of Idle, and when about fifteen yards from the moveable bridge over the canal they saw the deceased standing on the towing path on the right hand side close to the bridge, facing the water. They could see that he was off the road, and they shouted to him to be careful where he was going. He suddenly disappeared into the water, and they ran to the spot and struck a light. They could see the crown of his head, which was bald, out of the water. Witness got down on his knees and tried to get hold of the deceased, but he could only just touch the crown of his head. Then the deceased moved away into the water, and they lost sight of him.

The Coroner : How was it that you did not go into the water? Were you afraid? - We were afraid. How deep is it? - About six feet.

Continuing his replies, the witness said that when they lost sight of the deceased, they raised an alarm and roused the people at an adjoining house.

The Deputy Coroner : If one of you had lowered himself a bit into the water, and the other had held on to him, you might, I think, have reached the man. - Yes, but we did not think about that at the time.

Was it very foggy? - Yes.

In further replies, the witness said that, after knocking up the people at the adjoining house, they looked for a policeman. They expected to find one near the George and Dragon Hotel, but they could not see one, and they then went on to Idle, where they met Constable Downey and told him the particulars. They did not return with the police to look for the man in the water, as the constable told them it was not necessary.

The Deputy Coroner : Now about this going into the water ; how tall are you? - About five feet.

Well, you know it is a very sad thing that a man should be drowned in the presence of two men who were able to touch him, and it seems to me there was some neglect on your part. - No doubt there was, but we did not think about it at the time.

How do you mean? - Well, it came suddenly on us, and we could not tell what was best to do. He had got under the bridge, and we had to go to the other side.

I would think that a great tall chap like you could easily have lowered yourself into the water.

Sergeant Gracey : It was Sunday, Mr Coroner, and they would have on their Sunday clothes.

The Deputy Coroner : Was it that you were afraid of spoiling your clothes? - It was a little that way.

You don't mean to sit there and tell me that on account of being afraid of spoiling your clothes, you did not go into the water? - It was partly that, and then, another thing, we read in the papers of drowning men holding on to those that are trying to save them, so as to drown them also.

That we can understand, but it is perfectly shocking for you to sit there and talk about spoiling your clothes, when very little would have saved this man. I think it is a disgraceful thing, and I don't understand how you can sit there and talk like that ; it is so cowardly.

The witness : We did as well as we knew how.

The Deputy Coroner : I put it to you whether you were afraid of spoiling your clothes, and you replied that it was partly so.

The witness : Well, we didn't know who the person was.

The Deputy Coroner : You did not know the person ; and for the sake of your clothes you didn't go into the water. Surely, so long as there was a human being to be saved, you would not hesitate? - No.

I don't know that you could have done anything more, and I was simply endeavouring to find out whether there was any neglect, and these are the answers you give.

Several jurymen here expressed the opinion that the witness was flurried and hardly understood what he was saying, and they thought the Deputy Coroner would understand better the risk which the witness ran at the time if he viewed the scene of the accident.

The witness, further questioned by the Deputy Coroner, said he was unable to say whether the deceased was intoxicated. The deceased never spoke to either of them.

The Deputy Coroner : When you had told the police, what did you do? - We went home.

A visit was then made to the scene of the accident, and on the return of the Deputy Coroner and the jury, it was stated that the depth of the water at the bridge was 5ft 2in, and that if Bottomley had gone in the water, it would have come up to his chin.

The Deputy Coroner (to Bottomley) : Can you swim? - Well, I can a little bit, with my clothes off. Not with your clothes on? - I don't think I could.

We have seen the place, and it is not so deep as you thought it was.

Witness : No, it is not so deep as I expected.

The Deputy Coroner : Well, I was bound to comment on your conduct, when you said you were partly thinking of your clothes. I think it is a dreadful thing to say, when there was a life at stake. You may go now.

Constable Downey said it was 11.30 pm when the last witness and Garnett came to him. So far as I can recollect, one of them said, "I don't see that it is any use us going", and they did not return with witness. Witness then went down to the bridge, and got the assistance of a boatman with a boat hook and lighter lamp. After a time, they observed the head of the deceased out of the water, and then dragged the body, which was about three yards below the bridge, to the bank. In the water the

body seemed to be upright, with the head out. It was ten minutes after midnight when they got the body out. It was frothing at the mouth, and there was a smell of liquor. There was a bruise on the left temple.

Emma Patty said she dressed the body. Except the wound on the left temple, there were no marks on it.

Several jurymen remarked that it was probable that, in falling into the water, the deceased struck with his head against the bridge.

The Deputy Coroner said the only point in the case was whether sufficient endeavours had been made to save the man's life. He had pressed the witness Bottomley rather severely because it was so extraordinary that the men should have got so far as to touch the deceased, and then should leave him altogether ; and even after telling the police, they did not return, but went home. These men had seemed to treat the whole matter in such a callous way that he was bound to press his questions ; and then the witness admitted that he was thinking a bit of his clothes. Of course, that was a very dreadful thing to entertain when there was a human life in danger. Apart from that, there was no doubt that the man came to his death by accidentally falling into the canal.

Several jurymen contended that Bottomley and Garnett were personally known to them, and they were satisfied that they had done all they could in the circumstances, which would naturally cause them to be nervous. They were sure that the men had not been guilty of the callousness and cowardice which Bottomley's evidence implied. As to their not returning with the policeman, it was remarked that Bottomley's evidence was that they had asked if they could go home, and the officer had replied that it was not necessary for them to go with him.

Constable Downey, in reply to these statements, said that he had no recollection of Bottomley and Garnett asking if they might go home. He left it to them.

A Juror : It would have looked better of them if they had gone with the officer without asking anything.

The jury then returned a verdict that the deceased was accidentally drowned ; they exonerated Bottomley and Garnett, and they expressed the opinion that the Canal Company should put a better fence at the place where the accident occurred.

70 8 March 1890

WEST RIDING POLICE COURT, MONDAY

VIOLENT ASSAULT ON A CONSTABLE **T Hawkesworth**, boatman of Albert Terrace, Windhill, was charged in custody with having committed an assault on Constable Woodall. The officer stated that about twenty minutes to two o'clock that (Thursday) morning, he went to the prisoner's house for the purpose of apprehending him on a commitment warrant, he having failed to pay a fine which had been recently imposed. He went to the door and called up for the prisoner to open it, but he took no notice, and eventually witness pushed the door open. The prisoner then asked him what he wanted, and witness explained that if he paid 24s 6d he would be allowed to stay in his house ; if not, he would be obliged to take him. The prisoner then said he had no money, and on the officer attempting to apprehend him, he committed the offence complained of by striking him with a poker. The prisoner denied that he had struck the policeman with the poker. It was the officer who struck him and injured his arm. He could show the marks where he had been hit. Superintendent Symonds stated that the prisoner had been several times convicted of being drunk and disorderly, the first being in 1877 and the last being in February 1890. The magistrates said the case was a serious one, and was made the more so because the prisoner had previously been committed for a similar offence ; but as that was many years ago, he would be leniently dealt with. He would be imprisoned for one calendar month with hard labour.

71 29 March 1890

ACCIDENTS A boatman named **William Vickers** (47) of Albert Terrace, Windhill, is in Sir Titus Salt's Hospital, suffering from serious injuries to his left leg. On Tuesday morning in the darkness, he fell down Mr Fyfe's coal staiths from the canal bank.

72 19 July 1890

TWO CHILDREN DROWNED IN THE CANAL Unavailing search was made during Tuesday night for two young children who had been missed from the neighbourhood of Sandbeds, between Bingley and Keighley, and close to the Leeds and Liverpool Canal. These were George Gill, aged 8, son of Jonathan Gill, engineer, Wardman Street, Eastwood, Keighley, and Isabella Duckett, aged 8, daughter of Emma Duckett, servant of the Airedale Heifer, Sandbeds. The two children were seen playing in a hayfield near the canal, and a farm labourer noticed that they got over a wall on to the canal bank. The little boy's aunt had warned him before leaving her house that she would call him in to go to bed at eight o'clock, but when she went in search, she failed to find him. The anxious relatives spent a weary night in search of the lost children, but they were not to be found. About eleven o'clock on Wednesday forenoon, **Dan Varley**, a boatman, was asked by the boy's uncle to drag the canal near his house. The man did so, and with his boat hook brought up the bodies, which were removed to the neighbouring inn.

73 6 September 1890

THE BOATING FATALITY AT SALTAIRE

RECOVERY OF THE BODIES After a search extending over six or seven days, the bodies of Mr Frank Astley, 21 years of age, of Baildon Royd, Baildon, and Mr Fred Workman, 20 years of age, of Withington, Manchester, who on Saturday the 23rd August were drowned in the river Aire between Saltaire and the Hirst Mill, were recovered – the former on Saturday and the latter on Sunday afternoon. It will be remembered that Mr Astley, as a member of the Bradford Amateur Rowing Club, with his friend, took a boat out from the club's boathouse, and the boat and its occupants were carried over the weir in the direction of Saltaire, the unfortunate youths being thrown into the water, a plucky attempt at rescue being unsuccessful. The strength of the current, owing to the flooded state of the river, rather favoured the conclusion that the bodies must have been carried down the river in the direction of Leeds, and the dragging operations were conducted intermittently between the Hirst weir and Apperley Bridge without success until Saturday, the result showing that the bodies were not carried far from the scene of the accident. On Saturday morning, two boatmen – **James Gault** of 22 Ellen Street, Windhill, and **Craven Hird** of 17 Piccadilly, Shipley (employed by Mr Lake), who had just returned from a canal journey and, there not being another cargo, had been discharged, took each a boat hook and began to search the river from the fields, beginning at the end of the Saltaire Gardens, on the Saltaire side, in the direction of the Hirst. With an hour of their having begun, Gault, who had a short hook, recovered the body of Mr Astley, which was lying in still water not more than three yards from the side, about midway between the Saltaire Gardens and the Hirst weir. Evidently, after the accident, the body had got out of the current and had remained at the side, where the previous dragging operations had not been conducted. Constable Nicholson, who has been indefatigable in his search, communicated with Inspector Bielby, and the body was removed to the Rosse Hotel to await the coroner's inquiry. The features of the unfortunate youth were easily recognisable, decomposition having scarcely begun, and there was not much discolouration. A bruise on the right temple was thought rather to support the idea that Astley, who was a good swimmer, was stunned before he was drowned. The finding of Mr Astley's body gave renewed energy to the search in the direction of Saltaire for that of Mr Workman. A diver was engaged for some time, and on Sunday Inspector Bielby directed a number of his men to begin the search early. Attracted possibly by the reward of £5 offered by the Rowing Club for the recovery of the bodies, a number of civilians assisted the police, and amongst the boats was one containing Arthur Woodward, tanner of 28 Briggate, Shipley ; Richard Easterbrook, gardener of 36 Valley Road, Shipley ; and Arthur Gresswell of 22 William Henry Street, Saltaire. Woodward controlled the grappling irons, and about 3 pm, when near midstream opposite Saltaire Park, the irons brought the body of Mr Workman to the surface, one of the hooks having caught the young gentleman's gaiters. This body, which was partly embedded in the sand, was also taken to the Rosse Hotel, where both were seen by Dr J J Rutherford. Watches and other valuables were found on each body, one watch having stopped at five minutes to seven and the other at eight minutes to seven. On

Saturday and Sunday, large numbers of people witnessed the removal of the bodies. It is understood that the £5 reward will be divided amongst the men who found the bodies. Though the police did not succeed in finding the bodies, credit is due to them for the way they have conducted the search, and the trouble they have taken in the matter.

THE INQUEST Mr J E Hill, deputy coroner, held an inquiry at the Rosse Hotel attending the drowning of the young men, Mr Foulds being foreman of the jury. Mr R Macmaster (Messrs Gordon, Hunter and Macmaster) represented the Bradford Amateur Rowing Club, and Inspector Bielby was present on behalf of the police. After the jury had viewed the bodies, the following evidence was given :-

Frederick Aspinall Astley, manufacturing chemist of Baildon Royd, Baildon, said the deceased was his brother, was 21 years of age, and was engaged in the Bradford wool trade.

Mr Macmaster : Your brother, Mr Astley, was a strong healthy young man? - Yes. And a good swimmer? - Yes.

William Albert Workman, manufacturer's commission agent, of Withington, Manchester, said the deceased was his son. His full name was John Frederick, and he assisted witness in his business. He was in the 21st year. The deceased was on a visit to Mr Astley ; they were old friends. The deceased was unable to swim. Witness was at home at the time of the occurrence.

Fred Gresswell, mechanic, employed by Mr Robert Hird, Shipley, and residing at 13 William Henry Street, Saltaire, said he acted as boat keeper to the Bradford Amateur Rowing Club, who kept boats on the river Aire near Hirst Mill.

The Coroner : Did you see these two young men – did you let them have a boat? - No, sir.

What then? - They took the boat on their own accord. It was about ten minutes to seven o'clock. I was in a boat about twenty yards further up the river. Mr Astley was a member of the club, and had a right to take a boat. I saw them shove off and row out.

What happened? - They shoved off, and away they went down the current. There was a flood on and a strong current.

Did they row at all? - Well, they tried to row – at least Mr Astley did – but they did not “frame” at all, either of them.

Not properly? - No. To show you that the river was not dangerous for boats, I may tell you that Mr Sutcliffe and his wife went in a boat up the river the same day.

And they came back safely? - Oh, yes.

Was Astley an expert oarsman? - He was not ; I have never seen him pull an oar in my life. He had been used to sculls, and might not be able to manage an oar. Each had an oar, but only Mr Astley seemed to use his. The boat did not go up the river at all – it was going down all the time. The boathouse is about thirty yards distant from the weir.

Did you see the danger they were in? - Yes.

Did you call out? - Yes.

Did you do anything? - I didn't do anything, because I thought there were men there better capable of doing than I was.

What happened? - They went over the damstones, and then Mr John Hastings, Mr Geoffrey Hastings and Mr Priestman rushed out of the boathouse.

Inspector Bielby : They were getting tea? - Yes. They rushed out when they heard me shout. At that time the boat was just going over the weir.

The Coroner : When the boat went over the damstones, did it get capsized? - She went down all right and she upset when she got to the bottom.

And threw the occupants into the water? - Yes.

Mr Macmaster : They stood up in the boat before it upset.

The Coroner : The other members of the club did their best to rescue them? - Yes.

Did they go in? - Mr John Hastings dived across the river, and Mr Geoffrey Hastings and Mr Kay followed across in a boat.

Mr Macmaster : They got onto a footpath on the other side.

The Coroner : It was all in vain, and the young men were carried away and were lost? - Yes.

And were not found until Saturday and Sunday? - No.

By Mr Macmaster : Had Mr Astley frequently been at the boathouse and on the river? - Yes.

And there was no reason to apprehend danger on this day? - No.

Boating was taking place as usual? - Yes.

Even ladies I think were boating? - Yes.

Did you see the deceased standing up in the boat when she shot the weir? - No ; but Mr Astley was stood at the bottom of the weir out of the boat with his pipe in his mouth.

Did you see the boat go over? Could you tell how it went over? - No, sir.

James Gault, canal boatman of Ellen Street, Windhill, said he was engaged searching for the two bodies, and on Saturday at 12.30 noon he found the body of Mr Astley about 400 yards below Hirst Mill, close to the Saltaire side of the river. The body was not much altered – only a slight bruise on the right temple. Witness thought this bruise had occurred probably when the boat was upset. Constable Nicholson helped to remove the body to the Rosse Hotel.

Arthur Woodward, leather currier, Briggate, Shipley, said he had been looking for the bodies, and found that of Mr Workman on Sunday at 8 pm, above the landing place at Saltaire Park, the water being about 5 ft deep. The body was not much altered. Witness was in a boat and had the grappling irons with which he found the body, which was taken charge of by Constable Nicholson.

Constable John Nicholson gave evidence as to the removal of the bodies. There were no marks of violence on Astley's body, beyond a slight discolouration of the forehead. The watch was in his pocket, and had stopped at five minutes to seven. There were some money in his pocket and a bunch of keys. There were no marks on Workman's body. The deceased's watch had stopped at eight minutes to seven. In his pockets was 13s 7 1/2d in money and a pocket book.

Inspector Bielby : That is all the evidence, sir, unless you wish to hear Mr Hastings, the captain of the rowing club.

The Coroner said he did not think they needed further evidence. It was evident that this was a most lamentable accident. They had it in evidence that the river was somewhat swollen, but not so much as to render it dangerous to go on, because it was known that other people, including ladies, had been out in the boats and returned safely. It appeared that Workman was not very accustomed to rowing, and that Astley had only been accustomed to use sculls. Had they been able to manage the boat properly, they would not have gone over the weir.

The Foreman said it was very probable that if the young men had kept themselves cool and collected, they would have known that it was safer to sit still in the boat even when it was going over the weir. He could not help thinking, however, that the boathouse was too near the weir, and the members of the Rowing Club would be well advised if they removed it further up the river side. If the boathouse were 150 to 200 yards further up, there would not be so much danger of rowing out into the river and being drawn over the weir. He also thought there ought to be a rope put across the river at the weir as a safeguard (hear, hear).

The Coroner said that might be a good thing, but that was for the future. They had now to find the cause of death. He thought the only verdict they could come to was that the young men were drowned as the result of the capsizing of the boat.

The Foreman said no possible fault could be found with the Rowing Club, and there was no negligence on anyone's part.

The Coroner said the jury could make any recommendation they liked after finding out the cause of death. It was questionable whether a rope across would not be a source of danger rather than protection.

Mr Macmaster said it was not in the power of the Rowing Club to remove the boathouse farther up the stream and it was found, as a fact, very frequently a rope across a river was dangerous. Besides, to go further up the stream would get to a stronger current, because the river was narrower. It was wider at the weir, and therefore there was not so great a force.

Inspector Bielby said the danger arose when the occupants of the boat became frightened. If they had sat still in the boat, it would never probably have capsized.

Mr Hastings, the captain of the Rowing Club, here came into the room and offered to give evidence.

The Coroner : I believe, Mr Hastings, you behaved in a very heroic manner in trying to save these young men?

Mr Hastings : I did everything I could ; I am sorry it was not successful.

The Coroner : It has been suggested that you should remove the boathouse higher up the river, so as not to be so near the weir.

Mr Hastings said the boathouse had been there for 14 years, and they had never had a fatality of any kind. He himself had gone over the weir in a boat, and had taken no harm. In fact he threw himself out of the boat, but he need not have done so. It was a light boat, 53 inches wide. He did not think it would be better to have the boathouse further up the river. If the oarsmen wished to come down to the weir, they would do so.

A verdict that the young men were “accidentally drowned” was then returned, with the jury's recommendation in accordance with the foreman's suggestion.

At the conclusion of the inquest, the bodies were removed, and on Tuesday were conveyed by train – that of Mr Astley to Blackburn, and that of Mr Workman to Manchester – for interment, Messrs J Holmes and Co of Bradford having charge of the funeral arrangements.

74 20 September 1890

BRADFORD WEST RIDING POLICE COURT, MONDAY

THEFT FROM A CANAL BOAT Sarah Ann Day of Bingley was charged with stealing a counterpane, blankets and other articles from a canal boat belonging to **Mr Barron** of Bingley. Superintendent Symonds said the prisoner was on the boat *William* and, along with the boatman, whose name was **Fairclough**, had charge of it and the bed clothing and other requisites. On the 19th of July, when the boat was taken out, the prosecutor made an inventory of everything in the boat, and on its return last month, these articles were missing. The prosecutor in corroboration said the prisoner had the right to take the articles home for washing, but not to pawn them. The articles missing were worth about 17s. The prisoner : It has always been allowed to take them home, but not to pledge them. I shouldn't have done it if I hadn't been fast. Mr J S White, assistant to Mr Blackwood, pawnbroker of Shipley, said he advanced 3s 6d on the counterpane produced and other goods. The prisoner pleaded guilty, and her sister (Mrs Patchett of Bradford Arms, Shipley) said the prisoner had been a hard working woman all her life, and there had been nothing of this kind against her previously. The prosecutor also said he had nothing to say against the prisoner, who had worked for his father and grandfather without complaint of any kind. The prisoner : No, and thi father nor thi grandfather would not have brought me here for this. The magistrates said it was probable that the prisoner had intended to return the articles, and they would deal leniently with her, taking into consideration that she had been locked up since Friday. She would be fined 5s and costs, or seven days.

75 7 February 1891

BRADFORD WEST RIDING COURT, MONDAY

A VIOLENT BOATMAN Thomas Hawkesworth, boatman of Windhill, was brought up in custody charged with being drunk and disorderly at Dock Lane, Windhill, on the 1st inst, and he was also charged with having assaulted Constable Woodall. It appeared that the officer saw the prisoner, who was cursing and swearing, and brandishing a boat hook or “stower” which he had in his hand. The officer warned the prisoner and told him to go home. Subsequently the constable again saw the prisoner, who immediately attacked the officer, striking and kicking him several times. Constable Bates came to the assistance of his fellow officer. There were several previous convictions against the prisoner, three of them being for assaulting the same policeman. The charge of being drunk was not pressed, but for the assault the prisoner was committed to prison for one month.

B Goulding, boatman of Knottingley, was fined 10s and costs for being drunk and disorderly at Shipley on the 31st of January.

76 7 March 1891

THE DROWNING FATALITIES AT SHIPLEY Mr J E Hill, deputy coroner, and a jury of which Mr C E Taylor was foreman, held an inquest at the Royal Oak Hotel on Tuesday last, as to the death of Ellen Hoyle (45), single woman of Jane Hills, Shipley, whose dead body was taken out of the canal on the morning of the 26th of February. It will be remembered that a singular circumstance in connection with the affair was that the deceased woman had on the previous day given evidence in the case of Frank Seed, who was drowned opposite Jane Hills on the Monday. **Mr E W Bateman**, canal inspector of Skipton, attended the inquiry.

The Deputy Coroner said he had been greatly shocked at this second case of drowning occurring so soon after the other, and he had thought it his duty to communicate with the Leeds and Liverpool Canal Company. It was in response to that that Mr Bateman was here. Evidence was then taken.

Champion Hoyle, of Little Horton, said the deceased was his sister, and was about 45 years of age.

Mary Illingworth, wife of **Isaac Illingworth**, boatman, Jane Hills, said she last saw the deceased alive between six and seven o'clock at the door of the Royal Oak Hotel, when the deceased left to go home. The deceased was quite sober, and did not have anything then in the hotel. Witness and the deceased had been up town together. After being at the inquest on Seed, deceased went home to change her clothes.

The Deputy Coroner : Which way did she go home? - On the canal bank.

Is there any other way? - No.

How do you get your coals? - The same way.

It is a public cart road then? - Yes.

The Foreman said it was a road to and from Jane Hills. It was possible, however, to avoid using the greater portion of the canal bank if people would go by Mr Mason's bridge.

Anthony McCormack, captain of the canal boat *Ida*, who lives at Jane Hills, said that on the Thursday morning he was on his boat passing under Shipley Bridge, when the man who was with him said, "Here's a black dog or a woman in the water". Witness then looked, and after getting a light, found it was the deceased in the water. The body was floating. It was daylight and very little fog. The body was found about forty yards from the bridge on the Saltaire side.

Replying to Inspector Bielby, the witness said the deceased had two shawls tied across her head. It was evident that she had changed after being at the inquest, as her bonnet was at home.

Mrs Ann Kendall, wife of John Kendall, laid out the body, on which there were no marks of violence. Apparently the deceased had struggled in the water ; her arms were doubled under her chin.

The Deputy Coroner said these frequent deaths were becoming a serious matter. It appeared that there was a right of road, and therefore it was a question for the Canal Company.

A Juror (Mr Bower) said he believed the Company would light the canal bank, if a proper application were made by the Shipley Local Board.

The Foreman said an endeavour had been made to get the company to agree to lights between Junction Mills and Fyfe's lime works, but without result. The Local Board had been taking counsel's opinion as to compelling the company, but there was not the power. The fact was, lights on the canal bank were a great inconvenience to the boatmen.

Mr Bateman said there was a difference between Mr Thornton's case and this. Here there was a right of road, but in Mr Thornton's there was not. He admitted that something should be done here.

Another Juror (Mr Wilkinson) said that admitting that there was a right of road, it was for the Jury to say whether on this stretch of canal bank the public had proper protection. He thought not. There should be pailings, or lights, or both.

The Deputy Coroner said he had never before heard of a towing path being a public road. It seemed it was here.

Mr Bateman : We don't dispute it.

A Juror (Mr Hipkin) : Then the Canal Company ought to make some protection for these people at Jane Hills.

The Deputy Coroner : I have no doubt they will be willing to do something.

Mr Bateman said that between Calverley and Rodley the canal bank was a public highway and was both lighted and railed off. This might be done here. He would undertake to convey any recommendation the Jury might make to his directors, and he had no doubt they would carry it out. The Foreman thought that a low railing on the edge of the canal between Mr Mason's bridge and Jane Hills would be sufficient protection. All the people had to do was to go along the proper road instead of the canal bank.

The Jury then, on Mr Bateman's assurance that an alteration would be made as suggested by Mr Taylor, returned a verdict that the deceased was "Found drowned, probably through having accidentally fallen into the canal during the fog".

77 9 May 1891

IDLE

FOUND DROWNED On Saturday morning, the body of Hannah Chapman, a single woman aged 42 years, belonging to Little London, Rawdon, was found in the river Aire at Idle. On the evening of the 9th ultimo, the deceased was left alone at home by her sister while the latter went on an errand. The sister, upon returning, found that the door of the house was locked, and that the deceased was missing. Inquiries were made, and on the following morning some of the deceased's clothing was found on the banks of the Aire at Esholt. The river at that place was dragged both by the Otley and Idle police, but no trace of the body could be discovered. On Saturday morning, however, a Shipley boatman named **Stephen Noble** saw the body floating in the water. A communication was made to the police at Idle, and they recovered the body and conveyed it to the George and Dragon Hotel, Apperley Bridge, to await an inquest. The deceased had not been well since January last, and had suffered from depression of spirits. Mr Taylor, district coroner, held an inquest on Saturday afternoon, when evidence bearing upon the above statement was given. The jury returned a verdict of "Found drowned", and expressed the opinion that the deceased had committed suicide.

78 23 May 1891

BRADFORD WEST RIDING COURT, THURSDAY

PARENTS IN DEFAULT **Joseph Mawson**, boatman of Shipley, was summoned on similar counts (failing to pay for the maintenance of his child). Inspector Bielby said the defendant had two boys in an industrial school, on whom he was ordered to pay 1s a week each. He had been summoned repeatedly, but would pay nothing, and was now in arrears £6 13s. The defendant was earning £1 a week as boatman for **Mr Frederick Lake**, his daughter earned 5s 8d a week, and his son 17s 6d at Messrs Sowdene. Altogether he had £2 8s a week coming in. The defendant denied that he was in receipt of anything like that sum. He could not pay anything. The Bench ordered the defendant, in default to paying £2 towards the arrears and the weekly payment regularly, to be committed a month.

79 13 June 1891

DEATH FROM SCALDS Mr W Barstow, coroner, on Monday held an inquest at Sir Titus Salt's Hospital, touching the death of the seven months' old child of **Thomas Stead**, a boatman in the employ of **Mr William Fyfe**, Shipley. The child was admitted to the hospital on Friday suffering from scalds. It appears that Stead and his family lived in the boat, which was moored in the canal at Shipley. On Friday evening the parents left the boat to "go marketing" into Shipley, the only persons left behind on the boat being the infant and two older children – Mary Ann and Harriet. In a while, the two girls went on the bank to play, leaving the infant in its "bunk". In a short time they were attracted by the child's screams, and on going to the boat they found that the child had fallen out of its "bunk" and, in doing so, had overturned a kettle of boiling water, with the result that it was badly scalded about its back and neck. At the hospital, the child was properly attended to by Mrs Wizeman, the matron, but recovery was out of the question, death "due to shock" taking place on Saturday morning. A verdict in accordance with this evidence was returned.

80 19 September 1891

BRADFORD WEST RIDING COURT, MONDAY

A KNIGHT ERRANT GETS A WARM RECEPTION **Edwardson Kendall** (23), boatman of Piccadilly, Shipley, was brought up on a warrant charged with having assaulted Mr Henry Thornton, manufacturer of Junction Mill, Windhill. Mr Thornton said it was a very serious assault. He explained that his residence was close to the canal bank. On Tuesday night about ten o'clock, he was on the canal bank near to his own house, when he heard a woman's scream – he considered it “a murderous scream”. He was about 200 yards away at the time, and he set off towards the place whence the sound proceeded. When he got on a bit, he ascertained that the screams emanated from a woman on a boat on the opposite side of the canal, towards the Windhill Locks. He met a young man and woman, and he said, “Whatever is there up?” They said they didn't know, but thought there must be something serious. He thought it his duty to go to the help of anyone getting hurt, and so he asked these two to go with him. He set off, and found that Mr Denby's people had heard the noise, and Mrs Denby and the children were out on the canal bank. He then proposed to the young man that they should cross the bridge. The Chairman : Never mind the young man, come to the assault. Mr Thornton : I went round to the boat. The Chairman : Well, don't make a long story of it. Mr Thornton, continuing, said he got to where the boat was and called out, but no one took the slightest notice, and the screaming continued. He then jumped into the boat and then discovered that the prisoner had a young woman at the bottom of the boat. The woman was screaming with all her might, and prosecutor called to him to desist. The prisoner took no notice, and then prosecutor got hold of the prisoner's coat collar and pulled him off. This put the prisoner in a rage, and he wheeled round on the prosecutor and committed a most murderous assault on him. He first seized Mr Thornton by the legs, and landed him on his back. Then he let into him with fists and feet, and it was his belief – the Magistrates' Clerk : Never mind your belief, let's hear what happened. Mr Thornton, resuming, said he was struck and kicked about the face, legs and body until he was bruised and cut all over. On his face now was a large wound done by the prisoner's foot, and he produced a felt hat which was crushed out of recognition. (The witness here caused some amusement by handing the hat, which looked very dilapidated, up to magistrates). He was convinced that if assistance had not come he would have been killed, and there would now have been an inquest instead of a magisterial inquiry. His cries, however, brought two young men – Mr Robert Kendall jun and Mr J H Woodhead – and they rescued him from the prisoner. The Magistrates' Clerk : Did he strike you first? Mr Thornton : No ; I struck him, or rather, I got hold of him to pull him off the woman. Was he sober? No, I smelt him of drink when he threw me down. The Clerk : Was it dark? Yes. Was he ill-using the woman at all? I thought he was murdering her. The Clerk (to the prisoner) : Have you any questions to ask? No, I don't recollect throwing him down or hitting him. Do you plead guilty? Yes. Have you anything to say? Prisoner : I was drunk and didn't know what I was doing. The girl was there of her own free will, and I wasn't assaulting her. Was it your boat? No, it was **Thomas Hawkesworth's**. What were you doing there? I was with him ; we had been at the Bull Hotel together, and there were two women there who went with us. Was your wife there? No , she was at home ; she is here now (pointing to a very respectable looking young woman who was weeping). I cannot recollect this man coming, or hearing him speak, nor anything. In reply to the magistrates, Mr Thornton said he believed the young woman had had drink. The magistrates said Mr Thornton had acted in a very proper manner, and they regretted that he had received such ill-usage. The circumstances were somewhat peculiar. As there was no charge of assault from the young woman, and as the prisoner had no previous convictions against him, he would be let off with a fine of 20s and costs, or fourteen days' imprisonment.

81 19 December 1891

BRADFORD WEST RIDING COURT, MONDAY

WON'T PAY OR CAN'T PAY – WHICH? **Joseph Mawson**, boatman, Bradford Arms, Shipley, was summoned for neglecting to pay for the maintenance of his two children, who have been sent to the industrial training ship “*Southampton*”. Superintendent Gunn said an order had been made

against the defendant to pay 1s a week for each child, but he had refused to pay and was now £2 12s in arrears. The Chairman (to the defendant) : Why don't you pay? The Defendant : Because I have not got the money. Sergeant Shaw said defendant's wages for the past month averaged 10s a week. He worked for Mr Lake. He had a boy who worked short time but whose earnings averaged 11s 9 1/2d a week, and a girl earned 9s 8d a week. Altogether the defendant had about 31s 6d a week coming in. The Chairman : Your boys would cost you more than 1s a week each if you had them at home, so you ought to pay. Defendant : There's nine on us to keep out of 30s, and with rent, coals and gas, where's there anything left? Superintendent Gunn said the defendant declared he would not pay. Sergeant Shaw said he had seen the defendant, who said, "If I'm sent again, somebody will have to keep me. I shall pay no more". Defendant : I would pay, if I could. The Chairman : We think you should pay these small amounts, and we shall make an order.

82 26 December 1891

SHIPLEY

FROST AND FOG On the whole, this district – which generally has its full share of fogs, and last winter got rather more than its share – has the satisfaction of knowing that it has come off better in the matter of atmosphere than most of the surrounding places. On Monday there was a dense fog from early morning to about seven o'clock at night, when it lifted, and afterwards, when Leeds especially and Bradford to some extent were groaning under the inconvenience, Shipley and district had nothing to complain of. Unfortunately, however, we have not escaped fatalities. It is very rarely that the fog has not its victims. The unfortunate Mr Watmough of Windhill Crag lost his life, and another Windhill man walked into the canal, but fortunately the bank was low, so he backed out and saved himself. On Monday, a body, which has since been identified as that of **William Lumb** (25), boatman of Water Lane, Windhill, was taken out of the canal near Victoria Bridge, Leeds, shortly before seven o'clock. It is supposed that the deceased fell into the water accidentally whilst walking through the fog alongside the canal. Trains from Leeds were very much delayed on Tuesday, and the Scotch and Carnforth trains from Bradford had to wait in the Shipley siding several hours for the Leeds half to come up. On Wednesday, there was an all round improvement and, with the exception of the ordinary delays from the Christmas traffic, the railway companies were able to get rid of their traffic with reasonable expedition. As to the frost, skaters have a fair chance of an enjoyable time of it for Christmas, and their enjoyment is not likely to diminish from the remembrance that hard weather takes away the employment of many men in this district. "It is an ill wind that blows no one any good", and the floods which we recorded last week are going to find skating. Mr Steele's field over Baildon Bridge is now a fine sheet of ice, and hundreds of persons have taken advantage of it.

83 5 August 1893

BRADFORD COUNTY POLICE COURT, THURSDAY

TIPPLERS The following were fined for being drunk and disorderly :- **Thomas Hawkesworth**, boatman, Windhill, 15s.

A MOTHER'S NEGLECT **Emma**, wife of **Tom Stead**, boatman, Bradford Arms, Shipley, was summoned by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children for having assaulted her daughter, aged 14 years. Defendant did not appear. Mr Henry Taylor, inspector for the above society, said that on the 18th of July he received a report from Superintendent Crawshaw, and went to the defendant's house to examine the girl, **Harriet Stead**. He had previously had to inquire into the conduct of this woman to her family. Neither mother nor father was present, but a statement was made to him by an older girl – a girl 16 years of age. He found that the little girl had three large bruises on the back of the head, and she told him how it was done. At the time, the girl was in great pain from the bruises and lumps on her head. As the older girl was afraid to stop at home, he took her to the Girls' Refuge at Bradford, and subsequently the little girl was removed to the Workhouse. Witness went again to the house and saw the father, who said it was all the result of his

wife getting drunk and turning the girls out of the house. Constable Day said that on Sunday morning, the 16th of July, at 1.30, he found the two girls in the street, having been turned out of the house. The older girl was not yet 16, but she had had a child, which she buried over twelve months ago. Witness took the children to the door and knocked the parents up. The mother came downstairs and began to use most filthy language, threatening she would murder the girls if he left them, and he took them to the house of Mrs Halliday. On the Sunday night following, he again found them in the street, and got them shelter in a neighbour's house. On the Thursday night following, in company with Constable Futter, he visited the place again, and the girls were in the street while the parents were on the boat *Canada*, belonging to **Mr Fyfe**. The father was "speechless drunk" and they could make no sense of him, while the mother was using the foulest language in ordering them away. He then had the older taken back to the neighbour's, while the other was sent to the workhouse. Afterwards the older girl was sent to the Refuge, and was there now. The girls worked at the mill, and would be respectable, but they were so badly used there was no chance for them. The Bench issued a warrant for the apprehension of the woman. Subsequently Tom Stead appeared to answer the charge of allowing his child to become chargeable to the North Bierley Union. Mr Clapham, the relieving officer, said he was prepared to withdraw the case, as the husband had promised to pay the 8s due and the costs, and Mr Taylor was going to remove the child from the house. Mr Clapham thought the wife was much more to blame than the father, and the daughters – who were present, and looked respectable – did not wish their parent to be punished. The case was accordingly withdrawn.

84 12 August 1893

BRADFORD COUNTY POLICE COURT, THURSDAY

NOT FIT TO BE A MOTHER **Emma**, wife of **Tom Stead**, boatman, Bradford Arms, Shipley, was brought up on a warrant, charged by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children with having assaulted her daughter, aged 14 years. Mr Scott (Messrs Robinson, Scott and Holmes) prosecuted, and stated the case, as reported a week ago. Harriet Stead said that on the 14th of July she came home from work and found her mother drunk. When her elder sister came in, her mother began "leathering" them both, and nearly killed witness. Her mother told her to get her tea, and when it was ready would not let her have it. She "hid" them both and chucked them outside, saying she would murder them if they went near the door again. The Chairman : Had you said anything to her to annoy her? No, sir, I never spoke to her. Mr Scott : Had you anything to eat on the Saturday? No. Continuing, witness said that when she went back, there seemed to be no one in the house, and the grate, through which she had crept the night before and slept behind the door, was fastened. She gave her wages regularly to her mother, the average amount being 6s a week. Mary Ann Stead, another daughter, said she was nearly 16 years of age. She had heard the evidence given by her sister, which was true. Her mother thumped Harriet against the cupboard door, and kicked her whilst on the floor. Constable Day said that on Sunday morning, the 16th of July, at 1.30, he found the two girls in the street, having been turned out of the house. The older girl was not yet 16, but she had had a child, which she buried over 12 months ago. Witness took the children to the door and knocked the parents up. The mother came downstairs and began to use most filthy language, threatening she would murder the girls if he left them, and he took them to the house of Mrs Halliday. On the Sunday night following, he again found them in the street, and got them shelter in a neighbour's house. On the Thursday night following, in company with Constable Futter, he visited the place again, and the girls were in the street, while the parents were on the boat *Canada*, belonging to **Mr Fyfe**. The father was "speechless drunk" and they could make no sense of him, while the mother was using the foulest language in ordering them away. He then had the older taken back to the neighbour's, while the other was sent to the workhouse. Afterwards the older girl was sent to the Refuge, and was there now. The girls worked at the mill, and would be respectable, but they were so badly used there was no chance for them with such a home. Mr Henry Taylor, inspector for the above society, said that on the 18th of July he received a report from Superintendent Crawshaw, and went to the defendant's house to examine the girl Harriet Stead. He

had previously had to inquire into the conduct of this woman to her family. Neither mother nor father was present, but a statement was made to him by an older girl – a girl 16 years of age. He found that the little girl had three large bruises on the back of the head, and she told him how it was done. At the time, the girl was in great pain from the bruises and lumps on her head. As the older girl was afraid to stop at home, he took her to the Girls' Refuge at Bradford, and subsequently the little girl was removed to the Workhouse. Witness went again to the house and saw the father, who said it was all the result of his wife getting drunk and turning the girls out of the house. In reply to the Bench, who wanted to know what sort of a home it was, witness said, “the place smelt enough to drive me out”. Defendant said she had nothing to say, except that it was all false. She had had thirteen children, and these didn't look as if they took any harm. Inspector Taylor said these children could neither read nor write, and none of them went to school. They were kept on the boat. Defendant said this was not true ; the children only went on the boat when they were bound for Liverpool. The Chairman said the defendant scarcely deserved to be called a mother. She would be fined 20s and the costs, or a month.

85 21 October 1893

BRADFORD COUNTY POLICE COURT, MONDAY

TIPPLERS **Thomas Hawkesworth**, boatman, Shipley, was summoned on a similar charge (drunk and disorderly). Evidence was given against him by Constable Smelt, and Superintendent Crawshaw had a list of twenty one convictions against him. The Bench fined him 20s and the costs.

86 25 November 1893

BINGLEY PETTY SESSIONS, WEDNESDAY

TIPPLERS **Robert Jones**, boatman of Bingley, was fined 10s and the costs for being drunk and disorderly.

87 23 December 1893

DROWNING FATALITY A man named **William Fyles**, 17, of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal boat *Duck* from Liverpool, was drowned in the canal at Shipley on Thursday morning. He was helping to unload the boat at the warehouse, and it is surmised that he fell into the water. He was seen by the captain of an Aire and Calder boat struggling in the water, and assistance was obtained as soon as possible. They carried him to Messrs A Kendall and Sons' warehouse, where he was seen by Dr Rutherford, who found life extinct. The deceased belonged to Blackburn.

88 30 December 1893

THE DROWNING ACCIDENT AT SHIPLEY On Saturday morning at the Royal Oak Hotel, Mr W Barstow, coroner, held an inquest relative to the death of **William Fyles** (17), boatman, son of Robert Fyles of Blackburn, who was drowned in the canal last week. He came from Liverpool on the boat *Duck*, and during the absence of his mates, got in the water and was drowned.

William Forshaw, captain of the boat *Duck*, of Blackburn – uncle of the deceased – said he arrived at Shipley from Liverpool about eight pm, and stopped at Thomas Kendall's wharf. About 8.45 witness went on shore to the warehouse. About five or ten minutes later, a man came and shouted, “You must be sharp ; they have pulled the mate out of the canal, nearly drowned”. Witness went at once, and found the deceased laid on the bank on the opposite side.

The Coroner : How long was the doctor after you got there? Oh, it would be half an hour after, but I never saw any signs of life. What is your idea about it? I can't tell ; he was well in health, and had been with me two years. You don't think he drowned himself? Oh no, sir.

Inspector Care : It was very slippery, I think? Yes, with the frost that followed the storm. Could he swim? I don't know, sir.

The Coroner : What idea have you about it? I think it was a perfect accident ; I have no reason to think anything else. He was not subject to fits. We had come from Stockbridge that morning.

By a Juror (Mr Kendall) : How long had he been at work? Since six o'clock.

Thomas Holland, a boatman on the same boat, said he last saw the deceased alive about 8.45, and he was then standing in the cabin hatchway. Witness left the boat to take some shoes and a pair of clogs, belonging to the deceased, to be repaired. Deceased was all right and cheerful then. Forshaw was then in the warehouse, the deceased being alone on the boat. When witness returned, deceased had just been taken out of the canal.

Benjamin Parker, boatman of Shipley, said he was on a boat about forty yards away, when he noticed the deceased in the canal, and a man on the Aire and Calder boat had hold of him with a hook. Witness ran to the spot and assisted to get the man out. He thought that the deceased's eyes moved, but there were no other signs of life. The deceased had a lot of sludge on his head and face, and he thought he must have fallen head first into the water. They tried to produce artificial respiration, but without result. By Mr John Kendall's advice, they took the body to Messrs Kendall's boiler house, where Dr Rutherford saw it and pronounced life extinct.

Mrs Ann Kendall said she laid out the body, on which there were no marks of injury.

The Coroner said it was an extraordinary thing that death should have taken place so soon, as the body had been in the canal only two or three minutes.

The jury returned a verdict of "Accidentally drowned".

89 30 December 1893

BRADFORD COUNTY POLICE COURT, THURSDAY

ATTACKS ON THE POLICEMEN **Richard Smith**, quarryman of Windhill, was summoned for being drunk and disorderly, and for having assaulted Constable Hartley. The officer stated that he saw the defendant in Briggate, Windhill, and remonstrated with him for causing a disturbance. The defendant rounded on the policeman and assaulted him. The defendant said he was so drunk he knew nothing about it. The Bench fined the defendant 12s 6d for being drunk and disorderly, and ordered him to pay the costs on the assault.

George F Townsley, boatman of Shipley, was summoned on similar charges. The evidence of Constable Smelt was that on Sunday evening last, he met the defendant and his brother in Piccadilly, Shipley, where they were causing a disturbance. He spoke to them, and they moved away, but afterwards returned and resumed their disturbance. He then interfered, and was assaulted by the prisoner, whom he was compelled to lock up, the brother getting away. For being drunk and disorderly the defendant was fined 12s 6d, and for the assault 20s and the costs, or one month.

90 24 February 1894

BRADFORD COUNTY POLICE COURT, MONDAY

TIPPLERS **Thomas Hawkesworth**, boatman of Shipley, and James Pickles, labourer of Windhill, were fined 12s 6d each, including costs, for being drunk and disorderly.

91 3 March 1894

BRADFORD COUNTY POLICE COURT, MONDAY

ROUGH TREATMENT OF A POLICEMAN **John William Townsley**, a boatman of Shipley, was brought up on a warrant charged with having been drunk and disorderly, and also with having assaulted Constable Smelt on Christmas Eve, when prisoner and his brother were drunk in Piccadilly, Shipley, and creating a disturbance. The officer told them to go away, when they turned and assaulted him, prisoner kicking him while on the ground. One brother was locked up at the time, and punished, but the prisoner got away. Corroborative evidence having been given by Benjamin Parker, labourer, and **John Lilley**, boatman, prisoner, in reply to the Bench, said "he had nowt to say; it was no use saying owt". Superintendent Crawshaw said prisoner had been nine times previously convicted, once for police assault. The magistrates committed him to gaol for a month for the assault, and fined him 12s 6d or seven days for being drunk, one term to follow the other if the fine were not paid.

92 7 April 1894

SAD DEATH OF A BOATMAN An inquest was held on Monday at the Leeds Town Hall, touching the death of **William Coles** (20), boatman, Aire Street, Windhill, Shipley, an employee of the Aire and Calder Navigation Company. On the 13th ult, deceased was on the boat at Leeds, when he was caught by a rope which was fastened to some timber. The boat began to drift, and before he could free himself, the deceased was forced down by a rope which was being "paid out" on to the bank. He was taken to the Infirmary, where he died from exhaustion. A verdict of "Accidental death" was returned.

93 28 April 1894

THE ALLEGED CHILD MURDER AT SHIPLEY

TWO WOMEN COMMITTED FOR TRIAL – A SHOCKING STORY A crowded court at Hall Ings, Bradford, and hundreds of persons, mostly from Shipley, unable to gain admission, on Monday morning testified to the sensation which was created by the charge against two Shipley women of being concerned in causing the death of an infant, as reported a week ago. The two women who were placed in the dock on the charge of having committed wilful murder were Ruth Ann Hoddy of Murgatroyd Street, Shipley, a young married woman who until recently worked as a twister at Taylor's Mill, Lower Holme, and Martha Middleton Newall, also a married woman living in Dawson Street, Bradford Arms, Shipley. The prisoners as they appeared in the dock presented a great contrast. Mrs Hoddy is of medium height, young and not unattractive. She looked very pale, but self possessed, and gave the impression of a woman who has gone through a great deal of trouble, and found herself in a position which, if anything, was something of a relief. She held up her head, and often smiled at evidence given by witnesses against her. During the evidence, she seemed to keep her eyes constantly on Arthur Lund when he was in court, and after the case was concluded, she appeared to be anxious to attract his attention to her. Mrs Newall seemed to be greatly distressed, and hung her head all the time. She is stout and full of colour naturally, but her colour had disappeared. On the prisoners being called into the dock, Mr C L Atkinson rose at the solicitors' table and said he appeared for Mrs Hoddy, and Mr Latimer Darling said he appeared for Mrs Newall. It had been expected that a solicitor appointed by the Treasury would prosecute, but it was understood that, as the case would be one for the Assizes, the preliminary stages were left in the hands of Superintendent Crawshaw.

Superintendent Crawshaw said that a week ago the prisoners were charged with causing the death of the child of the prisoner Hoddy, but the charge was now increased to that of wilful murder. The prisoner Hoddy was a married woman, whose husband left her some three years ago and went to America. Mrs Newall was also a married woman, living with her husband at Shipley. About twelve months ago, Mrs Hoddy made the acquaintance of a young man, who would be called that morning, and the result of that acquaintance was that on the 20th of March a child was born, of which the young man was the putative father. On that day, Mrs Hoddy sent her little boy to fetch Mrs Newall, and Mrs Newall was in the house the whole of that day. A little before seven o'clock in the evening, Mrs Newall sent a boy to fetch another person – Annie Daynes – who would be called, and shortly after this witness arrived, the child was born. Mrs Newall took the child off the floor, placed it in a clothes basket, and put it in the coal hole – a dark, damp place. Both before and after being taken there it was crying lustily. Mrs Newall fetched the infant back again ; it was still crying, and Mrs Hoddy said, "It does not matter, I cannot do with it here ; it will have to go away". Mrs Newall replied, "I can't do anything with it", and then Mrs Hoddy said, "Fetch it here then, I'll do for it myself", and Mrs Newall gave the child to her. Mrs Hoddy got some clothes and began stuffing them into the child's mouth. It was still crying, but made a sort of choking noise. Mrs Newall said, "Don't do that", and the witness Daynes said, "Let it live ; you will be picked out if you do that". This girl could not bear it any longer, and she went out of the house, leaving the two prisoners and the child. The child was next seen by the son of Mrs Hoddy in the morning, when the lad saw what was supposed to be the dead body in a basket in the coal place, wrapped in a blanket. On the following night – Wednesday – the same boy saw Mrs Newall go from the direction of the house on

the street carrying something – a bundle – under her arm. He saw her go into a recess by the Junction Hotel, and was rather struck by her manner, and noticed her put the bundle under her apron and pass along the street. The child was next found on the 4th of April at the Three Rise Locks, Bingley.

Mr Atkinson at this point asked that the witnesses should be ordered out of Court, and the order was given as requested.

Superintendent Crawshaw went on to say that, when the body was found, there was a string tied tightly round its neck. This string would be spoken to as part of an apron that had belonged to Mrs Hoddy. Inquiries were made, and the prisoners were apprehended. When charged by the police-constable, Mrs Hoddy said, “I didn't tie the string around it ; I didn't throw it into the water ; it was Mrs Newall”. Mrs Newall said, “I didn't tie the string round ; it was Mrs Hoddy”. After being duly cautioned, Mrs Newall made a long statement, which would be given in evidence. She told the constable that she took the child to Bingley and rebooked to Keighley, walked along the canal side, threw the body into the canal, walked back to Keighley, returned by train to Shipley, where she told Mrs Hoddy what she had done, and received this reply, “You did quite right ; I could not keep it here”. These were the facts and, having heard the evidence, he would ask that the prisoners be committed for trial.

Arthur Irving Lund was then called and examined by Mr Crawshaw. He said : I am an engine cleaner at Manningham sheds, and live with my parents at 7 Hargreaves Square, Shipley. I know both prisoners. I made the acquaintance of the prisoner Hoddy about twelve months ago. Three months later, I began to go to her house, and have gone frequently since, up to her apprehension.

Superintendent Crawshaw : On the 4th of November, did you meet her anywhere? - Yes, sir.

Mr Atkinson : I object to you're leading him. This is a charge of murder, and you tell him the date and everything.

Superintendent Crawshaw : It is not material. I will put it another way. Did you meet the prisoner anywhere?

Witness : Yes, I met her at the top of Rosse Street in November last, and I had some conversation with her. She told me she was pregnant, and I said, “I can't help it”. She answered, “You will have to help it”. I made no answer to that, and I left her. As I was leaving her, she said, “It will be worse for you if you don't”.

Superintendent Crawshaw : Was there any other occasion you saw her outside and had conversation with her?

Witness : About a fortnight before Easter. She was at the top of Murgatroyd Street, where she lives. She lives in a cellar dwelling ; there is only one room in it. She told me it would be all over in about a fortnight ; I knew what she meant – she would be confined.

Superintendent Crawshaw : Do you remember any other date when you saw her?

Witness : On the Tuesday before Good Friday I went to her house about nine o'clock in the evening. She was there, and Mrs Newall and Annie Daynes. Mrs Hoddy was in bed. I asked her what she was doing there, and she replied, “You know”. I asked her what it was, and she said it was a boy.

Superintendent Crawshaw : Did you ask her anything else?

Witness : I asked her where it was.

What did she say?

Witness : She said it was dead, and had “ taen its hook”. I stayed about three quarters of an hour, and then left. I was there next night. Mrs Hoddy was in bed still. I was there on the Friday ; she had got up.

Did you ever see the child at all? - No, sir.

What time would it be when you went there on the Thursday and Friday? - Between eight and nine o'clock.

By Mr Atkinson : How long have you known Mrs Hoddy? - About twelve months.

Did you know she was a married woman? - Yes, sir.

I think her husband was formerly with Salts? - She said he had gone away.

Did you know that formerly he was with Salts, and that she had an allowance from them in respect

of his wages? - No.

Did she tell you that her husband was implicated in a divorce over there? - Yes, sir.

Did she tell you that her husband had written to ask if he might be free from her, and she had told him he might? - Yes.

Did she show you the report in a paper from America, that he had been implicated in a divorce over there? - No, sir.

Did she tell you before you went to see her? - No.

After that, you began keeping company with her? - Yes, sir.

And you would not have done that if she had not told you about her husband? - No.

Then she did tell you all about her husband before you commenced going with her? - No, sir.

You went regularly to see her? - Yes, sir.

Do you know how many children she has? - Four ; they're living at home with her. The oldest is about ten and the youngest three or four.

Did you know she was receiving parish relief? - She told me she was getting 5s a week.

Answer my questions ; you know this woman is on her trial for murder, I suppose? - Yes.

Then answer my questions properly. Did you know she was receiving parish pay? - Yes.

Did you have any talk about the child that was coming? - No, I don't know we had particularly.

Did you promise to do anything for it? - No, I never told her I would do anything for it.

You swear that? - Yes.

And you didn't intend doing anything for it? - Well, if it had been fathered, I happen should.

Oh! If it had been fathered? - Yes.

But it was not fathered? - No.

But you never told her you would do anything for it? - No.

Bentley Asquith, civil engineer and surveyor of Low Moor, produced plans of the house, No 28 Murgatroyd Street. He said there was only one living room and a place where coal was kept. There was no light to this place ; it was a cold, dark room.

Superintendent Crawshaw : Was it a fit place to put a baby in? - No, I should not say so.

Mr Atkinson (rising indignantly) : Pardon me, that is for the Bench, and not for this witness. Don't prejudice the case more than has been. It has been sufficiently prejudiced already by what has appeared in the papers up to the present time. That will come up hereafter.

Superintendent Crawshaw said he had nothing to do with what appeared in the papers.

Mr Atkinson : They've given conversations between you and your men, at any rate.

Superintendent Crawshaw : No information has been given by me, and none with my authority.

The Chairman did not think they need discuss the point.

Mr Atkinson pointed out a pencil mark on the plan which the witness said he had not put there.

Superintendent Crawshaw said this was made by him, to show the position of the basket.

Mr Atkinson (to witness) : Did you see any basket?

Witness : No, there was no basket when I was there.

Mr Atkinson said the mark ought not to be on at all ; the magistrates agreed with him, and it was ordered to be taken off.

Annie Daynes, spinster, 15 Hall Lane, Shipley, apparently about 20 years of age, was the next witness.

Superintendent Crawshaw : Do you remember about seven o'clock in the evening on the 20th March, anyone coming to your house?

Witness : Tom Hoddy came to our house, and from something that was said to me, I went down to Mrs Hoddy's.

What was said to you?

Mr Atkinson objected to the question.

Superintendent Crawshaw said it was simply a question of something said by another party who was not here and could not give evidence. It had nothing to do with evidence against the prisoners. He was quite within his rights as he put this question.

Mr Atkinson : Don't teach me what is right. What I object to is putting the time and the minute in

the witness's mouth.

Superintendent Crawshaw : If it had been a conversation affecting the prisoners, I would not have put the question.

Mr Atkinson : Never mind that, I object to the question.

The Chairman thought a little latitude might be allowed.

Mr Atkinson : It is not a case for any latitude. I am here defending people charged with murder, and I object to every question that is a leading question. I shall object to every question which may be put with regard to time. An advocate has no right to put the time or date into the mouth of a witness.

Superintendent Crawshaw : Very well ; it is of no consequence. (To witness) : Did you go anywhere in consequence of something that was said to you?

Witness : Yes, I went down to Mrs Hoddy's ; that was at seven pm on Tuesday the 20th March. I know the date, because that week had Good Friday. Mrs Newall and Mrs Hoddy were there. Mrs Newall said to me that she was afraid of being by herself, and so she sent for me. Mrs Hoddy, when I entered, was kneeling by the bed on the floor, and in a few minutes Mrs Hoddy gave birth to a child.

Superintendent Crawshaw : Did either Mrs Hoddy or Mrs Newall say anything with regard to it. - (No answer).

Did you ask anything? - I asked what it was, and Mrs Newall said it was a boy. Mrs Hoddy then got into bed, and the child was on the floor.

Did anyone do anything with the child? - Yes, Mrs Newall put it into a clothes basket and carried it into the back place. When she came back into the room, she had neither the child nor the basket.

Was anything said by either Mrs Hoddy or Mrs Newall? - Mrs Hoddy said she could not do with it here, and it would have to go away. Mrs Newall was then by the bed side.

Could you hear the baby? - Yes, it was crying ; it was then in the back place.

When Mrs Hoddy said it would have to go away, did anyone else say anything? - Mrs Newall said she could not do anything with it.

What was the next you heard? - Mrs Hoddy said, "Bring it here and I will do it".

What took place then? - Mrs Newall fetched the child out of the coal place and put it on the bed beside its mother. She brought the child out in the basket, and lifted it out.

Now, after it was put on the bed did anything happen? - Mrs Hoddy began stuffing the child's mouth with the clothes.

Where was Mrs Newall at that time? - Stood by the bed.

Was anything said? - Mrs Newall said, "Don't do that, Ruth Ann".

Was anything said by anyone else? - I said, "Let it live ; you will get picked out", and she said, "I don't care, it will have to go away".

When Mrs Hoddy was stuffing the clothes into its mouth, what was the child doing? - It was choking, making a gurgling sound.

What became of you after that? - I went out.

What was Mrs Hoddy doing as you went out? - She was still stuffing the clothes in the child's mouth. Mrs Hoddy and Mrs Newall and the child remained in the house when I left ; it would be about 7.30. After I got out, I met Fred Newall, son of Mrs Newall, in Rosse Street, and after I had spoken to him, we returned together to Mrs Hoddy's. It would be about half an hour after I had left. Mrs Hoddy was the only person in the house.

Did anyone come in? - Yes, Arthur Lund, just after we got in. Mrs Hoddy was in bed, and Arthur Lund went up to the bedside and said, "Where is it, lass", and she replied, "It's ta'en its hook". We remained about a quarter of an hour, and then went, Mrs Hoddy and Arthur Lund being left in the house.

Did you see the baby on your second visit? - No, sir.

Do you remember any other time that you were with Mrs Hoddy? - Yes, one Wednesday evening, two or three weeks since, I was at her house when Mrs Newall came in. Mrs Newall said she had been to Bingley to see her daughter Polly tried, and whilst she was there they had brought the body

of the child in.

Who was in the house then? - Mrs Newall, Mrs Hoddy, Fred Newall and me.

Was anything said? - Mrs Newall said she had heard them talking, and she said they had found the string round its neck.

Was anything further said? - Mrs Hoddy said she was frightened, and she wondered if they were inquiring down there. She told me not to tell anyone she had had a child.

Were you in Mrs Hoddy's house at any other time? - Yes, about a week after.

Was anything said? - She said Mrs Newall had told her about the child being found, and she hoped they would not bring her up. She told me not to tell anyone.

Have you seen Mrs Hoddy wearing an apron? - Yes.

Just look at this strip (handing witness a piece that had evidently been part of an apron). - Yes, she used to wear an apron like that.

Did you work next to her? - Yes.

Is that similar in pattern to the apron you have seen her wear? - Yes.

Mr Atkinson : I don't ask you anything.

By Mr Darlington : How long have you known Mrs Newall? - A long time.

Do you know what family she has? - She has eight, and four are living at home. Fred is one of them.

What does Mrs Newall do for a living – does she take in washing? - She attends to her house.

She is not a midwife? - No.

She knows nothing of that? - No.

When you went down on the 20th of March, what condition was she in? - She was very much upset.

The Court then adjourned for lunch, after which

Henry Herbert Hoddy, eleven years of age, son of Mrs Hoddy, prisoner, was called. He gave his evidence very intelligently. He said : I am living in Saltaire at present with Mrs Brown in Herbert Street. Before that, I lived with my mother in Murgatroyd Street. On Tuesday morning, the 20th of March, my mother sent me down to Mrs Newall's. Mrs Newall came and remained in our house all day. After dinner time, I went out playing. About 5.30 o'clock I went to the house, but I could not get in. A quarter of an hour later I tried the door again, and got in. I stayed about a quarter of an hour. About nine o'clock I went again.

Superintendent Crawshaw : Did you get in that time? - No, she had locked the door.

What did you do? - I went to see through the window ; I could see by the window blind.

Did you see anyone? - I saw Mrs Newall agen the fire.

What was she doing? - Please, sir, she had a baby on her knee.

How did you know it was a baby? - Because it was crying. I remained about five minutes at the window, and then left.

Did you go back again? - Yes, about half past seven.

What did you do? - I tried to open the door, but I could not ; it was still fast.

What did you do? - I went to the window again.

What did you hear or see? - I saw Mrs Newall wrapping something up.

What was it she was wrapping up? - Please, sir, a baby.

(Here the mother turned to her fellow prisoner and smiled).

What in? - A blanket.

Did you hear anything else? - Yes ; mother said wrap it up and put it in a basket and put it in the coal hole before anybody comes.

(Here the mother looked astonished at the evidence of the boy, and smiled again).

How long did you remain at the window? - About five minutes.

What time did you come home after that? - About ten o'clock.

Was there anybody in the house when you went in? - Yes, Arthur Lund and my mother. My mother was in bed. I slept on two chairs that night. On previous occasions I had slept with my mother.

Did you get up early next morning? - Yes.

What did you do when you got up? - I went into the cellar hole to get some coals.

Did you see anything there when you went in? - Yes, there was something wrapped up in a blanket in the clothes basket.

Where was it? (Here the lad pointed to a place on the plan).

Did you open the basket? ----

Mr Atkinson : Really this is going too far. It is bad enough to see the lad giving evidence against his own mother without anything else.

Superintendent Crawshaw : I will leave that question. Where were you during Wednesday? - I was playing.

Did you go home at any time that day? - At dinner time. Mrs Newall was in besides my mother. She was making my mother some gruel. (The mother smiled again). I went out about five o'clock.

Where were you? - I was in the street. I saw Mrs Newall about eight o'clock near the Junction Hotel. She had a bundle under her arm under her shawl. I saw her go into the urinal there.

Did you do anything? - I went round the corner, and I saw her take something from under her shawl and put it under her apron.

What was it like? - It was wrapped in a blanket.

Did you see her again that night? - No, sir.

When did you see her again? - I saw Mrs Newall at our house on Good Friday about seven or eight o'clock.

Did anything take place? - My mother gave Mrs Newall a shilling.

Was anything said? - She said, "Take that".

Anything said by anyone else? - Yes, sir.

What was it? - Mrs Newall said, "What have I to take it for", and my mother said, "You know, that theer". Mrs Newall said in reply, "Oh yes, I know now".

Do you know where your mother got the shilling from? - Out of her five shillings.

Where did she get that? - From the town.

Frederick Charles Newall, quarryman, Dawson Street, Shipley, said : The prisoner is my mother, and I live at home. I remember meeting Annie Daynes on the Tuesday before Good Friday at the bottom of Rosse Street.

Superintendent Crawshaw : Are you and she keeping company? - Yes.

Did you go anywhere? - We went to Mrs Hoddy's. My mother and Mrs Hoddy were there, and Arthur Lund followed us in. Lund went up to the bed and said to Mrs Hoddy, "Where is it?" and she said, "It's gone". He asked her what she meant, and she said, "I cannot keep it here out of five shillings a week town's pay ; I have four to keep already". I left with Annie Daynes about nine o'clock.

Annie Hoddy, wife of John Hoddy, School Hill, Windhill Crag, was then called.

Superintendent Crawshaw : Do you know either of the prisoners? - I know Mrs Hoddy ; she is my sister-in-law. From something that was said to me, I went down to her house on the night of Thursday before Good Friday between eight and nine o'clock.

Did you go into the house? - No, I stood outside ; the door was open. Arthur Lund was in by the bedside. Mrs Hoddy was in bed coughing.

Why didn't you go inside? - I didn't go inside because I didn't want the neighbours to see me.

Did you hear or see anything? - I heard her say to Arthur Lund, "This is yours", and he said, "I know it is", and he also said, "Well, I shall go away", and she said, "Don't go away, stay here".

Mr Atkinson : You are the sister-in-law of this woman's husband who went to America? - Yes.

And you are not on good terms with her? - Not with her.

And you have not visited her house for a long time? - No.

How long is it since you visited her house? - Her house?

Yes, I'm talking about her house. - Well, on Thursday before Good Friday.

You didn't go in ; how long is it since you went into her house? - I've never been into her house down there.

Well, how long is it since you were in any house she has had? - I never was in her house only when she lived at my mother's.

And never since? - No.

How long is it since she left? - How many months?

How many years or months since she left? - About six months.

And your mother and she are not on good terms? - No they're not.

And your mother has not even visited her? - No, I did not say she had.

Abraham Varley, boatman of Belmont Bridge, Skipton, said he was taking his boat through Three Rise Locks, Bingley, on the 4th of April, when he saw the dead body of a child floating in the water. He stopped the boat, got a drag, and took the body out. He noticed a piece of string round its neck. He sent his boy for a policeman.

Constable Wright, stationed at Bingley, said : On Wednesday the 4th of April, I was called to Three Rise Locks and received the dead body of a child, which I took to the Sessions House – Police Station – at Bingley.

Superintendent Crawshaw : Did you notice anything particular about it? - Yes, this apron string (produced) was tied very tightly round its throat. I handed the body over to Dr Crocker, and saw him examine it.

Dr Crocker, a surgeon in practice at Bingley, said he was called to the Bingley Police Station on the 4th April, and saw the body of a baby. At the request of the police, he examined the body. The body was 18 inches long, the skin sodden, and there were bruises on the trunk, limbs and face. Round the neck was a piece of cotton (produced), about an inch and a half wide, tied tightly in a double knot. He removed this rag, and noticed that there was a mark corresponding to it round the neck, bluish at the front and reddish at the back. The feet looked as if they had been pressed between hard substances. Next day he made an internal examination. He found that putrefaction was very much advanced to what it was on the previous day. He placed the heart and lungs in water, and the whole floated. He then separated the heart from the lungs, and divided the lungs into several pieces. Blood and froth oozed out, and each separate piece of lung floated, both before and after pressure. The stomach contained nothing but a small quantity of normal mucus. The smaller intestines were empty, and the large ones having the usual contents of the intestines of a new born child. The face was bruised, the nose black, and the scalp entire.

Superintendent Crawshaw : Can you form any opinion as to the cause of death?

Witness : I concluded that the appearances found in the chest were consistent with death by strangulation.

Superintendent Crawshaw : Had the child lived?

Witness : The child was born alive, and had breathed with a considerable amount of vigour. The string round the neck might have caused death.

Constable Bates, stationed at Windhill, who was the last witness, said : I apprehended the prisoner Hoddy on Friday the 13th of April in Saltaire Road, Shipley. I took her to Shipley Police Station, and charged her with causing the death of her infant male child some time about the 20th of March 1894. She replied, "I am charged with something I have never done". About 2.30 on Monday morning, the 16th of April, I apprehended Mrs Newall at her husband's house in Dawson Street, Bradford Arms, Shipley, and took her to Bradford. On the same morning, at the West Riding County police office, Bradford, I charged both prisoners together with causing the death of the infant male child of Mrs Hoddy by tying a string round its neck, and by putting it into the canal some time about 20th of March. The prisoner Hoddy replied, "I never tied a string around its neck ; I never threw it into the canal ; Mrs Newall tied the string round its neck ; that is all". Mrs Newall replied, "I say Mrs Hoddy did put the string round its neck, and she tried to strangle it before that, and she saw she had not strength. She then tied the string round its neck. She said it didn't matter, it would have to die, because she could not keep them she had. If she had let it alone, I don't think it would have lived above an hour. She persuaded me to take it away, and she gave me a shilling to pay my railway fare to take it to Bingley and throw it into the canal. I took the child, wrapped up in part of a blanket, by the 9 pm something train on Wednesday night from Saltaire to Bingley. When

I got there my heart failed me. I stopped at Bingley for the next train. I then booked for Keighley. I got off at Keighley station, walked on the canal side towards Bingley, and threw the child into the canal. I then went back to Keighley railway station and booked by the last train from Keighley to Shipley. On arriving at Shipley I went straight to Mrs Hoddy's house, saw her, and told her that I had thrown the child in the canal at Keighley. She said, "You have done right ; I could not keep it". The prisoners, through their solicitors, pleaded "Not Guilty" and reserved their defence. They were then committed for trial at the next Assizes, which take place at Leeds next week.

94 23 June 1894

BRADFORD COUNTY POLICE COURT, MONDAY

DRUNK AND DISORDERLY **John Watkin**, boatman of Shipley, was charged with being drunk and disorderly at twenty five minutes past twelve on Saturday night. The prisoner, who had further incriminated himself by abusing the officer who arrested him, pleaded guilty to the charge of drunkenness, but denied having behaved in a disorderly manner. He was ordered to pay the costs.

95 14 July 1894

SILSDEN

BOUND FOR NEW YORK At the Skipton Petty Sessions on Saturday, Benjamin Hodgson, 16 years of age, described as a mill hand of Silsden, was brought up in custody, charged with stealing £12 10s in money and a cheque value £5 15s from the house of **William Dawson**, boatman of Silsden, on the previous Monday. The prisoner, who belongs to a very respectable family, had slept at Dawson's house a night or two previous, when the money was shown to him in a drawer. Dawson's family left the house in the morning, and did not return until five o'clock at night. Superintendent Lumb was apprised of the robbery on Tuesday, and he immediately communicated with every division of the Liverpool police, with the result that the lad was apprehended on Wednesday on board the *Ohio*, bound for New York. He had paid his passage money, provided himself with a new suit of clothes, a watch and guard and a portmanteau, and had in his possession the sum of £4 12s in American money. It appears that he had left the cheque with a Liverpool man, who had forwarded it to Bradford where payment had been stopped. Mr W A Robinson made an eloquent defence on behalf of the prisoner, who was eventually committed to prison for three months.

96 4 August 1894

LARCENY BY A WINDHILL MAN At a special meeting of the Bingley magistrates on Monday morning, William Henry Baldwin (alias Ross), dyer, Windhill, was charged with stealing articles of wearing apparel &c, of the value of £2 10s, the property of **John W Knowles**, boatman, Crossflatts. From the evidence, it appeared that the articles had been stolen from the cabin of a canal boat, which was moored at Crossflatts. Baldwin acknowledged his guilt, and was sent to gaol for one month with hard labour.

97 22 September 1894

BRADFORD COUNTY POLICE COURT, MONDAY

SLEEPING IN A CANAL BOAT Joseph Garforth, carter, and Margaret Allott, millhand, both of Shipley, were charged with sleeping in a canal boat on Sunday last. Constable Bates stated that owing to the complaints of boatowners of offences of the nature in question, he visited some of the boats on the canal at Windhill at a quarter to three on Sunday morning, and found the defendants asleep in a boat owned by **Mr Richard Scott**. Witness visited the owner, who said that he had not given anyone but the man in charge permission to sleep in the boat. The Chairman said that the matter did not come within the act of sleeping out, and the Bench could only dismiss the summons.

BRADFORD COUNTY POLICE COURT, THURSDAY

PERMITTING DRUNKENNESS ON LICENSED PREMISES William Anthony, landlord of the

Fox and Hounds Hotel, Shipley, appeared to answer to a charge of permitting drunkenness on licensed premises. Inspector Turton stated that , in company with Sergeant Lee, he visited that part of the premises known as the vaults about 10.30 on the 7th of the present month. He found a number of men there drunk, and a man and woman in an indecent position. He drew the barman's attention to the man and woman, who said that he saw nothing wrong. He (witness) particularly noticed **George Allott** and Richard Rawnsley (who were charged at the same time as the above defendant with being drunk on licensed premises). He told the former to get up, and found him very drunk and took his name. Sergeant Lee corroborated. Mr C L Atkinson, who appeared on behalf of all three defendants, said that the company who visited the vaults were of a rather rough class, and were somewhat uproarious in their conduct, so that some people were inclined to think they were in liquor when that was not the case. Mr Atkinson also said that at the time the police had visited the premises, Mr Anthony, the landlord, was in the upper part of the house while the barman was in charge of the vaults, and he (the latter) was not on very good terms with the police. Mr Atkinson drew their worships' attention to what he considered a parallel case, in which a woman was drunk on licensed premises unknown to the landlord. The latter on that occasion was not held responsible. William Anthony, the landlord, in answer to questions by Mr Atkinson, said that he had only been at the house since the 8th of August. He was formerly at the Constitutional Club at Halifax, from which place he had received a very good character. The barman had been there a short time before him, he believed. On the night in question he was in the upper part of the house when the police visited the premises, and he was asked by a message sent through a speaking tube by the barman to come down into the vaults. When he got down, he found the people there in a very quiet and orderly condition. Neither Rawnsley nor Allott seemed drunk, though they had had some drink. Mr Withers, the manager for Messrs Waller and Son, who conduct the house, was also at the hotel, and had seen the police before he (Mr Anthony) could get down from the upper house. He was instructed by Mr Withers to close the vaults, which he did, and by twenty minutes to eleven all those who had occupied the vaults had left, and the place was closed, and would remain so in the future. Alfred E Withers, manager for Messrs Waller and Son, deposed to having paid a visit to the hotel about twenty minutes past ten on the night of the 7th inst. The men and women in the vaults were talking very loudly when he was in that part of the house, but beyond that they were perfectly orderly, otherwise he would have told the barman to get rid of them. After visiting the vaults he went upstairs, and Mr Anthony was then summoned to go down. Mr Anthony not being able to comply with the demand, he had asked him (Mr Withers) to go down until he could come himself. Continuing, Mr Withers said he went down again into the vaults, and found the inspector taking the names of two people. He followed the police outside, and talked with them for about five minutes, and during the conversation they said they were not going to be talked to by the man at the bar. He then went back, and ordered the vaults to be closed, and this part of the house would not in the future be opened again. The Chairman : Why did you not ask the police if they considered the men drunk whose names were taken? Witness : I did not think of it at the time. Witness also said that the barman was accustomed to speak sharply to the police, in consequence of which, being unable to agree with them, he had been dismissed. The barman was next called, and deposed that he had been a barman for six years. He had been in his last place about eleven months, and had only come to Shipley about the 8th of August. About half past ten on the 7th inst, the police paid a visit to the vaults, and called his attention to a man and woman, and said, "What sort of conduct do you call that?" Witness replied, "I don't see that they are doing anything wrong". Indeed, so far as he could see, the woman had simply her left hand on one of the man's shoulders. Witness also said that it was a common report that there was a bitter feeling between him and the police. Fred Yeadon, a brush finisher, said that he was in the vaults on the night in question. He had one pint of beer prior to the visit of the police, and was not drunk. He considered that both Allott and Rawnsley were able to take care of themselves. Allott had walked across the room and upstairs quite steadily, and had said that he was going to see a doctor. The place was closed ten or fifteen minutes after the visit of the police, and he then went home in company with Rawnsley, to whom he rendered no assistance whatever. Thomas Baxter also deposed to having entered the vaults about half past nine. He had

had one pint of beer before the police came, and was not drunk. Regarding the man and woman mentioned, he did not think they were in an improper position. Witness also attested to having heard the inspector say to the barman, "What kind of conduct do you call this", and also to having heard the barman answer, "There is nothing wrong ; they are not drunk". In witness's opinion, Allott was sober. George Allott, boatman, Shipley, next gave evidence to the effect that he visited the vaults at half past eight on the night in question. He had had two pints of beer when working in the forenoon, one in the afternoon, and one at the Fox and Hounds before the police came. His was a "dry job", and he could have drunk more without getting drunk. When the police came, they told him to stand up, and without charging him with anything had taken his name. He did not consider that the man and woman in question had acted in an improper manner. Rawnsley, he said, was not drunk ; he had been invited into the vaults by his (witness's) father, and had no money of his own. Allott also mentioned the fact that he had visited a doctor, a young man about eighteen years old. The doctor, whom he did not know, had told him to walk to the gate and back, and upon witness doing so had said that he was sober. Richard Rawnsley admitted having had the pint of beer, but said he was not drunk. The Bench said they were satisfied of the drunkenness of the two defendants, and fined Allott 7s 6d including costs, or seven days, and Rawnsley, who had previously been fined for drunkenness 10s and costs, or ten days. William Anthony was fined 10s and costs, or ten days, for permitting drunkenness on the premises.

98 12 January 1895

BRADFORD COUNTY POLICE COURT, THURSDAY

DOGS WITHOUT MUZZLES For allowing dogs to be at large without muzzles, **George Townsley**, boatman of Shipley, was fined 2s 6d and the costs, or seven days.

99 23 February 1895

BRADFORD COUNTY POLICE COURT, MONDAY

AN ASSAULT ON THE POLICE **Jesse Edwards**, a boatman of Bingley, was placed in the dock on charges of being drunk and disorderly, and of assaulting the police, at Shipley on the 16th inst. PC Wormald stated that at 11.45 pm on the night in question, he saw the prisoner in Commercial Street drunk and creating a disturbance by stopping foot passengers and swearing at them. Witness cautioned the prisoner, and he moved off. Later on, some complaints were made to him by some ladies, who said they had been insulted by a man in Saltaire Road, and he found the prisoner in Victoria Road, behaving in a very riotous manner and using filthy language. Witness again remonstrated with the man, but the latter took off his coat and wanted to fight. Finally witness had to take him to the Police Station, and while he was doing so, the prisoner seized him round the waist and threw him down, kicking him when on the ground. PC Salter corroborated this evidence. Prisoner said he had been to Bradford on the evening in question, and he had not been interfered with there. The constable who had taken him to the Station, he alleged, had knocked him down and jumped on him. The Chairman said the Bench would not deal with the charge of drunkenness ; but, for the assault on the policeman, prisoner would be committed to gaol for one month.

100 9 March 1895

BRADFORD COUNTY POLICE COURT, MONDAY

DRUNK AND DISORDERLY **George Townsley**, boatman of Dawson Street, Shipley, was summoned for being drunk and disorderly on the 19th February. Constable Hodge said that at 10.45 pm on the night in question, he was called to a disturbance in Low Well, Briggate, where he found the defendant very drunk, cursing and swearing, with a crowd of people around. Defendant, who at first gave the wrong name and address, was fined 15s and costs, or seven days.

101 20 July 1895

UNMUZZLED DOGS At the Bradford County Police Court, **William Leeming**, boatman, Windhill, was fined 1s and costs for a breach of the Muzzling Order.

102 28 September 1895

UNFORTUNATE END OF A WINDHILL GENTLEMAN This (Friday) forenoon, an inquest was held at the Venture Inn, Frizinghall, before Mr Coroner Taylor and a jury, of which Mr William Roberts was foreman, as to the circumstances attending the death of Timothy Patchett, a retired gentleman, 52 years of age, whose body was taken out of the canal on Wednesday evening.

Maria Patchett, widow of the deceased, of Thornhill House, township of Idle, said her late husband had, during the last eight years, been subject to epileptic fits. Prior to that time he had drunk a good deal, but in obedience to doctor's orders had not recently taken anything intoxicating. She last saw him alive about half past two on Sunday afternoon, when he was eating fruit after having had a good dinner. Witness went out, and returning home about 9.30, she sat up all night waiting for her husband, but he did not come. He was not accustomed to stop out at night, unless it were on business, when he invariably sent a message. The body was brought home on Wednesday night, and there did not appear to be anything missing from his person.

Charles Broadhead of 88 Bolton Woods Road, plush batter, said he knew Timothy Patchett, and saw him on Sunday night about half past seven at the Hare and Hounds Hotel, Wrose Hill. Deceased seemed to be in his usual state of health, and when witness asked him for a drink he had a pint of beer, and when that was done, he had another. They went home together about nine o'clock, and deceased seemed to walk steadily. Beyond that, witness said he remembered nothing, as he had had "a fair drop of beer". Witness lost his cap, which was brought to him on Wednesday night by Sam Mortimer.

Naaman Power, 3 Wrose Hill Terrace, dyer, said he saw the deceased at 7.30 on Sunday night, and again between 9 and 10, as he came into the Hare and Hounds Hotel where witness was acting as an occasional waiter. Deceased had two pints of best beer, and went out in company with the last witness about 10 o'clock. It was the first time witness had seen deceased at the Hare and Hounds while he had worked there, since Easter. In answer to Inspector Turton, witness said that Broadhead and deceased seemed quite friendly; the former was "sharp fresh" when he left.

John Beck Pickard, 42 Wrose Hill Terrace, millhand, said he saw deceased and Broadhead together on Sunday night between 9 and 9.30, when he was sat on his garden wall. Deceased looked sober, but the other man appeared to be "sharp fresh".

Richard Bryan, Leeds, boatman, said he had known deceased for over 40 years. On Wednesday, after he had delivered goods by boat at Messrs Holden's grease works, he helped those who were dragging the canal, and found the body about 8.30. The watch was in deceased's waistcoat pocket.

Charlotte Mason of 29 Bolton Hall Road, who helped to lay out the body, said she found no mark of injury.

After a short consultation, the jury returned a verdict of "Found drowned, without mark of violence".

103 12 October 1895

BRADFORD COUNTY POLICE COURT, MONDAY

BASTARDY ARREARS **Arthur Batty**, boatman of Leeds, was summoned by Sarah Jane Lister, Windhill, for bastardy arrears amounting to £3. Prisoner had been sent to gaol three times previously for non payment, and was now committed for a month.

104 30 November 1895

BRADFORD COUNTY POLICE COURT, THURSDAY

STEALING A CROWBAR John W Umpleby, striker, Shipley, and **John James Brook**, boatman, also of Shipley, were placed in the dock charged with stealing a crowbar, the property of the Shipley Urban District Council, valued at 2s. The implement was missed on Saturday night from a meter house in Clove Greaves, in which Brook had been loafing about. PC Daniels apprehended the prisoners. Umpleby was discharged, and Brook was fined 5s and the costs, with an alternative of ten days.

105 14 December 1895

BRADFORD COUNTY POLICE COURT, MONDAY

ARREST OF A DESERTER AT SHIPLEY **John W Thompson**, boatman, Shipley, was charged with being a deserter from the Second Dragoon Guards. Constable Johnson said that on Saturday last, from information received, he went in search of the prisoner, and found him on a canal boat in Shipley, about 11.30 in the morning. On being charged with having deserted, prisoner admitted the fact. He was now sent to gaol to await a military escort.

106 14 December 1895

A TRAGEDY AT THACKLEY The body of a young woman was found late last night in the canal at Thackley, and it would appear to be another instance of an unfortunate taking her own life. About 10.45 last night, a boatman named **John Thompson**, of Crabtree Lane, Burscough, near Liverpool, intimated to Constable Eke, who is stationed at Thackley, that his boat had been impeded near Brown Bridge by the propeller catching in the body of a woman. The policeman at once proceeded to get the body out of the water, and conveyed it to the Canal Tavern, Windhill, to await an inquest. The deceased was plainly and neatly dressed in black, and in the pockets of her dress was a silver watch, a watch key, a purse containing 8d, and a pocket handkerchief. There was also a slip of paper, bearing the words in writing, "Don't blame my stepmother". It is conjectured that the deceased committed suicide last night, as the body had not been immersed for very long, as the watch found upon her had stopped at twenty minutes to ten. This (Friday) morning, the body was identified by her parents, living near Lister's Mills, Manningham, as that of Elizabeth Tasker.

107 1 January 1898

WEST RIDING COURT, BRADFORD, MONDAY

ASSAULT ON THE POLICE **John Wadsworth**, boatman of no fixed place of abode, was brought up in custody charged with sleeping out, and also with assaulting Constable Langley. The constable said that at 11.50 on Thursday night, he found the prisoner sleeping on a heap of straw on the premises of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal Company in Wharf Street, Shipley. Witness roused him, and on being asked what he was doing there, prisoner replied that he had gone for a sleep and was going to stop there. Witness said he could not allow it, whereupon prisoner, who was under the influence of drink, became very abusive and refused to leave the place. Witness took the man into custody, and on getting outside prisoner became very violent, and struck witness on the head and chest, and also kicked him several times. They struggled together on the ground for some time, and eventually witness succeeded in blowing his whistle. Constable Edgar then came upon the scene, and prisoner was with difficulty conveyed to the police station, where he had to be searched by force. In reply to Dr Ellis, witness said prisoner had no right to be where he was. Constable Edgar corroborated. Prisoner said he had put his horses up, and was so fresh that he dare not venture to go on board the boat. The minor charge was dismissed, and for the assault, prisoner was fined 10s and costs, with the alternative of ten days' imprisonment.

THE ATTRACTIONS OF WHARF STREET In the case of a man named **Hawkesworth**, who was fined 12s 6d including costs for being drunk and disorderly in Wharf Street, Shipley, the Chairman asked if this Wharf Street was a sort of refuge for the destitute. Sergeant Lee said it was for the boatmen. The Chairman said it seemed to be a quiet sort of street. Sergeant Lee : Yes, there are a number of boats laid up there.

ANOTHER ASSAULT ON THE POLICE **Henry Haslam**, boatman of Windhill, was charged with being drunk and disorderly and also with assaulting Constable Langley. The constable said that at 9.20 on the evening of Friday the 24th inst, he heard a disturbance in Briggate, Shipley, and on proceeding to the vicinity of the Bull Hotel, saw the prisoner quarrelling with a woman. The man refused to go away, and also declined to give his name and address. Upon taking him into custody, he became very violent, struck witness in the chest, kicked him, and was in the act of

throwing him down when Sergeant Lee came upon the scene. Prisoner, against whom there were nine previous convictions, was fined 12s 6d including costs for being drunk, and 10s and costs for the assault. Agnes Haslam, for being drunk and disorderly at the same time and place, was fined 12s 6d including costs.

108 8 January 1898

BOATMAN ATTACKED BY A HORSE On Sunday morning, a boatman named **Thomas England**, aged 36, whose home is at Silsden, had an unpleasant and unfortunate experience at Shipley. It appears that England was following his usual employment on the canal side when one of the horses belonging to the Leeds and Liverpool Canal Company, which was attached to a tow rope, suddenly attacked him and kicked him twice, causing a serious wound in the side and other minor injuries. Fortunately assistance was forthcoming, and the injured man was conveyed to Sir Titus Salt's Hospital, where his injuries were attended to.

109 7 May 1898

WEST RIDING COURT, BRADFORD, THURSDAY

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE CASES **Tom Stead**, boatman, Shipley, was summoned at the instance of the Shipley School Board in respect of the irregular attendance of his child at school. The child had made but 14 out of a possible 44 attendances. An order was made. **Jonathan Colman**, another boatman, was summoned on a similar charge. His child had made 61 out of a possible 121. An order was made.

110 11 June 1898

WEST RIDING COURT, BRADFORD, THURSDAY

IRREGULAR SCHOLARS **Jonathan Colman**, boatman of Shipley, was summoned for not sending regularly to school his two children, **Walter** aged 6 and **Annie** aged 7. Frederick Holmes, an attendance officer under the Shipley School Board, said Walter had made 23 and Annie 48 out of a possible 114 attendances. The cause was that the parents took the children with them on the boat. An order for attendance was made in each case.

111 6 August 1898

TERRIBLE MURDER AT SHIPLEY

MAN BATTERED TO DEATH IN A CANAL BOAT On Tuesday afternoon, whilst Shipley was thronged with holiday makers, a terrible deed was enacted on one of the boats lying in the canal near Gallows Bridge – a much frequented means of communication between Briggate and the Bradford Arms district of the town. The boat which was the scene of this terrible tragedy is called *Surprise*, and is owned by **Messrs Glover** of Bingley, and is captained by **William Slingsby**, who resides at 22 Piccadilly, Shipley. During the last eighteen months, Slingsby has been assisted to work the boat by a young fellow named **Peter Keeling** of Shipley who, it appears, made his home on the boat where, it is stated, he cohabited with a young woman named Martha Schofield, whom he had picked up at Leeds on the occasion of one of the boat's visits there. On Tuesday, Keeling and the woman, together with a man named Joseph Croft, a quarryman of Lane Bottom, Windhill, Shipley, were out drinking together. In the afternoon Croft went on board the boat to see his paramour, and was followed shortly afterwards by Keeling, when the latter, finding the two together, appears to have been seized with a fit of jealousy, for he immediately made a fierce attack upon Croft, whom he literally battered to death. At this time Slingsby, the master of the boat, was in the town, and only the murderer and his victim and the female were on board. Having accomplished his ghastly work, Keeling left the boat and entered the Bull Hotel, which is but a few yards away, and the back premises of which abut upon the canal where the boat was moored. Keeling coolly informed the company in the Bull that he had killed a man, adding, "I have left him as they will have to pick him up". Investigation showed this statement to be only too true. Constable Maskill, who was on duty in the vicinity, was informed of the occurrence, and on going to the boat, where he was joined by

Constable Ross, who had also heard of the tragedy, a terrible scene presented itself. In the fore cabin, huddled up in a corner with his head resting on the "locker", was the man Croft, with his face battered beyond recognition, even those who knew him well being scarcely able to identify him. The cabin is not more than 4ft 6 in wide, about the same height, and between a small stove and the locker previously mentioned, there is a floor space of about 2 ft 6in. It was in this circumscribed space that the fearful deed was done. The space being so limited, it must have been almost impossible for Keeling to strike with any great force, but the state of the victim's head showed that he must have been struck many times. The cabin itself was like a slaughterhouse, and a bloodstained poker lay on the floor. Having done his ghastly work, Keeling left the *Surprise*, washing his hands in the canal. Moored close to the boat on which the tragedy occurred was another boat, the *Fanny Ellen*, laden with stone and owned by Messrs **Abraham Kendall** and Sons. On the deck of this boat lay **William Dacre**, to whom Keeling spoke. It seems that Keeling's paramour had told him that Croft had been with her in the boat in the morning, but on Keeling taxing Croft with this he denied it, and strange to say, the woman now said there was no truth in the statement, for which withdrawal she was struck by Keeling. Keeling said to Dacre, "Croft is in the cabin now, and is all reight ; he said he was not there this morning but he's there now ; he's all reight". Keeling then went down the steps into the Bull Hotel, but was shortly afterwards turned out, when he went up to the Fox and Hounds Hotel, situate at the junction of Commercial Street and Otley Road, and there made no secret of what he had done. Keeling was arrested shortly afterwards at the Fox and Hounds by Constables Ross and Benson, and offered no resistance. On being informed that Croft was dead, prisoner replied, "Well, the ---- ought to be, if he is not". Keeling was more or less under the influence of drink at the time, and when told that he must accompany the officers, having just ordered a glass of beer for himself and a bottle of porter for Schofield, he replied, "Let me sup my beer first". He was then locked up. The body was removed to a mortuary near the Manor House to await an inquest, which was opened at four o'clock this (Friday) afternoon. Large numbers of people visited the scene of the tragedy during the evening and on Wednesday morning.

The woman mixed up in the affair is about 35 years of age and named Martha Schofield, and she being the only witness of the tragedy in the narrow confines of the cabin, was also arrested and conveyed to the Shipley Police Station.

On examination, Keeling's heavy boots and clothing were found to be besmeared with blood.

Later in the afternoon, Detective Dunn felt about in the shallow water between the boat and the south wall of the canal, and found a hammer which appeared to be bloodstained, and it was supposed that this was the instrument with which the fatal wounds were inflicted. The hammer, which is a very heavy one, had not been used about the boat, so it would appear that Keeling had obtained it somewhere and brought it down with him when he found his paramour and Croft together in the cabin.

It is remarkable that the canal bank and the bridge should be almost deserted at the time the tragedy occurred, about four o'clock, for it is a busy thoroughfare, and anyone crossing the bridge would have had a full view of the cabin of the boat in which the murder was committed, and which lay only about twenty yards east of the bridge. The wife of the bank ranger, however, whose house is directly opposite the spot where the boat lay, says she heard sounds of a struggle going on in the boat, and afterwards saw Keeling emerge from the cabin and wash his hands in the canal. On the other hand, Dacre, who was reclining on the deck of the *Fanny Ellen*, the stern of which almost touched the *Surprise*, did not notice anything unusual, for he informed our reporter that he was unaware that anything had happened until he saw ten or a dozen persons gather around the cabin, having come from the yard of the Bull Hotel. He then went to see what was the matter, and the scene which presented itself has already been described. Keeling walked away from the spot apparently quite cool and collected, and what he said to Dacre did not indicate the terrible nature of what had transpired during the five minutes he was in the cabin.

Since Schofield left Croft, six weeks ago, he has been living with a woman named Serena Jennings, whom he saw at the Bull Hotel about eleven o'clock on Tuesday morning, when he told her he was

going for a walk up into Shipley. She replied, "All right ; but don't sup too much beer". He was, however, again seen in the Bull Hotel by his nephew, George Edward Bedford, who had come over from Leeds to spend a few days at Shipley Feast. Croft asked his nephew to go with him to Bolton Woods (Bradford) to fetch a pigeon, but the boy was having his dinner and did not go. Croft then left the house and went to the Fox and Hounds, where he met Keeling and the woman Schofield. What happened there is at present mere conjecture, but it is generally thought that a quarrel arose because of the statement Schofield is alleged to have made to Keeling to the effect that Croft had been with her in the boat that morning. Certain it is, however, that Croft was charged with it but denied the allegation, and the woman then also denied that it was true. Schofield and Croft having disappeared later in the afternoon, it would seem that Keeling went down to the boat in search of one or both of them, and finding them together, set upon Croft and battered the life out of him within five minutes.

THE ANTECEDENTS OF THE PARTIES So far as we have been able to ascertain, Keeling is a very brutal fellow, and was well known to the police as a dangerous character. He is about 34 years of age, and was educated at what used to be Bradley's School in Otley Road, but does not seem to have made much use of his opportunities. During the six weeks that Schofield has cohabited with him, the woman's life does not seem to have been a happy one, for she stated in the Fox and Hounds that she was black and blue from the ill-usage she had received at Keeling's hands. It is only quite recently that the pair had some serious trouble at Newley, which ended by Schofield finding herself struggling in the canal. Her denial that Croft had visited her on board the *Surprise* on the morning of the murder was probably attributable to her fear of Keeling's violence, and he struck her at the time. Croft was a married man who had been separated from his wife for a number of years, Mrs Croft having in the meantime lived at Saltaire with the two sons of her husband's by a former wife, and the three have lived comfortably and respectably by their work. Schofield says she is a native of Goole, but was met with in Leeds by Croft who, after cohabiting with her for some time after he left his wife, was deserted by her (Schofield), and she then went to live with Keeling, with whom she had been for a period of about six weeks when the ghastly tragedy, of which she was the sole witness, took place. Keeling's record, as has been already stated, is not an enviable one.

MRS CROFT INTERVIEWED A reporter called upon Mrs Croft at Saltaire, when she explained that she was married to the murdered man some 24 years ago at the Bradford Parish Church, but during the last ten years had lived apart from her husband. She spoke of him in the kindest terms, and said that, but for drink, he was the best of husbands. Mrs Croft has living with her two sons of the deceased man by a former wife, and the clean and comfortable cottage presented a strong contrast to Croft's residence at Windhill. The neighbours speak very highly of Mrs Croft, and she herself was quite overcome with grief when she heard on Tuesday night of her husband's terrible end. "Oh, Joe", she frantically cried, "I had hoped to live to see the day when you would return to a respectable life. But you are the same to me now as you always were – my dear husband – and I pray Almighty God to forgive you for all you have done. Every night and morning have I prayed for you".

With a voice broken by emotion, she went on to explain how she firmly believed that in his better and sober moments her husband upbraided himself for having sunk so low. "He has been home many a time and told me so himself," she said, "and my firm belief is that if he could have conquered his craving for drink he would have lived a respectable life with me and his family. A better and kinder husband, apart from the drink, could not be wished for, and now he is dead – and oh, what a death! If I could only have seen him on his bed of sickness and seen him repent his past life! But that cannot be ; but he is still my husband, and whatever I have to do to do it, I will bury him as such, and in death I freely forgive him, as I hope God will do, for all he has done".

KEELING IN PRISON During his incarceration in the cells at the Shipley Police Station, Keeling appears to have lost the braggart and exultant spirit with which he published his ghastly deed, and to have become sullen and morose. He and the female prisoner were confined in adjoining cells, and through the dividing wall they were frequently heard to converse. Keeling appears to have passed a very restless night, for on Wednesday morning he was heard to remark to the female prisoner that

he had not slept a wink. Public feeling is strong against the male prisoner, and at an early hour on Wednesday morning, a crowd of some hundreds of people had assembled in the vicinity of the Police Station and along the road leading to the Midland station, in the hope of catching a glimpse of the prisoner as he passed down to the railway station en route for Bradford. But although they remained about until late in the afternoon, they were doomed to disappointment, for about six o'clock, during the heavy rain which had dispersed the crowd, the prisoners were removed to Bradford almost free from observation. Inspector Turton had charge of Keeling, and Constable Ross was in charge of the female prisoner. As Keeling passed through the entrance to the Shipley Police Station, he was recognised by a passing acquaintance, who called out, "Good day, Pete!" Prisoner did not answer, but only hung his head.

THE STORY OF THE STRUGGLE IN THE CABIN

PRISONERS BEFORE THE MAGISTRATES

THE EX HANGMAN PRESENT Yesterday (Thursday) morning, Keeling and Schofield were brought before the West Riding Magistrates at Bradford, jointly charged with causing the death of Joseph Croft. Great interest was centred in the proceedings, and long before the time for opening the court, the spacious Courtyard was crowded with eager and curious sightseers, the great majority of whom hailed from Shipley. On the doors being opened, there was a rush for seats, but every available inch of space was quickly taken up, and large numbers were unable to obtain admission. These, however, remained in the vicinity of the Courthouse until the proceedings terminated. The case was last but one on the list, and the preliminary business occupied considerable time. Sir Theo Peel presided, and the Shipley justices present were Dr Ellis, Mr W Croft and Mr C B Shaw. At length the somewhat long list of petty misdemeanants were disposed of, and a hum of excitement pervaded the Court as, at a few minutes to one o'clock, the names of the prisoners were called and they stepped up to the front of the dock. The male prisoner, Peter Keeling, is a swarthy thickset individual, with a cast of countenance decidedly of the brutal type. He has short brown hair, a square, short and rugged underjaw ; low, but not receding forehead ; and dark eyes set rather close together. He was roughly attired in a dark brown close jacket, a greasy faded black waistcoat, and grey trousers. He wore a dark handkerchief in lieu of a collar. The woman Schofield looked much older than the male prisoner, her dark hair being profusely tinged with grey. It is evident, however, that she has been good looking, but is now merely a slatternly wreck of her former self. Her hair was dishevelled, and she was altogether of untidy appearance. She wore a dress of faded blue material, and a loose fitting blouse of figured navy blue print. She is of dark complexion and vicious appearance, and was evidently suffering from some bronchial or asthmatical affection. She showed very little interest in what was going on around her. On the other hand, Keeling displayed a lively interest in the proceedings, and for the most part studied the witness, Whittingham, with a curious leer. He evinced no emotion, and was apparently otherwise unconcerned. Just after ascending the steps to the rail of the dock, he glanced furtively round the crowded gallery, but appeared unable to discern the object of his search. As a strange coincidence, it may be mentioned that prior to the names of the prisoners being called, James Berry, the ex hangman, was in Court, applying for a transfer of a beer licence. No one appeared to defend the prisoners.

Superintendent Crawshaw, in opening the case, said the two prisoners were charged with causing the death of a man in a boat at Shipley. The circumstances he would just shortly give, and then he should be obliged to ask for a remand. It appeared that the two prisoners had been living together for the last six weeks, and they had been employed on a boat which plied between Shipley and Leeds and other places. The boat arrived at Shipley on Saturday last, and it being holiday time, it was the intention of those in charge of the boat to remain until Wednesday. It appeared that they were drinking together on Tuesday, and at about three o'clock the woman went onto the boat. She was followed shortly afterwards by the male prisoner, who saw her down into the cabin, and then went away. About three quarters of an hour afterwards, a man named Croft – now the deceased – went into the cabin. The male prisoner returned shortly afterwards, and also went down into the cabin. Here a scuffle took place, lasting some time, and at about half past four deceased was found, lying dead in the cabin, frightfully battered and lying in a pool of blood. Prisoners were shortly

afterwards arrested.

Only one witness was called.

Jane Whittingham, wife of John Whittingham, of No 1 Canal House, Shipley, said : On Tuesday afternoon last I was at home. About three o'clock I was stood in the door and saw the woman Schofield sat on the boat.

Superintendent Crawshaw : What condition was she in? - She was drunk.

Did you see anyone else? - Yes.

Who? - The prisoner, Peter Keeling.

Where was he? - I saw him stood.

What doing? - They appeared to be quarrelling.

Where was he stood? - He was stood in front of the woman on the canal bank near to the boat.

And they were quarrelling? - They seemed to be quarrelling.

Well, now, did you see what he did? - I saw him get on to the boat and assist the woman into the cabin.

After he had assisted her into the cabin, did you see what he did then? - He was down in the cabin a few minutes and then came up.

The Chairman : That would be below the deck? - Yes.

Superintendent Crawshaw : What they call the cabin is the place where they live and sleep? - Yes.

What did he do when he came up out of the cabin? - He came out, and pulled the hatch or covering over the entrance of the cabin, and said, "Stay there, I will not be long before I come back."

That was to the woman? - Yes, that was to the woman.

From something said to you sometime after that, what did you do? - I went to the door.

How long was that after? - About three quarters of an hour.

Just tell us what you did? - I saw the hatch was off – pushed back.

Whilst you were stood at the door, did you see anyone come up? - Yes ; whilst I was there Keeling came up.

From what direction did he come? - From the Bull Hotel yard.

Where did he go? - He jumped on to the boat and went down into the cabin.

Could you hear or see anything? - All was quite quiet for a few minutes.

After a few minutes when all was quiet, did you see or hear anything take place? - I saw Keeling put his head out of the boat.

Out of where? - Out of the hatchway.

Out of the cabin? - Yes. He put his head out of the hole where they come from the cabin on to the deck.

What then? - He said, "Come out, you b----".

Did he appear to be doing anything then? - He had his hands on either side of the hatchway, and his body appeared to be working as though he was kicking someone.

What did he do after that? - He got out himself.

Was anything said or done when he got out on to the deck? - Keeling said, "Come out, you b----", and I heard a man's voice say, "I can't."

Where did that voice come from? - From the cabin.

After you heard that voice say, "I can't", what then? - Keeling jumped down into the cabin.

Again? - Yes, again ; very furious.

Did you hear anything again after that? - The noise in the cabin was terrible.

Can you just describe what it was like? - Well, it was just like thumps and the clashing of fire irons – something dreadful.

Was there anything else? - Yes, there was some dreadful language.

What was the language? - It was shocking.

Was it cursing and swearing? - Yes.

How long did that sort of conduct continue? - About three or four minutes.

After that, what took place next? - Keeling got out of the boat.

Out of the boat? - Out of the cabin.

That was on to the deck? - Yes, on to the deck.

Yes? - And down on to the bank.

Did you see or hear him do anything further before he got on to the bank? - No.

When he got on to the deck, what did he say? - He said, "Come aht o' that, wi' tha".

Who was that to? - That was to the woman.

Well you can't say who it was to, but after he had said that, did anyone come out? - The woman came out and sat on the hatchway.

The Chairman : She was downstairs when these things were going on? Superintendent Crawshaw : Yes.

The Chairman : She has not said so.

Superintendent Crawshaw (to witness) : How was she sat on the hatchway? - She was sat on the hatchway with her legs hanging down.

Yes? - When she was sat like that, Keeling jumped down on the bank and appeared to be doing something in the water.

What was he doing? - I could not see.

You could not see him for the boat? - No, only his head.

While he was doing this in the water, did you hear him say anything? - He said to the woman, "Has ta a handkerchief?"

Did you see her give him a handkerchief? - I did not.

What did you see him do after that? - He jumped on to the deck again and went down into the cabin again.

How long would he be down in the cabin the second time? - He would be about five minutes.

Where was the woman at that time?

The Prisoner Keeling : Mind you don't lie ; you have told enough already.

Witness : The woman was laid on her face on the deck looking down into the cabin.

Superintendent Crawshaw : You say he remained down in the cabin about five minutes? - Yes.

Did you see him come up? - Yes, sir.

Did you see what took place when he did come up? - He jumped off the boat on to the bank, and said, "Come along, lass, let's hev tha off".

Who was he speaking to then? - The woman.

The woman is the woman Schofield? - Yes.

Did you hear him say anything else? - When he went down the bank there was another boat, and a man sat out on it, to whom Keeling said, "I have caught him".

That was to the other man - to the man who was sat out on the adjoining boat? - Yes.

He said what? - "I have caught him at last ; I have done for him ; I have given him something to go on with for three or four days".

The female prisoner : Tut, tut.

Was that said once or more than once? - He repeated it along the bank and all through the Bull Hotel yard, more or less.

Could you hear it? - Yes.

How far were you away? - Forty yards, as near as I can say.

How near would you be to him when you heard him repeat these words? - Forty yards.

But when you first heard him use the words? - Oh, I should only be about twenty yards away then.

And he repeated them until he got away forty yards from you? - Yes.

Did you see him again? - No.

Do you know the name of the boat? - The *Surprise*.

Do you know what kind of a boat it is? - Coal.

Do you know what it is used for? - Carrying coal.

Do you know who it belongs to? - Glovers, Bingley.

The Chairman (to witness) : Who do you say came first to the boat when this man went away?

Superintendent Crawshaw : I shall be able to show that later.

The Chairman (to male prisoner) : Have you any questions to ask the witness? - Yes.

Prisoner (to witness) : Did you see anyone else go on while I was away? - No.

Did you see me go back into the cabin after I got out the first time? - What?

Did you see me go back a second time and leave her (the female prisoner) on the bank? - Yes.

Well, why didn't you say so?

The Magistrates' Clerk (Mr B Curren Rawson) : She has said so.

Prisoner : She has not ; you can't find it. It says she was laid on the bank.

The Chairman : It is taken down, you know.

Prisoner (to witness) : How far is it across the canal from your door where you were? - I think it is about twenty feet.

Prisoner : The boats are fourteen feet, you know, and two can pass in front of your house, that makes it twenty feet for the water alone ; and then there is the bank, and me down the Bull Yard – you could not hear anything.

Female Prisoner (in a husky and almost inaudible voice) : Did you see me come on the bank, twice before dinner?

The Chairman : Speak up.

Female Prisoner (placing her hand on her throat) : I can't because my throat is sore.

The Serjeant in the dock was requested to repeat the question, and after Schofield had whispered something to him, the officer asked witness the question :

Did you see a man come on the boat, and did you hear her tell him to go away or else she would fetch a policeman? - No.

Schofield : Well, did you see a man “messaging about”? - No.

Prisoners having no further questions to put,

The Chairman asked Superintendent Crawshaw : How long do you want a remand for?

Superintendent Crawshaw : A week. The inquest will be opened tomorrow.

The Chairman (to the male prisoner) : Have you any reason to give why you should not be remanded for a week?

Prisoner : No, sir.

Prisoners were then formally remanded for a week, and immediately removed below.

THE INQUEST on the body of the murdered man was opened at four o'clock this (Friday) afternoon by Deputy Coroner Hill in the Council Chamber of the Manor House. A large crowd assembled in the vicinity of the court and the Police Station, in the hope of seeing the prisoners taken across, but in this they were disappointed, for only evidence of identification was taken. The jury is comprised of the following gentlemen :- Messrs Henry Dunn, Tom Townsend, J Mortimer, Anthony Dobson, Alexander George, Joseph Simpson, Leonard Burton, George Oddy, William Large, Uriah Horne, Walter Sheard, William Leach, Christopher Whitfield, Edward Lister, Thomas Cooper, and Jesse Robinson. Mr Dunn was chosen foreman of the jury.

Prior to swearing in the jury, the Coroner said : I may say before I swear you in that I propose on this occasion mainly to take evidence of identification of the body, and then adjourn the inquest until some day next week, such as Wednesday, to endeavour to take all evidence and close the inquest. I think Wednesday would be the most open day, and Mr Crawshaw wishes it to be concluded before the prisoners come before the magistrates next Thursday.

Mr Dunn : Will Tuesday do?

The Deputy Coroner : It will not suit me.

Mr George : A lot of tradesmen close and go away on Tuesday.

The jury then proceeded to view the body, and on their return, Martha Croft, widow of the deceased, was called.

The Deputy Coroner : Where do you live?

Witness : 18 Mary Street, Saltaire.

I believe you are the widow of the deceased? - Yes, sir.

What trade was he? - Quarryman – a stone dresser by trade.

What age was he? - Fifty last birthday.

When did you last see him alive? - On Sunday.

You did not live together? - No, sir.

You have seen the body in the mortuary? - Yes.

And that is the body of your husband? - Yes, poor body!

The witness, who had given her evidence under deep emotion, then completely broke down and sobbed bitterly.

This was all the evidence taken, and the inquiry was then adjourned till 10.30 on Wednesday morning.

112 6 August 1898

ONLY A JOKE **William Daker**, boatman, and Alfred Cockshott, labourer, both of Shipley, were brought up in custody at the Bradford West Riding Court on Thursday, charged with stealing three half gallon bottles, the property of Messrs Hollows and Fentiman, botanical brewers of Idle. Robert Hemington saw the men take the bottles off a cart at Thackley. Prisoners, who said they only did it for a joke, and took the bottles back, were discharged.

113 13 August 1898

THE SHIPLEY TRAGEDY

THE CORONER'S INQUEST

A VERDICT OF MANSLAUGHTER

THE GREEN EYED MONSTER At the Shipley District Council offices on Wednesday morning, Mr Deputy Coroner Hill resumed the inquiry into the circumstances attending the death of Joseph Croft, 50, quarryman of Windhill, whose dead body was found fearfully mutilated in the cabin of the coal barge the *Surprise*, lying in the Leeds and Liverpool Canal near Gallows Bridge, Shipley, on a charge of causing whose death **Peter Keeling**, boatman, and Martha Schofield, widow, are in custody. At the time fixed for the inquiry – half past ten – a crowd gathered outside the Council offices in blissful ignorance of the fact that, with a view to avoiding any public demonstration, the prisoners had been brought from Bradford in a cab by Inspector Turton and Detective Dunn, and taken to the room in which the inquest was to be held some time previously. Prisoners were accommodated with chairs, Keeling being handcuffed to Detective Dunn. He took a lively interest in the proceedings, conversed intermittently with his custodian, asked questions freely, albeit apparently perfectly indifferent to the seriousness of his position.

The jury consisted of the following gentlemen :- Messrs Henry Dunn, Tom Townsend, J Mortimer, Anthony Dobson, Alexander George, Joseph Simpson, Leonard Burton, George Oddy, William Large, Uriah Horne, Walter Sheard, William Leach, Christopher Whitfield, Edward Lister, Thomas Cooper, and Jesse Robinson. Mr Dunn was chosen foreman of the jury. County Alderman Dunn, who was chosen foreman of the jury at the last sitting, having been excused from the jury owing to an important public engagement in connection with the incorporation question, Mr Townsend was elected foreman.

As the jury were assembling, Keeling caught sight of Mr Tom Townsend, a member of the District and County Councils, who is prominently connected with the Saltaire Road Primitive Methodist Chapel. Keeling said, "Here's Mr Townsend, who used to be my Sunday School superintendent". Mr Townsend replied, "Yes, and I'm sorry to see you in this position". Keeling's rejoinder was, "And I'm sorry to be here too". Keeling then asked Mr Townsend for a cigar, and that gentleman having obtained the consent of the officers, handed him one, the prisoner remarking that he could smoke it as he went back to Bradford.

Anthony Dobson, photographer of Saltaire Road, Shipley, said he had taken photographs of the *Surprise*, whilst lying on the canal at Gallows Bridge, Shipley, on Thursday evening last.

Jane Whittingham, wife of John Whittingham, canal bank ranger, of 1 Canal House, Shipley, said that on Tuesday afternoon, the 2nd August, she was stood at the door of her house about three o'clock. At that time, she saw the woman Schofield sat on the boat, and Keeling on the bank. They appeared to be quarrelling, but witness could not hear what they said. After quarrelling for some

time, Keeling helped the woman on to the boat and into the cabin. Schofield appeared to be intoxicated.

Keeling : She's telling nowt but lies.

Superintendent Crawshaw : Don't interfere.

Keeling : If she tells the truth, that is all we want.

Superintendent Crawshaw : You must not interfere.

The Deputy Coroner : You will have an opportunity later.

Continuing, witness said that, after assisting the woman into the cabin, Keeling came out of the cabin, pulled the hatch over the entrance, and said, "Stop there a few minutes, I will soon be back."

Keeling then went off up the Bull Hotel yard. At about a quarter to four, witness again looked out and saw the hatch was off. Keeling came along the side of the boat and got down into the cabin of the *Surprise*. All was quiet for about two minutes, and then Keeling put his head out of the hatchway and said, "Come out, you b----". In answer to that, witness heard a voice say, "I can't".

Keeling then jumped down into the cabin again, and said, "I will make you". He was cross at the time. The noise after Keeling had entered the cabin was horrible – there was cursing and swearing, Keeling appeared to be kicking and thumping, and there was a noise as of fire irons being knocked about. This lasted about four minutes. Then Keeling came out of the cabin into the boat, and said to the woman, "Come out wi' tha". Schofield then came out and sat on the hatchway with her legs down the cabin. Keeling then jumped off the boat and appeared to be doing something in the water, as though he was washing his hands. Keeling then asked the woman for a handkerchief. Keeling then jumped on to the boat again, and after telling the woman to come off, he went again into the cabin and remained about four or five minutes, and then went away with the woman. Along the canal bank and going up the Bull yard, prisoner repeated to several persons, "I have caught him at last ; I have done him his job, and given him something to go on with for two or three days".

The Coroner (to Keeling) : Have you any questions to ask?

Keeling : Yes. (To witness) What made your daughter come to the door?

The Coroner : It will do you no good will a question of that sort.

Prisoner : But I want to know.

Witness : She said, "Mother, there's a man gone down into the cabin".

Did your daughter know it was not me? - Yes.

Did you hear her (Schofield) scream after that man got into the cabin? - No.

Keeling : You say you heard a man say, "I can't", who was so near dead as they say, and yet you could not hear her scream, 21 yards away, whilst I could hear her into the Bull Hotel yard?

Witness : I heard a man's voice say, "I can't", but I didn't hear any scream from the woman neither then nor at any other time.

Keeling : Didn't you see that man Croft there at dinner time? - No.

Did your daughters? - No.

The Jury : What time elapsed between your daughter seeing the man go down into the cabin and Keeling going down? - About a minute.

Had you seen Croft loitering about, waiting for Keeling to go away? - No.

You yourself did not see Croft go into the boat? - No.

You had not seen him in the vicinity of the boat previously? - No.

You saw no person go near or enter the boat after the hatch was lifted up but Keeling? - No.

Was Croft in the cabin when you came to the door? - Yes.

Did the noises begin as soon as Keeling went down into the cabin? - No, sir ; all was quiet for about two minutes.

Didn't there appear to be any conversation going on when Keeling got into the cabin first? - No ; not a word did I hear.

Ada Whittingham, daughter of the last witness, was next called. She said that on Tuesday afternoon, the 2nd instant, she was sewing upstairs about a quarter to four o'clock when, on looking out of the window, she saw the deceased Croft come along the canal bank and go down into the cabin of the *Surprise*. Prior to going into the cabin, he stood on the bank and called out something

which she could not hear. She heard no reply to the question. She then called to her mother, and about a quarter to four saw Keeling come out of the cabin. Witness then proceeded to corroborate the latter part of her mother's evidence.

Keeling : How long would it be from Croft going into the cabin until you started your work again?
- I started my work directly.

Did you see me go on to the boat? - No.

Would it be a minute or more? - No, it would be bout a minute.

Keeling : You ma says it was more than a minute.

The Foreman : Had you seen Croft before that day? - No, sir.

A Juror : Were you looking out, expecting someone going on to the boat? - I don't know that I was.

Another Juror : Did you hear any call or scream after Croft had gone down into the cabin? - No.

No cry nor noise of any kind? - No, sir.

William Higgins, gas works labourer of 2 Leeds Road, Windhill, said : On Tuesday afternoon, the 2nd inst, I was on the canal bank about half past four, and saw Keeling come to the top of the Bull Hotel yard. He asked me if I had seen his missus, and I told him I had seen her about half an hour before at the bottom of the Gallows Bridge. He then went down the Bull yard, and said, "I will show tha what I will do for her when I get hold of her". I followed him down the Bull yard on to the canal bank, and saw him jump into the cabin. As soon as he got into the cabin, he appeared to commence kicking and thumping.

Superintendent Crawshaw : Did you hear any words he said?

Witness : As soon as he got into the cabin, I heard him say, "I will do for you, you b-----". Keeling was down in the cabin for about five minutes and then came out with his hands covered with blood. After washing his hands in the canal, he went back again into the cabin, but there was no further noise. This time he stayed in the cabin about five minutes and then came out again, followed by the woman. Together they came up the Bull yard and the male prisoner called out something to the landlady which I did not catch. Keeling then came up to me and said, "Has ta seen Jos, Billy?" meaning the deceased. I said no, whereupon Keeling said, "He is in the cabin if tha wants to see him". A man came out of the side door of the Bull at the same time, to whom Keeling called out, "I have done for him, he is in the cabin if you want to see him". I stood at the top of the Bull yard, but hearing that Keeling had killed a man, I followed him and saw him go into the Fox and Hounds. Then I went and informed the police.

Keeling : Did you hear anything about Croft until dinner time that day, when you were in the Bull Hotel? - I didn't get up until dinner time, but whilst in the Bull Hotel I did not hear anything about Croft.

The Foreman : Was Keeling sober? - He was slightly fresh, and so was the woman.

Mr Horne : Do you say that the threats Keeling made were towards his "missus"? - Yes.

He didn't mention that he was going to do for any other person? - No.

Had you any idea when you heard the noise that there was being a man killed in the cabin? - No.

You simply thought Keeling was thrashing his wife? - Yes.

Mr Mortimer : When Keeling spoke to you there, did you hear any scream proceed from the boat?
- No, sir, I didn't.

Did you judge from what he said that he had killed somebody? - I didn't until someone told me.

Keeling : There was a laden boat next to ours? - Yes.

Was there anyone else sat there? - Yes.

Did you hear me say anything to him? - No.

Mr Mortimer : When you heard the scuffle going on, did it occur to you that there was a murder going on? - No, I thought he was only thrashing his wife.

You thought you had no need to interfere? - No.

When he came out of the cabin, did you notice anything in his hands? - No, sir.

Did he throw anything over the boat? - I saw him throw nothing.

To the best of your knowledge, he came out empty handed? - Yes.

His hands were simply covered with blood? - Yes.

Previous to that, had you seen Keeling moving up and down the bank? - No, sir, I had not.

John William Wright, boathand of 22 Piccadilly, Shipley, said he saw Keeling on the Tuesday morning. The prisoner promised to give him a job in connection with the unloading of a boat named *Ben* in the afternoon. Witness unloaded the boat at Lower Holme Mills, and on returning to Gallows Bridge about half past four, he saw Keeling, who said, "Is my face mucky, John Willie?" Witness replied, "No, but it's full of blood". Keeling asked him to wipe it off, and witness did so with a handkerchief which Keeling produced from his pocket. Keeling then went down the Bull yard, meanwhile wiping blood off his hands. He called out to the landlady, Mrs Wood, "I've left him there now for three or four days". Subsequently, owing to a rumour that a murder had been committed on one of the boats, witness looked into the cabin of the *Surprise*, and saw Croft's dead body.

A Juror : Did Keeling say to you what was the cause of the blood being on his face? - No, sir.

Keeling : Was there anyone else sat on one of the adjoining boats as I went past? - Yes.

Who? - Willie Dacre.

Didn't it look as though my nose had been bleeding with all that blood about? - No.

Mr Horne : You didn't ask him where the blood came from? - No, sir.

Didn't you think about it? - No, sir.

You didn't think he had been having a fight, did you? - No, sir.

His clothes were not loose, as though he had been fighting? - No, sir.

Did you notice any blood on his coat? - No, sir.

When you wiped Keeling's face, did you notice any scratches on him at all? - No.

He bore no marks at all? - No, sir.

The Coroner : Was he sober? - Well, I don't think he was quite sober at the time.

Alice Wood, landlady of the Bull Hotel, Shipley, said she knew the deceased Croft very well. On Tuesday afternoon about four, Keeling came to the door of the hotel and said to witness, "Is Sarena in?" Witness explained that "Sarena" was the woman with whom Croft (the deceased) lived. Witness told him the woman was not in the Hotel, and Keeling said, "Tell her I've left him all right, and she has to fetch him". The woman Sarena was charwoman for witness, and deceased was at the house in the morning of that day helping her with her work. He was quite sober.

By Superintendent Crawshaw : Soon after the conversation I had had with Keeling, I went on to the boat *Surprise*, and found Croft lying in the cabin in a pool of blood.

The Coroner : Do you know whether there had been any jealousy between Keeling and this Croft about the woman Schofield? - Well, I heard Keeling say that Croft had been in the cabin with this woman in the morning.

Where was Keeling at the time? - In the dram shop, quarrelling with Croft.

A Juror : Did Croft deny having been to the boat? - Yes, Croft did deny it.

The Foreman : Did Keeling threaten Croft in any way when they were talking this matter over? - No.

Mr Horne : They simply talked it over, Croft denied it, and they then let the matter drop? - Yes.

Have they been at variance before? - I don't know.

William Rider, waiter at the Bull Hotel, spoke to seeing Keeling in the hotel yard about a quarter past four. They had some conversation, and witness asked him what he had done. Keeling replied, "I've left him all right, and if he isn't right I'll make him right". Keeling then turned to Schofield and said, "Come on, ---- 'em". Witness afterwards looked into the cabin and saw the dead body of the deceased.

Keeling did not ask this witness any questions.

A Juror : Have you ever heard any quarrelling between Croft and Keeling? - No, sir.

Constable Isaac Ross then gave evidence as to the apprehension of the prisoner Peter Keeling at the Fox and Hounds Hotel.

The Coroner : Did you tell him why you apprehended him? - Not then, sir. I took him to the top of the Market Place, where I handed him over to Inspector Turton. Then I went on to Briggate and

apprehended the woman Schofield in Piccadilly. Afterwards I went to the canal boat *Surprise*, and found Croft's body lying in the bottom of the cabin in a pool of blood. Witness afterwards described in detail the ghastly scene in the cabin of the *Surprise*. At 8.30 pm the same night, he charged the prisoners with causing the death of Joseph Croft between 3 and 4.30 pm that day. After being cautioned, Keeling replied, "If the ---- isn't dead he ought to be ; he should have kept off our Martha". Schofield answered, "Pete went to his work this morning between eight and nine. Croft came about eleven. He went away and came back at about half past three. Pete followed in half a minute. They began quarrelling and fighting. I left the boat and went away with Pete to the Fox. Pete got a pint of beer ; he ordered me a glass of porter. Before I supped, the police came and took Pete away"

Keeling : Didn't you fetch me out two hours after I had been locked up and ask me if I had got sober yet?

Witness : No.

By the Coroner : Prisoners were not sober, but appeared to know what they were doing.

INTERVIEW BETWEEN PRISONER AND HIS FATHER At one o'clock, the Coroner announced his intention of adjourning the inquest for an hour for luncheon. The crowd which had assembled in the vicinity of the Manor House had by this time been considerably augmented, and evinced much curiosity as to the finding of the Jury. When it became known that the proceedings were likely to continue for some time, and that a considerable period would elapse before the prisoners were brought out, some disappointment was expressed, but still the crowd did not disperse. During the luncheon interval, Keeling's father – an aged man, with sunken features and a flowing grey beard, who has for years been an inmate of the workhouse at Clayton – sought an interview with his son, and the old man's wish was gratified. The conversation turned mostly on the crime, which the prisoner spoke of with a tinge of brutal bravado. The father, although he had himself undergone two terms of penal servitude, appeared to be much affected by his son's position. Just before the resumption of the proceedings, the two shook hands, the old man, in bidding his son goodbye, making anxious inquiries as to when he might be able to see his son again. Inspector Turton said the prisoner would be taken to Bradford on the following day, and told his father to come to Bradford then. The elder Keeling said he was not sure that he would be allowed out of the workhouse again. Inspector Turton remarked that from Bradford, prisoner would be taken to Wakefield. The elder Keeling : "Aye, and then to Leeds". The Prisoner Keeling : "Aye ; and then where?" The interview then terminated, and

THE INQUEST WAS RESUMED Inspector Turton said that about twenty minutes to 5 o'clock on the Tuesday afternoon, he received the prisoner Keeling into custody. He found stains of blood on the prisoner's boots, shirt and trousers. He took possession of these articles, and now produced them. Witness went down to Gallows Bridge and searched the boat *Surprise*, finding the poker now produced. On Saturday night last, he measured the distance from the hatchway of the *Surprise* to the house door of the bank ranger, and found it to be 21 yards. From the house door to the steps leading to the Bull yard, it was 28 yards, and from the steps to the hatchway 29 yards. Neither of the prisoners was quite sober when taken into custody, but both understood what was said to them.

A Juror : Were there blood stains on the poker? - Yes, but I don't know how they came there. It was lying on the floor, and the place was more like a slaughterhouse than anything else.

Keeling requested that the poker should be handed round to the jury, in order that they might see whether the discolouration was blood or rust.

Inspector Turton said it was blood originally.

The prisoner Schofield said the poker belonged to the cabin.

The Coroner : It might be as well if the prisoner Schofield gave evidence. If she is willing to give evidence, I think she can do so at this stage.

THE FEMALE PRISONER EXPRESSED HER WILLINGNESS TO GIVE EVIDENCE and after being cautioned that anything she said might be used against her, she deposed : My name is Martha Schofield, and I am the widow of Joseph Schofield, wire drawer of Halifax, who to the best of my belief is dead. His parents kept the Church Tavern.

The Coroner : You have heard what has been said about this business in the cabin? - Yes.
Will you tell us exactly what took place? - Yes. On Tuesday afternoon about 4 o'clock, I was asleep in bed alone, when the deceased came into the cabin. He awakened me by jumping down through the hatchway. At first I thought it was Keeling, but I afterwards found it was Croft, and screamed.

The Coroner : How long was he there before Keeling came in? - About two minutes.
What took place between them? - Witness said that as soon as Croft got down into the cabin, he said, "It is me come back, it is not Pete". He then made an improper remark. Just then, Keeling leaped down into the cabin, and said, "I have caught thee now, haven't I?"

The Coroner : What did the deceased do then? - Croft said, "Then it's me and thee for it".
And then? - He struck Pete first with his fist, and then they into it.
And Keeling struck back? - Yes.
And then they had a tussle for some minutes on the floor of the cabin? - Yes, by the fire irons.
Keeling used his feet, didn't he? - No, neither of them.
Neither of them kicked? - No.
Was that poker used? - I never saw anything used by either of them.
Was it all done by the fist? - Yes.
Will you swear that? - Yes.
You have seen Croft's body? - Yes.
Well, there's a great dent in the forehead? - He was down when I got out of bed. I was in bed all the time they were fighting.
However, in the long run, Croft got the worst of it? - Well, he must have done, seemingly.
Did he appear to be dead when you got up? - No, he didn't. I told Keeling to lift Croft up, and he said, "He will get up himself and go home".
I suppose he bled a good deal? - Yes, both their hands were covered with blood.
Yes, but where did the blood come from? - I don't know. They were both on the floor twice – once among some pans in the corner.
Have you a fender with a sharp edge? - We haven't a fender. We've an ashpan. It has a sharp edge, as has the rim of the grate.
Do you think one of their heads was knocked against these? - I don't know. Both of them might have been.
A hammer being shown to witness, she said it belonged to the boat and was kept in the coal locker.
Was it used by either Keeling or Croft this day? - I never saw either of them use anything but their fists.

Superintendent Crawshaw : Might there have been something used without you seeing it? - Well, there might, but I don't see how.
Witness then detailed her movements on the day in question, stating that Croft had visited her twice previously in the cabin that day.
Superintendent Crawshaw : Was there anything done to the deceased by anyone but Pete? - There was only me and Pete down in the cabin, besides Croft, and I never lifted a hand to him.
Then whatever was done to him must have been done by Keeling? - Yes.

The Coroner : You are quite sure Croft struck the first blow? - Yes, he did.

A Juryman : Is there anything in the statement that Keeling called Croft up out of the cabin of the boat, and as deceased put his head up, commenced kicking him right and left with his feet? - No.
You saw nothing but fair fighting? - No, I am sure I did not.

PC Ross, recalled, said that when he removed the body from the cabin, he noticed that deceased's clothing was disarranged.
PC Hodge said that at twenty minutes past seven on the night of the tragedy, he found a half faced hammer in the water at the place where Keeling is said to have washed his hands. There were blood stains on it.

Dr D'Arcy Bainbridge Carter said : I made a *post mortem* examination of the deceased, Joseph Croft, 48 hours after the time of death. I found him to be a well nourished, muscular man, probably

fifty years of age. There were no marks of violence on the trunk or lower parts of the body, all the injuries being confined to the portion above the neck. On the right side of the face, I found 15 contused wounds, irregular in shape and varying in size from 1/2in to 1 3/4in. On the left side of the face there were ten similar wounds, and there were fractures of the nasal bones on both sides. Over the left eye there was a wound 1 1/2 inches in length, and commencing at the root of the nose was another 1 3/4 inches in length. The latter ran in an oblique direction, and exposed a compound fracture of the skull. On the back of the head there were ten wounds, and another depressed fracture of the skull was apparent. Witness described the whole of the injuries minutely.

The Coroner : What would be likely to cause the injuries? - Heavy blows.

By feet or hands? - I don't think hands could cause the wounds. Each of the fractures of the skull was sufficient to cause death.

Would a kick from the boots worn by the prisoner be likely to cause these fractures? - The one over the eye might have been caused by a kick. All the fractures on the right side were produced by one blow, and it must have been a very hard blow delivered with great violence.

Superintendent Crawshaw : Would a blow from this hammer (produced) do it? - Yes.

Assuming that they were struggling, and the man's head caught against the rib of the fireplace, would that be sufficient to cause the injury? - I hardly think it would.

The Coroner : Supposing he was dashed with great violence against the fireplace? - I think it might.

Was it more likely to have been caused by an act of that sort or a deliberate blow? I think it is more likely to have been a deliberate blow.

And with something more than a fist? - Oh, I think so!

Keeling : Do you think that a man my weight, 12 stone 9 lb, falling on another 18 stone in weight, would be sufficient to cause these injuries to the lower one if the ashpan was beneath? - I don't think it would.

Keeling : That weight would cause a harder blow than a man like me could ever give? - Well, I can't answer that.

This was the whole of the evidence.

The Coroner, in summing up, said it was quite clear that the deceased had been done to death by some means or other, and he thought it was equally clear that the means were used by the man Keeling. But it was a question whether it was done wilfully with a view to killing the man – in that case it would be a verdict of murder against him – or whether he had received such provocation, and the jealous feelings which evidently actuated him caused him to attack this man and perhaps go rather farther than he intended to do, with the result that he caused his death, in which case it would be manslaughter. His own view inclined to the latter theory. It seemed to him from the evidence that the prisoner Keeling was jealous of the unfortunate man Croft, who did not seem to have been too estimable a character, and found him in his cabin under circumstances which might lead to just suspicion of some impropriety going on. The woman says she screamed, and as he understood it Keeling rather alleges – he had not said so, because his mouth was closed against giving evidence – that she screamed, but no one seems to have heard it unless Keeling heard it. Mrs Whittingham, the first witness, did not hear it, and they had gathered from the photographs and distances that she would have a good opportunity of seeing anything that took place. This witness had given them a very straight and connected account of what had actually taken place, and he could not do better than read to them a little of her evidence. The Coroner then proceeded to review the evidence at length, with reference to the story of the noise coming from the cabin whilst Keeling and Croft were in together. He said that this cabin was a very small confined place, and there was, he understood, a sort of stove in the middle, and they could not fight or struggle without knocking up against it, which might account for the sound of the fire irons. Proceeding, he said that although there were slight and immaterial discrepancies in the evidence, the main facts were there. In French law, if a man was found with another man's wife, the husband was justified, he believed, in shooting him ; and although the English law did not go so far as that, it would go so far, under such circumstances, and with the jealousy existing which had been deposed to by the landlady, as to reduce the crime

from murder to manslaughter.

The jury, after deliberating in private for over an hour, returned a verdict of manslaughter against the male prisoner Keeling, who was committed for trial upon the Coroner's warrant. The jury did not include Schofield in their verdict.

The proceedings occupied six hours, and did not conclude until just before half past five.

AFTER THE VERDICT News of the verdict which had been returned by the jury was soon noised abroad, with the result that the crowd which had stood about the Manor House more or less all day assumed much greater dimensions, until it became considerable. Some half hour or so was occupied by the Coroner in getting the depositions signed by the several witnesses, who were bound over in the usual way to appear and give evidence at the trial of the accused at the next Assizes for the County. During this time, the two prisoners sat in a corner of the room to the right of the Coroner – Schofield appearing blithe and light-hearted, and Keeling looking as though a great weight had been taken off his mind by the verdict of “Manslaughter”. He had been heard to remark, “I don't care if I escape the gallows”, and when the verdict was given, it obviously had a pleasant effect on him, for he conversed at intervals with Detective Dunn, to whom he was handcuffed and who sat between the two prisoners, for Schofield, although acquitted by the Coroner's Clerk, had yet to appear before the magistrates on the following day and was therefore still kept in custody. The woman's hair was still unkempt and untidy – which showed unmistakably how low her self esteem had fallen – and the general appearance of the two prisoners was pretty much the same as when they were up at Bradford last week. The legal formalities having been completed, the prisoners were taken downstairs to a cab which was in waiting in Manor Lane, and before they were safely lodged therein they had been noticed by the crowd, and loud and pretty general groans rent the air, and spoke of the way in which Keeling would have been dealt with if the crowd had had their way. As soon as possible, the cab was driven rapidly along Manor Lane and forward to the West Riding Gaol at Bradford, a supposition of the crowd that the police were merely taking a circuitous route to the Midland Railway Station being thus proved to be ill founded, but many who had thought that to be so were disappointed at not getting a glimpse of the notorious prisoners.

PRISONER KEELING COMMITTED FOR TRIAL ON THE CAPITAL CHARGE

THE WOMAN SCHOFIELD DISCHARGED Yesterday (Thursday) morning at the Bradford West Riding Court – before Dr Ellis (in the chair), Mr C B Shaw, Mr W Croft, Mr J Craven and other magistrates – the prisoners were again brought up charged with causing the death of Joseph Croft. The court was crowded, but by the transfer of the case to the second court, the majority of those present were disappointed. As on the former occasion, Keeling displayed a callous indifference to his position, but hardly showed so much interest in the proceedings. The evidence was practically the same as that given at the inquest, and already fully reported.

Superintendent Crawshaw, in opening the case, said : First of all, I offer no evidence against the female prisoner, and I ask your worships to discharge her. I intend to put her into the box.

The Deputy Magistrates' Clerk : Let Schofield be discharged.

Schofield was accordingly set at liberty.

Superintendent Crawshaw then proceeded to briefly state the nature of the charge. He said it appeared that Keeling had a suspicion that something was wrong on the boat of which he was second in charge, and where he had been living with the woman who had just been discharged as man and wife, and on going to the boat he found Croft there with the woman. What took place there he did not know, but with no hesitation prisoner set on to Croft and finished him, and by kicking or something did him to death. There were only the three persons in the cabin at the time, therefore the woman was the only eye witness to what took place ; and although she did not know much, or would say but little, he intended to call her and let her tell her own story. The other evidence would be clear and conclusive, especially that of the doctor, who would be able to tell, beyond any question or doubt, that there had been something used beyond hands, which the woman said were the only things used. After they had heard that evidence, he thought they would have no doubt in their own minds as to the cause of the man's death.

Anthony Dobson, photographer of Shipley, produced photographs of the scene of the tragedy.

John Henry Woodhead of Wrose Hill, Shipley, surveyor, said he had prepared plans of the fore cabin and fore deck elevation, which he now produced.

Mrs Whittingham, whose evidence was taken at the previous hearing on Thursday, was allowed to amend her evidence. She said that with reference to the distance of her house from the boat, when she said twenty feet she meant twenty yards.

Ada Whittingham spoke of seeing a man whom she subsequently ascertained to be Croft go to the boat, and also of seeing Keeling depart with the woman Schofield.

William Higgins recited the story of Keeling's movements before and after the tragedy on Feast Tuesday. Just after he had seen Keeling come off the boat, a man came running up to him (witness) and said Keeling had killed Croft.

Superintendent Crawshaw : You must not say that ; prisoner did not hear it.

Keeling : He will put it down if you don't contradict him.

The Superintendent (to prisoner) : We simply wish to do fair to you.

At the conclusion of this witness's evidence,

The Chairman asked prisoner if he had any questions to ask.

Keeling : No, sir. I beg your pardon, gentlemen, but I should like to say a word to you.

The Chairman : You must only ask questions ; you must not make a statement. You will have every opportunity after.

John William Wright, who had been working for Keeling on the morning of Feast Tuesday, testified to wiping the blood off prisoner's face at his request.

Alice Wood, landlady of the Bull Hotel, enlightened the Court as to the jealousy which existed between the two men, as evidenced by their quarrelling in her house in the morning.

William Ryder, waiter at the Bull Hotel, said that after Keeling had said he had left Croft all right in the cabin, he (witness) went to the cabin and saw the deceased lying in a pool of blood.

Superintendent Crawshaw : Was he dead? - I thought he was.

Keeling : Did you get down into the cabin and see whether he was dead? - No.

You could not see so well from the top, could you?

The Chairman : That is a statement ; you must not make statements, just ask questions.

Keeling : That's all.

Something like a flutter of expectation pervaded the Court when, in response to the call of the Superintendent, the woman Schofield was placed in the witness box. Her story varied but little from that told before the Coroner's jury. She said she was a native of Halifax, but at present had no fixed abode other than the cabin on the boat *Surprise* in which the tragic occurrence took place. She was at Goole for some time, and from there went to Leeds, where she had a married sister living.

Superintendent Crawshaw : Where did you first see Keeling? - In Goole.

How long ago? - About fifteen months ago.

Continuing, witness said she afterwards saw the prisoner in Leeds on Primrose Day, since when she had been living in the boat *Surprise* with him as man and wife. Witness then proceeded to relate the movements of herself and Pete on the day of the tragedy, and repeated her version of what took place in the cabin when Keeling encountered Croft. The hammer and the poker were produced, and she identified both articles as belonging to the cabin of the *Surprise*.

Prisoner : You didn't see any of these things used? - No.

Constable Ross spoke of arresting the prisoners, and described the finding of the mutilated body of the deceased.

Inspector Turton described the appearance of the cabin after the tragedy as just like a slaughterhouse. He also produced Keeling's bloodstained boots and clothing.

Constable Hodge deposed as to the finding of the hammer, and

Dr Carter described in detail the terrible nature of the injuries inflicted upon the deceased. The heavy boots worn by the prisoner were likely to have caused the injury over the left eye, which was sufficient in itself to cause death. The hammer produced was a likely weapon with which the other injuries might have been caused.

Keeling : You looked in the cabin, didn't you? - Yes.

You saw the corn kist with a sharp corner, and the fireplace and the other things about? - Yes.

Do you think he might have got these injuries from falling against these? - Yes, some of them.

The magistrates then retired to consider their decision. After an absence of half an hour, they returned, and Keeling was then formally charged that he did wilfully and with malice aforethought kill and murder Joseph Croft.

The Chairman : Having heard the evidence, do you wish to say anything in answer to the charge?

You are not obliged to say anything unless you so desire, but you are clearly to understand that you have nothing to fear from any threat which may have been holden out to you, and nothing to hope from any promise of favour which may have been holden out to you to induce you to make any admission or confession of your guilt, but that whatever you say may be taken down in writing and given in evidence against you at your trial. Have you anything to say?

Keeling : No, sir.

The Chairman : Keeling, you are committed to take your trial at the next Assizes, to be holden at Leeds, on a charge of

WILFUL MURDER

Prisoner was then removed to the cells below, in charge of two officers. A large crowd collected within the precincts of the courthouses in the hope of seeing Keeling removed to the railway station en route to Wakefield Gaol, where he will be confined until the Assizes. The police, however, cleared the courtyard, and prisoner was quietly removed later in the evening.

THE FUNERAL OF CROFT In the presence of a large and sympathetic concourse of spectators, the remains of Joseph Croft, the victim of the Shipley tragedy, were interred in Nab Wood Cemetery on Saturday afternoon. Early in the morning, the remains of the deceased had been removed from the public mortuary to the home of his wife, 18 Mary Street, Saltaire, and here, prior to the departure for the cemetery, a short notice was conducted by the Rev J Pollitt, Wesleyan Minister, Croft having formerly for some years been a member of the Wesleyan denomination. The route to the cemetery was lined with spectators, and the sight at the graveside was an impressive one. The chief mourners were deceased's wife and two sons, and preceding the cortege were a number of members of the Trinity Lodge of Oddfellows (of which Lodge the deceased had been a member for thirty years), and several of deceased's fellow workmen. The Rev J Pollitt officiated at the graveside. The general excellence of the funeral arrangements was a worthy tribute of the widow to the memory of her deceased husband.

114 20 August 1898

WEST RIDING COURT, BRADFORD, MONDAY

THE DRY WEATHER Together with the excessive heat we have recently been experiencing, coupled with the Feast festivities, probably accounts for the following : **George Kendall**, boatman, Shipley, Charles Turner, labourer, Windhill and William Webster, labourer, Thackley, were each fined 12s 6d for being drunk and disorderly.

115 17 September 1898

Annette Kendall, aged five months, daughter of **Thornton Kendall**, boatman of 14 Hargreaves Street, Bradford Arms, Shipley, died suddenly on Sunday morning. The child was taken to bed with its parents at one o'clock on Sunday morning, and at six its mother found it dead by her side. The Coroner has been informed of the circumstances, but does not consider an inquest necessary.

116 1 October 1898

WEST RIDING COURT, BRADFORD, YESTERDAY

DOG CASE **Tom Stead**, boatman, Shipley, was fined 5s and costs for a breach of the muzzling order.

117 8 October 1898

WEST RIDING COURT, BRADFORD

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE CASES **Jonathan Colman**, boatman, Shipley, who did not appear, was charged on two separate summonses with disobeying school attendance orders. Mr Walter Popplestone, clerk, appeared for the Shipley School Board, and said that the Leeds School Board had transferred the responsibility of looking after these children to the Shipley School Board. Mr Frederick Holmes, school attendance officer, said **Annie Colman**, daughter of the defendant, was seven years of age and in the Infants' Department. During the past 12 weeks she had made but 66 attendances out of a possible 114, and since the order was made in July last she had only made two full weeks. He had seen the parents, and the only excuse offered was that they took the child away with them on the boat. They did not allege that the child attended school anywhere else. A fine of 5s, including costs, was imposed. The second charge against the defendant was in respect of his son **Walter** who, the officer stated, was six years of age and also in the Infants' Department. The boy had not attended school for the past four weeks, and since the making of the order had made but 49 out of a possible 114 attendances. The Chairman : Worse than the other ; and no better excuse given? The Attendance Officer : No. The Chairman : It is an unfortunate thing for the man, but it is more unfortunate still for the children if they don't get education. Fined 5s.

118 17 December 1898

THE SHIPLEY TRAGEDY

A DEATH STRUGGLE IN THE CABIN

THE PSEUDO AVENGER OF HIS PARAMOUR GETS TEN YEARS The last act of the sanguinary tragedy which cast a mantle of horror o'er the Shipley festivities in August was enacted at the Yorkshire Assizes at Leeds on Tuesday, when – before Mr Justice Channell and a jury – **Peter Keeling**, boatman of Shipley, was indicted for the manslaughter of Joseph Croft, quarryman, at Shipley. The sordid details of the crime will still be fresh in the minds of our readers, and the only new feature in Tuesday's trial was the evidence given by the prisoner in his own behalf. Keeling, who during the past few months has been confined in Armley Gaol, has altered but little during his incarceration. If anything, he looked a little paler and more careworn, but although he followed the evidence with a show of interest, he evinced the same callous indifference during the hearing as has characterised his demeanour throughout. He was dressed in the same brown coat, greasy waistcoat and grey trousers as worn when before the magistrates, but wore, in addition, a red kerchief round his neck. During the proceedings a somewhat touching incident occurred. The woman Schofield, with whom Keeling had cohabited, attended to give evidence, but contrasting strangely with her dilapidated and slatternly appearance at the coroner's and the magisterial inquiries, she was now attired in a showy costume of fawn cloth, and wore a new fur boa and a headdress and fall which might have been the envy of the female element who thronged the gallery of the Court. Prisoner showed signs of surprise at the unwonted transformation. Going round from the dock to the witness box to give evidence, "Pete" chanced to meet his former paramour in the corridor, and despite the vigilance of the police, he embraced her passionately and kissed her repeatedly. After giving his evidence, he again met Schofield, who had lingered in his wake, but this time the police paid such close attention to him as precluded the possibility of a further effusive demonstration, and "Pete" had only just time to say, with a wave of the hand and in tones tinged with sorrow, "Good bye, lass", ere he was hurried back into the dock. Mr J G Banks and Mr R Edmondson appeared for the prosecution, and prisoner was defended by Mr Harold Newall. The indictment having been read over, in a firm voice prisoner pleaded not guilty.

Mr Banks, in opening the case for the prosecution, said the charge against the prisoner was one of manslaughter. The facts were very simple, although there would in all probability be a large number of witnesses called before the case was completed. The prisoner and a woman named Schofield were living as man and wife on the boat *Surprise*, which on the 2nd August was lying in the canal at Shipley. About four o'clock in the afternoon, Joseph Croft – who had been there before in the afternoon, also in the morning – was in the boat, in the fore cabin. He was found there by the

prisoner, and an affray took place between them in which Joseph Croft received injuries from which he died. He was left in the cabin, and subsequently was found dead in a pool of blood. After the occurrence, the prisoner and the woman Schofield went to a public house, where the prisoner stated to several persons that he had given this man enough to go on with for a few days. He also told the charwoman with whom Croft lived that if she wanted to find him, she would find him in the cabin. Prisoner, asked if Croft was dead, said that if he was not he ought to be, as he should have kept off Martha. Whether prisoner's killing of Croft was justifiable, or whether it was in self defence or anything of that kind -

His Lordship : I don't think there should be any such question.

Mr Banks : Justification is their only defence – no such question, I think, should arise in this case.

His Lordship : Certainly not.

Mr Banks, continuing, said that the medical testimony was important. The doctor would tell them that on the head of Croft there were 15 wounds, several of which were sufficient to cause death alone. In the cabin were a poker and a hammer, and subsequently the hammer was found in two feet of water in the canal, between the boat and the canal side.

Evidence was then taken.

Anthony Dobson proved the photographs of the scene of the tragedy.

John Henry Woodhead, architect and surveyor, gave evidence as to the dimensions and furniture of the fore cabin of the boat.

Jane Whittingham of Canal House, Shipley, retold the story of the prisoner coming to the boat, the horrible noise which followed, and the departure of Keeling and Schofield from the boat.

The cross-examination of this witness by Mr Newall was directed to get Mrs Whittingham to admit that for several minutes after Keeling went into the cabin on the second occasion, and prior to the time when he asked someone to come out, there was absolute quietness.

His Lordship having frequently drawn counsel's attention to the fact that she had not said so, stopped him with the remark – Is there any use telling you that you must not misrepresent the evidence?

Further cross-examined by Mr Newall, witness said she saw nothing in prisoner's hands when he came out of the cabin.

Ada Whittingham gave evidence similar to that of her mother. Cross-examined by Mr Newall, she said she did not hear a noise. She saw prisoner come out of the cabin, but did not notice that he had anything in his hand, nor did she see him throw anything away.

William Higgins, labourer of 2 Leeds Road, Windhill, deposed to hearing Keeling say, “I will do for you, you ----”, and after a horrible noise, saw him come out of the cabin with his hands covered with blood, which he washed off in the canal.

Cross-examined by Mr Newall, Higgins said that the noise began as soon as Keeling got into the cabin.

John William Wright, labourer of 22 Piccadilly, Shipley, said he saw Keeling come out of the cabin. Prisoner asked him whether his face was clean, and witness replied that it was covered with blood. Prisoner asked him to wipe it off, which he did, and then noticed that there were no marks or scratches on him.

Alice Wood, landlady of the Bull Hotel, and William Ryder of 5 Princess Street, Windhill, spoke as to Keeling coming to the hotel and asking them to tell Serenna (the woman with whom Croft lived) that he “had left Croft all right yonder” (in the cabin).

Martha Schofield described the meeting between prisoner and deceased in the cabin. The version differed slightly from that given before the magistrates. Croft, she said, struck Pete first, and the two commenced to fight. When she and Keeling left the cabin, Croft was sat upon a locker, and had just asked for a drink of water, for which she told him to go home. He was never touched after that.

Cross-examined by Mr Newall : How long was the struggle going on? - Not many minutes.

Did either you or Keeling go back to the barge after you left Croft sitting? - No.

Was anything thrown away? - No ; I never saw anything at all.

Were fire irons, or the hammer, or anything of that sort used in the scuffle or struggle on the floor?

- No, sir.

Were they bumping about all over the floor of the cabin? - Yes.

His Lordship : Someone, I suppose, is going to ask her about her previous statement as to how Croft was left?

Mr Banks : I will ; (to witness) : Did you say before the magistrates that when you left the deceased man, he was sitting all right in the cabin? - Yes, he was.

Did you tell the magistrates that? - Yes.

That when you left the boat the man was alive? - Yes.

Did he appear to have any wound on him? - They were both on the floor.

Could you tell whether he had been hit on the head or not? - No.

What condition were you in as regards drink? - Well, I was not sober, sir.

Were you lying on the deck or did you roll over? - No, sir.

Your recollection of what occurred is perhaps not perfectly clear? - Yes, sir.

Of what occurred in the cabin? - Yes.

You were awakened suddenly out of your sleep, and you were in liquor? - Yes.

His Lordship (reading from the depositions) : This is the passage I was thinking of : "Croft got the worst of it, but I did not think he was dead when I left the cabin. I asked Keeling to lift him out, and he said he would get out himself and go home". Did you say that?

Witness : Yes.

Is it correct? - Yes, sir.

You don't say he was sitting up all right when I left him, but that I did not think he was dead when I left the cabin? - No, because he spoke to me and asked me for a drink of water. He could not be dead then.

His Lordship : No, I should think he would not.

Mr Newall (to witness) : Before you made that statement, were you asked if you thought he was dead? - Yes.

It was in answer to that question you said that, and not a statement of your own? - No.

His Lordship : You didn't answer that he was sitting up on the bench and asked you for water? - No.

Mr Newell : Did you later before the Coroner say he was sat on the seat? - Yes.

His Lordship : It is not on the depositions.

Constable Isaac Ross spoke to apprehending Keeling and Schofield, and said the prisoner bore no marks.

Constable Joseph Hodge described the finding of the hammer, which was apparently covered with blood.

Cross-examined by Mr Newall : Have you had the hammer examined by anyone – any expert – to say whether it was covered with blood or not? - No.

But to your eyes it appeared to be blood? - Yes. It was all clotted round the head.

His Lordship : Has it been cleaned? - No ; only dried.

Inspector Joseph Turton produced the poker and the boots worn by the prisoner, both of which were bloodstained.

Dr D'Arcy Bainbridge Carter described the deceased man's injuries.

Cross-examined by Mr Newall, he said he did not think it was possible for the injury which caused death to have been sustained by his head being violently knocked against a projected iron bar.

Re-examined by Mr Banks, he said he had seen the iron bar in question, and was quite satisfied that the injuries were not caused by deceased's head being knocked against this.

His Lordship : Could a man have sat up and talked after receiving such injuries as this? - He could.

After the whole of them? - Yes.

THE PRISONER'S STORY The case for the prosecution having closed, prisoner gave evidence on his own behalf.

Examined by Mr Newall : You are Peter Keeling? - Yes.

What are you, Keeling, by trade? - A boatman.

The woman, Martha Schofield, what relation is she to you? - Well, I call her my wife. I have known her for two years. We lived together, and thought more about one another than some men and their wives do.

Were you to have been married? - We had saved money to be married, when she happened an accident. She fell into the canal and was nearly drowned, and we had to have the doctor to her, and the money we had saved had to go to pay the doctor bill.

Joseph Croft, this man who is dead, did you know him? - Yes ; I have known him all my life.

What sort of a man was he? - He was a bigger and heavier man than me. He was not so tall, but thick set, and weighed about 18 stone.

On this 2nd of August, can you tell us what transpired with reference to this matter? - Well, I saw him getting off our boat on to another at dinner time, and I said to him that he ought to be ashamed of himself, as he had a woman of his own. He said, "I am very sorry". I thought nowt about it, and we went together to the Bull Hotel, where we had a pint of beer apiece, and were friends again. I left Croft at the Bull and went to finish my work, after which me and Martha went to the Show Field, as it was Feast time. After that she went to lay down whilst I went to look at the other boat, and after having had another pint of beer, I came back to the boat at nearly four o'clock. When I got within five yards of our boat, I heard someone scream. I was going towards our boat, but if I had not heard that scream I don't think I should have gone on board just then, as I would have stopped talking to a young fellow on another boat. Hearing the scream, I jumped on to the boat. The hatch was off, and Croft was there in a suggestive attitude. I asked him how he could fashion and told him to come out, but instead of doing so he struck me a violent blow in the eye, and said, "It's me or thee for it". About four or five years ago, he made me as I could not go to work for three weeks with fighting. With me being used to the cabin, he could not get away from me ; if he could have done so, he would have done for me. There was a knife lying on the table, and Croft exclaimed, "I'll knife you, you ----, if I can get hold of that knife", and "I'll pawse thy ---- inside out if I can get off". The knife was an ordinary bread knife which we used on the boat. My head was all bumps, my hands and mouth were bleeding, and I have a mark here (pointing to his chin) yet. We were fighting many a while, until Martha said, "Give over, both of you", and I gave up. Croft then asked for some water, but I didn't know he wanted it to drink ; I thought he wanted it to wash himself, so I told him to go home and wash himself and then his woman would see that he had been somewhere. I then went out and had an odd pint, and soon after the policeman came and took me.

Were any instruments such as the hammer or poker used in the struggle? - No, sir ; there was no instruments used. When he apprehended me, he put me into a cell. He brought me out about half past eight, and I was then told he was dead, and was charged with killing him. I said it was a bad job.

Cross-examined by Mr Banks : Who charged you? - The policeman.

And you said it was a bad job? - Yes.

Didn't you reply to him that if the b--- b--- was not dead, he ought to be? - I don't think so ; a man in my position would not say so.

Do you think the policeman has invented it? - He has invented it ; I did not say so.

Has anyone ever mentioned this knife before? - No, sir ; I have never given any evidence before to mention it.

But the woman was down there? - Yes.

Why didn't she mention it? - I don't know.

But she would see it? - Yes.

You say this man was as big a man as you? - Yes.

But you were used to the cabin? - Yes ; he was a quarryman and not used to it.

So that gave you the advantage of him? - Yes.

How many times did you strike at him? - I never did strike him ; I never had a chance.

How many times did he strike you? - Only once, a right fair bit.

Then in the whole of the affray, he hit you once, and you didn't hit him at all? - Yes ; we were

scuffling together, and were down on the floor many a time. There was not much room to strike one another in a small place like that.

Was there any blood on his boots? - No, I didn't see any.

Mr Newall then addressed the jury for the prisoner.

At all times, he said, a person felt a sense of responsibility when he came to address a jury on behalf of a fellow man, and if that was so in trivial cases, how much more must it be so in a case as serious as this. Should he, by reason of incapacity or forgetfulness, fail to bring out all the points which had struck the jury during the hearing, he asked them to supply what was lacking. His responsibility was a heavy one indeed, but he did not know whether it was as heavy as that of the Jury, because, although he had certain duties to perform, he had not that deciding duty to perform which devolved upon the Jury. It was for them to say whether or not the prisoner, in doing what he did, was acting in self defence. There were inferences to be drawn from the evidence which must have struck and impressed them with the fact that this was not an ordinary case. There was in this case an attempted rape upon the person whom the prisoner called his wife. Referring to the discrepancies in the evidence, Mr Newall pointed out that Mrs Whittingham had said that after prisoner got down the hatchway into the cabin, all was perfectly still for a period of two minutes, until prisoner reappeared and someone said, "I can't". Was such a state of things possible under the circumstances? Higgins, who followed the prisoner to the barge and saw the whole thing, gave a version which placed beyond doubt the fact that as soon as the prisoner got down into the cabin, this terrible noise began. It was perfectly clear, having regard to the whole of the circumstances, that from the moment prisoner got into that cabin there would be trouble, and that there would be a quarrel. Next, with regard to the hammer which was found in the canal, and which, it was suggested, did the mischief. Such a suggestion had no basis whatever, and could not be supported by the evidence which the prosecution had brought. Schofield said the hammer was theirs, but that she had not seen it for some fortnight. Then the whole of the witnesses who saw either prisoner or Schofield come away from the boat said that they saw nothing thrown away. There was only the bare fact that the hammer was found in the canal, and the prosecution, being desirous of finding some object with which the wounds had been inflicted, fixed upon that, but by the witnesses they had called, they had disproved it entirely ; so that so far as the hammer was concerned, it could not be true that it was used. Then it was stated that the poker was covered with blood. Well, they need not attach much importance to that, for everything in the cabin was covered with blood. There could be no doubt there was in the cabin, as had been described, a pool of blood, and there could be no wonder that these articles, and even that prisoner's boots and clothes, were covered with blood. There were only two witnesses of the occurrence – one was the woman Schofield, and the other was the prisoner – and what was their evidence? Prisoner went down to the cabin and saw this man Croft in an abominable position, and then commenced what might be said to be a struggle to the death in this little cabin. Fearful injuries were inflicted upon the deceased man by coming in contact with the cabin furniture, but the prisoner was not so badly injured, because he knew the dangers of the cabin. There was an iron stove in the centre of the cabin, with four sharp edges, and jutting out from this stove was an iron bar about twice as thick as a pencil. In addition, there were the stove bars, iron grating, and a zinc grain chest. This was the place in which this struggle occurred, and it required no very great stretch of imagination to see – knowing that the result of the struggle meant disablement at the least for one or other of them – how these injuries were received. And so they struggled on until Croft was in a disabled condition. This was the whole case. Martha Schofield told them what transpired, how the first blow was struck, and how the men got to fighting. There could be no mistaking the desperation of a man who was actuated by such sinister and criminal intentions as was Croft. He would try to give the prisoner something to go on with there and then, and had they been in the open, there was little doubt but that Croft, as he had done for years before, would have given him a hiding in the same way. Notwithstanding that these two men dashed about in this confined space with violent force, only four wounds were received which, according to the medical testimony, would produce death. These four wounds had been produced by two blows, so that during the whole of that terrible struggle only two mortal blows were

inflicted. He submitted that these injuries might have been caused by one of the men slipping, and so dashing his head against the projecting bar. The doctor had said that the hammer was a likely weapon with which the injuries might have been caused, but they were entitled to presume that the hammer was not there, because it was found in the water. The dead man had given every reason for provocation, and both men knew what would be the result of the struggle before they entered into it. That the prisoner was unaware that he had killed Croft seemed to be beyond dispute, as he left him sitting on a chest, and informed some companions whom he afterwards came across that he had given him something to go on with for a day or two, which was all he thought he had done in reality. However, it seemed that these wounds had been serious enough to cause the death of Croft, and it would be a serious misfortune if the prisoner Keeling was sentenced to a long term of imprisonment for doing what any of them might have done under the same circumstances. This had been called the Shipley tragedy, but there was a greater tragedy in the Shipley tragedy. It was an unspeakable tragedy when a man who, under circumstances which might justify his being found innocent, was found guilty. By way of preventing the possibility of this, it was provided by the law that where there was a reasonable doubt in the minds of the Jury as to how the injuries had been received, the prisoner should get the benefit of such doubt. If they thought that there was a possibility that these wounds had been accidentally received in this mortal struggle, it was their duty to give the prisoner the benefit of the doubt. Prisoner had made no concealment about the affair, but was now in a position of cruel hardship. Under the circumstances, he trusted that they would think that the accident of Croft's death resulted from no fault of the prisoner's, but from the very nature of the struggle between them.

His Lordship, in summing up, said the Jury would be aware that the crime with which the prisoner was charged was manslaughter. Prisoner had had considerable provocation from what this man Croft appeared to have done or was proposing to do, but that in itself, had it been all in this case, would not have prevented the killing of Croft being murder. But it would be a very important circumstance to consider in reference to that matter, and when coupled with the fact – which was not improbable, as stated upon evidence that the man Croft turned round and struck the first blow – would be sufficient to prevent the crime being murder, and to reduce it to manslaughter. In this case, the coroner's jury found a verdict of manslaughter against the prisoner, and the Grand Jury had thrown out the bill for murder and found for manslaughter only, consequently prisoner was only being tried on that indictment. All unlawful killing was manslaughter, but it differed very much in degree, sometimes very closely approaching murder, and being sometimes little more than an accident. In order that a man who had killed another might escape the penalty of manslaughter, he must show that the killing was an accident. If he showed provocation, that only reduced the crime from murder to manslaughter ; but if he could show that what he did was necessary in self defence, then he also escaped. He supposed the defence raised in this case was that the prisoner was acting in self defence. His Lordship then proceeded to review the evidence, and said that from this it did not seem to be impossible to say how deceased had come by his death. Whether he was dashed with his head against the stove or the cornbin, or whether he was struck by the hammer or poker made no difference to the charge of manslaughter. The only justification for what the prisoner did was that it was necessary to the preservation of his own life. If they found that Croft came to his death by violence then, notwithstanding the amount of provocation received by the prisoner, they must find him guilty of manslaughter.

THE SENTENCE The jury, without leaving the box, returned a verdict of guilty, and His Lordship, addressing the prisoner, said : You have been convicted of the crime of manslaughter. You killed this man beyond all possible doubt by brutal violence. Your crime comes somewhat near to the crime of murder, for which your life would have been forfeited. The grand jury, acting under my direction, have come to the conclusion, in which I entirely agree, that there was in this case sufficient evidence of provocation to prevent your crime being that of murder, and to justify its being reduced to manslaughter. It is a most serious thing under any provocation to take the life of a fellow creature by violence, and I should not be doing my duty if I did not inflict a severe sentence upon you. The sentence is that you be kept to penal servitude for ten years.

Prisoner received his sentence without being visibly affected,

119 11 March 1899

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE AT CALVERLEY

A SHIPLEY BOATMAN'S PLUCKY ACT

COMMENDED BY THE BENCH At the Bradford West Riding Court on Monday, before Sir Theo Peel (Chairman), Mr E P Arnold-Forster, Mr G S Pollard, Mr W Croft, Mr Asa Brigg and Mr J H Law, Joseph Smith, 62 years of age, farmer of Horsforth, was brought up on a charge of attempting to commit suicide by throwing himself into the Leeds and Liverpool Canal at about four o'clock on Sunday afternoon.

Superintendent Crawshaw having briefly stated the facts of the case,

Charles Watson, boatman of 18 Hanson Street, Shipley, said that on Sunday about four o'clock, he was with his boat at Calverley, when he noticed the prisoner take his coat off and take a run jump into the water of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal. Witness got a boat hook and got him out of the water on to the canal bank. After sitting down for a short time, he said, "Let me go back, I want to go into the water to finish my misery". Witness told him not to put an end to his life like that, but to die a natural death. Witness remained there a quarter of an hour, when prisoner was taken away by two gentlemen.

William Arthur Thomas, paper merchant of Undercliffe, said that on Sunday he was walking down the Canal Road at Calverley, when he saw the last witness taking someone out of the water with a boat hook. Witness went up and asked what was the matter, and the last witness said that prisoner had been trying to commit suicide. Prisoner had just got up from his knees, and a crowd had collected. Prisoner made an attempt to get back in to the water again, and got as far as the water's edge. The people opened out to let him go, but witness dragged him back. Witness then took prisoner to the house of his daughter, but his son-in-law refused to take him in. Witness subsequently took him to the house of a policeman.

Prisoner : How could I try and get in when there were two of you hold of my arms?

Witness : There was no one near you when you tried to get back.

Superintendent Crawshaw : Was he drunk or sober?

Witness : I think he was sober.

Constable Hartley said that from information received he went to Constable Wilmer's station at Rodley and saw the prisoner there. He conveyed him to Idle Police Station in a cab. There he charged him with attempting to take his life by throwing himself into the Leeds and Liverpool Canal at Calverley at four o'clock. He replied, "I mean it. I am sorry I have not done it".

The Chairman : What time would it be when he said that?

Witness : About seven o'clock.

The Chairman : Three hours after. At that time he was not affected with drink.

Witness : No, sir.

Dr Samuel Lodge, police surgeon of Windrush House, said that that (Monday) morning, he examined the prisoner and found him in a perfectly sane state of mind, and quite responsible for what he might say or do.

A son-in-law of the prisoner made a statement. He said that prisoner's wife left him about five weeks ago, owing to drink, and since then he had been living with witness and his wife. Latterly he had taken very much to drink, and would do anything to get it. He would go without anything to eat, if he could only get plenty to drink. Witness had tried to reform him, but in vain.

The Chairman : Then he is not under your control?

Witness : No. Continuing, he said that on Saturday prisoner had been drinking, and on Sunday had very little to eat. He left the house just after twelve saying he was going to Hunslet. Prisoner had threatened to do this before, but witness was surprised when he heard tell of what happened. He would be all right if he would keep off drink.

Prisoner promised to take no more intoxicating liquors, and asked the Bench to let him off.

The Chairman, however, said the Bench had decided to commit him for trial at the next Quarter

Sessions at Wakefield. Bail was refused.

Addressing Watson and Thomas, the Chairman said : I wish on behalf of the Bench to compliment you for your conduct on this occasion. The boatman, Watson, by that act of yours in being very quick in drawing this man from the canal, you actually saved his life on that occasion, and Thomas, the very great care, and attention and trouble you took when other people were standing about doing nothing. No doubt by that you probably saved this man from making a second attempt on his life. I am sure it will be a satisfaction to you through all your lives to know that by promptness and kindness you saved this man from taking his life.

120 18 March 1899

WEST RIDING COURT, BRADFORD, MONDAY

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE CASE **Jonathan Colman**, boatman, Shipley, appeared to answer to a charge of disobeying a school attendance order. Mr Walter Popplestone appeared for the Shipley School Board. Mr Fred Booth, school attendance officer, said that on the 3rd October last the defendant was fined for a similar offence, since when his child had made but 76 out of a possible 108 attendances. Defendant said he could not see to his children attending school when he was away on the boat. Fined 5s.

121 22 April 1899

ACCIDENT **Joseph Mawson**, boatman, residing in Bradford Arms, Shipley, on Tuesday received severe injuries at the Five Rise Locks, Bingley. Whilst following his customary avocation on the canal bank, by some means or other he became entangled in the towing rope, and was dragged some distance by the horse.

122 10 June 1899

WEST RIDING COURT, BRADFORD, THURSDAY

SHIPLEY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE CASES **Jonathan Colman**, boatman of Shipley, was charged with disobeying school attendance orders. Fred Booth said that the defendant's daughter, **Ruth**, was 10 years of age and in standard II. She had made but 110 attendances out of a possible 211 for the last six months. Defendant's daughter **Annie**, who was eight years of age, had made but 110 out of a possible 201 attendances. No reason was given for the irregularity, and it arose from carelessness, the children being taken away on the boat. An attendance order had been made on the 5th May last year. A fine of 5s was imposed in each case.

123 8 July 1899

WEST RIDING COURT, BRADFORD, THURSDAY

OFFENCES UNDER THE EDUCATION ACT **Jonathan Colman**, boatman, Shipley, was summoned for disobeying a school attendance order. Frederick Booth, an attendance officer employed by the Shipley School Board, stated that on June 9th 1898, an order for attendance was made on the defendant, and he had also been fined twice. The boy, however, had not attended school at all since, having been away with his parents on the boat. A fine of 5s was inflicted. **John William Townley**, boatman, Shipley, was charged with a similar offence. Frederick Holmes, an attendance officer at Shipley, said defendant's child had only made two attendances at school recently out of a possible 106. An order for attendance was made.

124 5 August 1899

WEST RIDING POLICE COURT, BRADFORD, THURSDAY

DRUNK AND DISORDERLY For offences under this head at various times and places at Shipley, the following judgements were given :- George Hawkesworth, labourer, Shipley, 15s including costs ; **Thomas F Hawkesworth**, boatman, brother of the previous defendant, 15s including costs ; and **Joseph Smith**, boatman, Shipley, discharged, he having been locked up since Monday.

125 9 September 1899

BINGLEY

SHOP THEFT On Monday at the Police Court, before Mr J B Sharp and Mr T Mitchell, **David Craven**, boatman, Bingley, was charged with stealing a mackintosh, valued at one guinea, from outside the shop of Noah Sutcliffe, outfitter, Main Street, Bingley, on Saturday night. Evidence was given by Sarah Tiplady, a smart young telephone operator, who saw the prisoner take down the coat from a hook, fold the price ticket inside, and walk away with the coat over his arm. She informed the shopkeeper, and the news was passed on to Police-constable Roddis, who traced the prisoner to the railway station. He found the man seated in a train about to start for Bradford. Prisoner pleaded guilty, and said he was drunk at the time. Sentenced to a month's imprisonment.

126 23 September 1899

A CANAL BOAT ORGIE AT SHIPLEY

HOW ACCIDENT COMPENSATION MONEY DISAPPEARED

STRANGE REVELATIONS Yesterday at the West Riding Police Court, Bradford – before Dr Ellis and other magistrates – a case was heard which brought to light one of the shadiest aspects of shady life in Shipley.

Agnes Kennedy, single woman, Windhill ; **Harry Haslam**, boatman, Shipley ; Ellen Burgess, single woman, Shipley ; **Frank Butterfield**, boatman, Windhill ; and Alfred Goldsborough, pavior of Windhill, all appeared in the dock on a charge of being concerned in the theft of £8 10s in money from the person of Willie Lister, a mechanic residing at 9 Jane Hills, Canal Bank, Shipley.

Superintendent Crawshaw having stated the leading facts of the case, said he did not propose to call any evidence against Burgess, Butterfield and Goldsborough, who were accordingly discharged from custody.

Willie Lister, the prosecutor, said he was a mechanic and lived at Jane Hills, Shipley. Recently he met with an accident while at his work, by which he lost his right arm, and had received £75 as compensation. Of this sum, he had £12 in his possession at the end of last week. On Sunday last shortly after three o'clock in the afternoon, he went on board a boat named the *Alert*, which was moored in the canal at Shipley, together with the prisoners. They took a gallon and a half of beer with them, which they drank, and from 6 to 10 o'clock, more was fetched as it was required. Four of them remained in the cabin all night on Sunday, Burgess, Butterfield and complainant occupying the same bed. On Monday, prosecutor said he was in bed all day with Burgess, drinking. On Monday night Butterfield left the boat and did not return. Witness remained in bed all that night with Burgess, the two prisoners occupying the bed in the cabin at the other end of the boat. On Tuesday morning about 6 o'clock, witness counted the money in his trousers pocket, and found he had £8 11s 4d. He paid for some beer and ginger beer about 6.15, which cost 1/4, leaving £8 10s in his pocket. At 6.30, the two prisoners and Albert Harrison came into their cabin. Witness said he subsequently felt his trousers being removed by Kennedy, who extracted the £8 10s from the pocket, and at 8 o'clock he missed the money. He saw Kennedy afterwards in the Bull Hotel, and charged her with having taken the money, but she said she had got no money of his. He then told her she would have to find it, or he would call in the police.

The Chairman asked the witness how much beer was consumed between Sunday and Tuesday.

Prosecutor replied that he could not say, as there was so much – the gallon jug was going all the time.

Albert Harrison, millhand of Windhill, was the next witness. He said he was on the boat drinking from Sunday till Tuesday. On Tuesday morning he saw the two prisoners come into the cabin. Kennedy sat on the bed side and asked Burgess if she could go into bed, but Lister said No. A while afterwards, Kennedy got prosecutor's trousers and took some money out of the pocket. He could not say how much, but he saw a sovereign between her fingers. The two prisoners then went away. In answer to the Chairman, witness said he fetched the beer for them. Lister was sober on Tuesday morning.

Mary Devanney said she lived at 14 School Hill, Windhill. On Tuesday morning she saw Agnes

Kennedy and the prosecutor in School Hill. Kennedy left the man, and calling witness aside, gave her two sovereigns, which she said she wished her to keep for her. The male prisoner subsequently took four "quids" and put them on the table in witness's house, but she refused to take them, and the money was ultimately taken possession of by the police. Witness said she took the two quids to the female prisoner at Mrs Long's house, and as Kennedy would not have the money, Mrs Long put it into the cupboard. Cross-examined by Kennedy, this witness maintained that her statement was true, while, on the other hand, Kennedy said that Devanney have her the £2. The male prisoner said they were all drunk in lumps, and denied that he ever saw Devanney between Sunday, when she was on the boat, and Tuesday.

Alfred Goldsborough said he knew the female prisoner, who told him that if he would go to Mrs Long's there was £2 for him. He accordingly went to Long's and received 33s, which he afterwards spent at the Rock Inn.

This was all the evidence. On being formally charged, Kennedy said she was not guilty of stealing the money, but she had it in her possession. The male prisoner said he was not guilty of stealing the money.

After briefly consulting with his colleagues on the Bench,

The Chairman said ; The evidence is such, and the circumstances are of such a character, that we don't think any jury would convict, and therefore the prisoners will be discharged.

127 7 October 1899

BINGLEY PETTY SESSIONS, WEDNESDAY

BARLEYCORN FLIRTATIONS **James Taylor**, boatman, for allowing himself to be found drunk and asleep at the early hour of one o'clock on the morning of Wednesday, on the canal bank at Bingley, was ordered to pay 2s 6d and costs.

128 14 October 1899

WEST RIDING COURT, BRADFORD, MONDAY

INLAND MARINERS AND THEIR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION There were three charges of disobeying school attendance orders preferred against **Jonathan Colman**, boatman of Shipley, with reference to three of his children. Fred Booth, one of the school attendance officers of the Shipley School Board, stated that defendant's daughter **Annie**, aged 8 years, had only made 98 out of a possible 231 attendances during the last six months. **Ruth**, 10 years old, had attended school 105 times out of 231 ; and **Walter**, aged 6, had been to school 24 times out of 270. In reference to the three children, defendant had been summoned no fewer than 12 times. The Bench fined defendant, who did not appear, 5s or seven days in each of the three cases.

John William Townsley, another Shipley boatman, was also summoned for a similar offence. Frederick Holmes, a Shipley School Board attendance officer, stated that defendant's daughter **Alice** had only been at school 7 times since an order was made on the 6th of July. Defendant's only excuse was that he was much away from home. Fined 5s or seven days.

129 2 December 1899

WEST RIDING COURT, BRADFORD, THURSDAY

THE BOATMAN AND THE WIDOW A Windhill boatman named **Thomas F Hawkesworth** was summoned for using threats to his paramour, Isabella Atkinson. Complainant stated that she was a widow, and had lived with defendant for three years, during which time he had given her no fewer than nine black eyes. On Friday last he threw her out of the house, and used such threats to her that she had not gone near the house since. The furniture in the house was hers, and if she got this and he would let her alone, she wanted nothing else. Defendant denied that the furniture was complainant's, or that he had threatened her. He said : She is a woman with a bad temper, and if she does not get all her own way, there is no dealin' with her whatsoever. The Bench dismissed the case on defendant undertaking to keep away from the woman. Complainant (to the Chairman) : How about my furniture? The Chairman : That is a matter for another court. Complainant : What

court? The County Court.

130 2 December 1899

SAD DEATH OF A DRUNKEN MAN AT SHIPLEY On Monday afternoon, Mr Deputy Coroner Hill held an inquest in the Council Chamber of the Manor House, Shipley, into the circumstances attending the death of a man named **James Myers**, aged 34, whose dead body was found in the cabin of the canal boat *Ruby* early on Sunday morning, after a fire which was discovered on board that boat had been extinguished. The first witness called was :-

Joseph Myers, joiner, residing at 100 Union Street, Shipley, and who identified the body as that of his brother, who had latterly been engaged as a boatman, and had no fixed home.

William Briggs, carter of 7 Piccadilly, Shipley, deposed : About 11.15 on Saturday night, I was standing at the Otley Road end of Piccadilly when I heard a cry for help from the canal. I hurried down on to the canal bank, and when I arrived I found that deceased had just been pulled out of the water. At that time, deceased was stood close to the boat *Ruby*, and was badly fresh.

Jesse Dean Wilkes deposed : I am captain of the Shipley Fire Brigade. At 4.15 on Sunday morning, the Brigade were run out, and went to the boat *Ruby*, which was on fire, and extinguished the flames. I afterwards went down into the fore cabin of the boat, and found deceased lying on his face on the bed, quite naked, having been suffocated, and his body was scorched. There were other persons sleeping at the other end of the boat, but so far as I heard they had not felt any effects from the smoke. The body was removed to the mortuary.

James Steel, farmer, Cliffe Lane Farm. Baildon, deposed : I was the first to see this boat on fire, at four o'clock on Sunday morning when I was on the canal bridge in Otley Road. I went straight to the office of **Mr W Fyfe**, who owns the boat, and gave an alarm, and then went to the boat. There were three other boats near, and I knocked up all the men in the cabins of those boats. I heard no sounds of distress from the boat that was on fire. I saw deceased got out after the Fire Brigade had come on the scene and extinguished the fire. Deceased was naked. So far as I know, deceased had no right on the boat. The captain of the boat (**John Coleman**) did not know that deceased was in the cabin ; at first Coleman thought his son was in the cabin, and was troubled about him, but it turned out deceased was the only person in the fore cabin which was on fire.

Mrs Eliza Ann Walton, wife of John Spencer Watson, labourer, of 10 Cross Church Street, Windhill, said : I laid out the body, which was scorched on the arms and nose by the fire. I saw no clothes, the body being quite naked.

Inspector Barraclough deposed : I was present when deceased was taken out of the boat. I saw part of his clothes, some of which were burnt ; some sacks of corn were also burnt away, leaving the corn on the floor. There had evidently been a large fire in the stove. Most of the fire had been on the opposite side of the cabin to where deceased lay, although the partition separating the bed from the cabin was partly burnt away.

The Deputy Coroner said it would appear that deceased was under the influence of drink and had fallen into the canal. Having been got out, he seemed to have gone into the fore cabin of the boat *Ruby*, undressed himself, placed his wet clothes around the stove to dry, and then got into bed and fallen asleep. The clothing took fire, and being a small place, the smoke would soon suffocate him. The Coroner said it seemed to him that a proper verdict would be one to the effect that the deceased was accidentally suffocated in the fore cabin of the boat *Ruby*, and to this the jury unanimously agreed.

We understand that the damage done to the boat by the fire is estimated at upwards of £75.

131 9 December 1899

WEST RIDING COURT, BRADFORD, THURSDAY

TWO SHIPLEY BOYS CUT OFF A HORSE'S TAIL AND SELL IT Sam Stead (15) and **Jonathan Cowman** (14), two boys employed by Mr William Fyfe of Shipley, were brought up in custody charged with stealing a quantity of horse hair, the property of their employer. Alfred Broomfield, horse keeper for Mr Fyfe, said his master had a horse, two years old, in a field in Dock

Lane, Shipley. Witness saw it all right on Tuesday morning, but when he visited it again later in the day, he saw that all the hair had been cut off its tail up to within about half an inch of the stump. The value of the hair was about 3d. The prisoner Stead : We only got 2d for it. Annie Goodall, daughter of Mr Goodall, sadler of 14 Briggate, Shipley, stated that the prisoner Cowman came to their shop and offered the horse hair produced for sale. There was quarter of a pound, and she gave him 2d for it. The Chairman : That is 8d a pound? Witness : Yes. I afterwards saw Stead, who asked me how much I had given Cowman for the hair. The Chairman asked the prisoners their ages, Cowman replying that he was "14 last Bingley Tide Saturday", whereupon a further inquiry became necessary as to when Bingley Tide was, but neither of the prisoners could supply the information, and neither of the boys could write his own name. A son of Mr Fyfe's appeared, and, in reply to the Chairman, said if the boys were leniently dealt with, he believed his father would take them back into his employ. Stead's father was present in court, and the Chairman inquired where Cowman's father was. "Gone on a voyage", was the answer. "Where to?" questioned Sir Theophilus. "Mirfield", was the quick rejoinder, "but he will be back in two or three days", and there was some laughter as it dawned upon the Court that Cowman was a boatman, and it was a canal voyage that was referred to. Both the prisoners had been before the Court on one former occasion. The Chairman said the Bench would give the prisoners one more chance. They would have to pay costs, and would be bound over in the sum of 20s to come up for judgement if called upon during the next six months. Sir Theophilus proceeded to say that this was a clear case of neglect, and if the parents of these boys had done their duty, it was very probable that the boys would never have appeared in Court at all. If they were brought up again, however, they would be sent to prison. It was little use having school boards or any other educational agencies if parents neglected their duty as in this case.