

SHIPLEY TIMES AND EXPRESS 1900 to 1909

1 27 January 1900

WEST RIDING COURT, BRADFORD, THURSDAY

HIS 21ST APPEARANCE **John Guy**, boatman of Shipley, was fined 15s for being drunk and disorderly in Saltaire Road, the information having been laid by Constable Darwin. Defendant, who did not appear, had been before the Court on 20 previous occasions.

2 10 February 1900

BINGLEY PETTY SESSIONS, MONDAY

A BOATMAN'S RANT **John Denby**, boatman of Bingley, appeared in custody on a charge of stealing 8s, the property of his employer, John Barran. Mr Barran now asked to be allowed to withdraw the warrant. He said Denby had undertaken to repay the money and to do better in future, and he wished to give him another chance. In giving expression to the Bench's assent, the Chairman told Denby that he hoped he would never forget the narrow escape he had had, and that it would be a warning to him.

3 10 March 1900

BINGLEY PETTY SESSIONS, WEDNESDAY

THAT LODGER **Joseph Beck**, boatman, was brought up on a warrant charged with assaulting Mary Nobbs. Mr Robinson of Keighley appeared for the prisoner. From the facts disclosed during the hearing of the case, it appears that the complainant is a widow with three children, and lives in Ferrand Street, Bingley. She and the prisoner – who is fairly advanced in years, whilst she is a buxom woman of 40 or so – had lived together as man and wife during the last 15 years ; but for some reason or another a difference arose between them which led to the present proceedings. Mrs Nobbs had some lodgers, and prisoner apparently feeling that one of these, mentioned as Harry, a younger man, was supplanting him, raised the point on the 19th of February, with the result that a quarrel arose and defendant, taking up a knife which lay on the table, threatened to stab complainant. One or both of the lodgers helped the landlady to turn the old love out of the house, and it was for an assault said to have been committed during this ejection that the prisoner was apprehended. It was stated, however, that prisoner's head was cut and one of his ribs broken. A week later, he went to the house for some clothing, and then told the complainant that somebody would have to pay for his injuries, whereupon she took out a warrant and had him locked up. Complainant stated that Beck took away her little boy with him, intending to drown him, but in cross-examination admitted that instead of doing so, prisoner bought the lad a new cap. She also acknowledged that prisoner did not strike her, but attempted to do so. Mrs Sarah Dowse, a neighbour, stated that prisoner came to her house and asked witness to warn "Polly" that he had got something in his pocket which would do for her and the lodger. He did not say what it was, but said that he had given 5/9 for it. In addressing the Bench on behalf of the prisoner, Mr Robinson pointed out that his client had lived with the complainant for 15 years, and therefore objected to being supplanted by a younger man. But whatever happened on the day in question, Beck got the worst of it, for he was thrown out of his house, his head was cut, and on going to the Leeds Infirmary was told that he had had a rib knocked off. He had also been locked up eight days, and Mr Robinson submitted that if he (prisoner) deserved punishment, he had been sufficiently punished already. The Chairman said that whilst nothing could justify a man taking a knife to a woman, after considering all the circumstances of the case, the Bench thought that defendant had suffered enough without any further punishment, and the case would be dismissed.

4 17 March 1900

WEST RIDING COURT, BRADFORD, MONDAY

BIBULOUS HUMANITY **Robert Blundell**, boatman of no fixed residence, also appeared in the dock on a similar charge (drunk) on the same day (Friday night last), and was ordered to pay 12s

6d. He had been before the Court ten times previously, but not since 1898.

5 31 March 1900

A SHIPLEY BOATMAN ROBS A CORPSE On Monday at the Leeds Police Court, **Marmaduke Kaye**, boatman of Shipley, was brought up on remand charged with stealing a pair of boots and a belt. The case was before the Court a week ago, when it was alleged that the prisoner, finding the dead body of a dairyman in the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, exchanged boots with him, and also took from the body a leather belt. When arrested at Bradford by Detective-officer Gale, the prisoner was wearing the belt. He had been remanded in order that the legal ownership of the property might be ascertained, and it was now stated that, as the deceased man had died intestate, the legal ownership was vested in Sir Francis Jeune, President of the Probate Division of the High Court of Justice. The prisoner, who now admitted the offence, was committed for trial at the Quarter Sessions.

6 5 May 1900

WEST RIDING COURT, THURSDAY

FROM DOCK LANE TO COURT **Marmaduke Kaye**, boatman, Shipley, and George Capper, moulder, Windhill, were charged with being drunk and disorderly at 11.15 on Sunday night. Constable Firth and Inspector Barraclough stated that they found the defendants fighting, with a crowd of men around them, and they were both drunk. Capper said he wasn't drunk, as he had never tasted beer this year. Kaye, who had a record of 23 previous convictions, and who did not appear, was fined 10s and costs, or ten days, and Capper was fined 12s 6d.

7 12 May 1900

WEST RIDING COURT, BRADFORD, MONDAY

BIBULOUS HUMANITY **Benjamin Atkinson**, boatman, was fined 12/6 for being drunk and disorderly in Otley Road, Shipley, at 9.50 on Saturday night.

ASSAULTING A CONSTABLE A case against **John Strickland**, boatman, and Mary E Cantril, both of Bingley, occupied the Court for some time. Strickland was charged with assaulting Constable Gillie while in the execution of his duty, and Cantril was charged with being drunk and disorderly. Constable Gillie stated that at 11.30 on Saturday night he was in Otley Road, Shipley, in company with Constable Langley, when they found the female defendant drunk. He was taking her into custody, when she called out, "Jack", and the prisoner Strickland came running along the canal bank with a boat hook in his hands. He struck witness on the head with the boat hook, knocking off his helmet. The officer then closed with Strickland, and along with the woman he was locked up. Witness's attention was drawn to wounds on the left side of the male prisoner's face, but he was unable to say how they had been caused. Constable Langley said they were taking the woman to the boat, which was moored near Mr Fyfe's office and on which she said she lived, when the male prisoner came up and struck Gillie twice with a boat hook, and also kicked him when he was on the ground. Gillie did not go on to the boat. Sergeant Blackwell said he saw Gillie struggling with the male prisoner, from whom he ultimately got the boat hook. The sergeant said he noticed blood on the male prisoner's face, but it was dry. Both the defendants went into the box and gave evidence. Cantril said that after finishing her shopping on Saturday night, she called at the Royal Oak for Strickland, with whom she had lived for seven years, and had two glasses of old beer. They stayed about an hour and a quarter, but she was not drunk. She saw "No 47" kick Strickland, whereupon she called him a coward. There was no struggling on the canal bank at all, and the male prisoner never came on to the bank with a boat hook ; in fact, a boathook was never used. The Chairman cross-questioned the female defendant at some length, but she maintained that they were both on the boat when the officers pulled them off and took them to the police station. The male prisoner did not strike Gillie at all, and there was no struggle until one of the officers kicked Strickland, which he did while the latter was stood with his head out of the hatchway of the boat. Strickland said he

was never on the canal bank until two officers pulled him off the boat on to the bank, where they handcuffed him. Strickland said that the officer's helmet fell into the cabin, and because he wouldn't get it for him, he kicked him on the left side of the face, cutting his ear and cheek. In answer to Superintendent Crawshaw, the prisoner said he did not knock off the officer's helmet, and a boat hook was never used. Mr Barron, who appeared for the defence, said the prisoner had worked for his brother's firm at Bingley for five years, and had been at work on the night in question until 9 o'clock. Superintendent Crawshaw said Strickland had been before the Court on ten previous occasions, but not since 1895. After consultation, the Chairman said the Bench were satisfied that the woman was drunk and disorderly, and she would be fined 12s 6d. They were also satisfied that Strickland assaulted the officer, and he would be fined 5s and costs, or seven days.

8 19 May 1900

BINGLEY PETTY SESSIONS, WEDNESDAY

THIRSTY WORKMEN **John Slater**, boatman, was fined 5s and costs for being drunk and disorderly in North Street, Bingley at 11.45 on the night of the 5th inst.

9 26 May 1900

WEST RIDING COURT, BRADFORD, THURSDAY

THE ETERNAL THIRST The following person was fined the amount named for being drunk and disorderly at Shipley :- **Joseph Smith**, boatman, 15s.

10 2 June 1900

ANOTHER BRADFORD MAN DROWNS HIMSELF AT SALTAIRE On Friday evening last, the dead body of a man named John Harry Smith, aged 30 years, was taken out of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal between Hirst Locks and the Seven Arches at Saltaire by a boatman. The body was conveyed to the central mortuary, and an inquest was held on Monday at the offices of the District Council by Mr J E Hill, deputy coroner. From the evidence, it appeared that the deceased was a salesman, and a son of John Smith, shoemaker of 9 Springfield Street, Manningham. Deceased had suffered from a spinal complaint for four years, but during the last few weeks had been in somewhat improved health. He had not been seen alive by his relatives since the 19th inst, when he left home saying he was going to see the decorations at Bradford in celebration of the relief of Mafeking. He did not come home that night, but as he had a good many friends in the district, his parents thought he might be spending the night with them, and they accordingly did not think much about that. As deceased did not come home on Saturday and Sunday, however, on Monday they made inquiries, but without result. When he left home, he seemed to be in fairly good health and spirits, and there was no reason to suppose that he would make away with himself. **Thomas Turner**, canal labourer residing at Simpson Green, Idle, described the finding of the body and the steps he took to inform the police. As there was no evidence as to how deceased had got into the water, the jury returned an open verdict.

11 16 June 1900

SUICIDE OF A BAILDON YOUNG WOMAN

“GOING TO WORK NO MORE” On Tuesday forenoon, Mr Coroner Hutchinson held an inquiry into the circumstances attending the death of Vizletta Parker, aged 33 years, a single young woman who resided with her mother at 42 Lower Holme, Baildon, and whose dead body was taken out of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal near Buck Wood, Thackley, at an early hour on Saturday morning last. The following evidence was adduced :-

Mary Ann Parker, 42 Lower Holme, Baildon Wood Bottom, deposed : The deceased was my daughter. She was 33 years of age, a single woman, and a factory hand. She lived with me. I last saw her alive about quarter past six on Friday night, when I went out and left her in the house. I returned about 10 o'clock, and found she was out. The door was open. She did not return, and search was made for her. On Sunday I saw her dead body in the public mortuary. She had been

very downhearted for a long time past. She had been ill for a long time past, and has been in the infirmary and at Rawdon. On Friday night, when she came home from work, she said she was not going to work any more. I told the deceased it was not wise of her to keep company with anybody, as she was not in a fit state to be married. In answer to the Coroner, witness said deceased never threatened to do away with herself at any time, though she had not been well for a long while.

Firth Dawson deposed : I live at Windhill and am a canal boatman. I found a shawl on the canal bank with a letter underneath, about 11.50 on Friday night at Buck Wood, Thackley. The letter was open. I looked up and down the canal, but being dark I couldn't find anything. I afterwards went to the Police Station at Idle to fetch a policeman, and as we were returning down towards the canal there were two screws passed, and near where I found the shawl we saw the body, which we got out. There were no signs of a struggle having taken place on the canal bank. I got a stick to keep the rats off the body – they came three at a time – while the officer went to fetch the ambulance to remove the body, which was then taken to the mortuary.

John Jackman, a police officer stationed at Idle, stated : I went to the canal at 4 am on Saturday with the last witness, and recovered the body. I also received the letter produced. [The letter referred to was from a young man with whom deceased was keeping company, asking her to meet him.]

Mrs Jackson, who laid out the body, said there were no injuries upon it. In deceased's pockets were a 3d bit and two keys.

The Coroner's officer, Hardcastle, stated that he had examined the letters found on deceased, but there was nothing requiring that they should be brought before the jury.

After a brief consultation, the Jury returned a verdict of “Committed suicide while of unsound mind”.

12 30 June 1900

BINGLEY PETTY SESSIONS, WEDNESDAY

A SUNDAY SCHOOL OF GAMBLERS William Clark, Herbert Lightfoot, John Henry McDermott and Henry Briggs, millhands ; Richard Halstead, tailor ; Edgar Northrop, mechanic and **John Varley**, boatman, all of Bingley, were summoned for gaming with cards. Sergeant Robinson stated that about 3.30 on Sunday afternoon, June 17th, he saw the defendants, along with about 15 others, playing banker with cards at White Bridge, Canal Bank, between Bingley and Saltaire. When approached they ran away, but the defendants were secured. Defendants all pleaded guilty. Superintendent Grayson, addressing the Bench, said they had power to send the defendants to gaol without the option of a fine (sighs in court), and in consequence of the great prevalence of this form of Sabbath desecration in the district, he wished it to be understood that in any future cases he should ask the magistrates to exercise that power. He should be sorry to have to do this, but he had received so many complaints as to this kind of Sabbath breaking, that he should feel he was lacking in his duty to the public if he did not take this course. In fining the defendants 10s each and costs, the Chairman said the Bench were fully determined to deal with future cases of this kind in the manner suggested by Superintendent Grayson.

13 30 June 1900

WEST RIDING COURT, BRADFORD, MONDAY

George A Kendall, boatman, was fined 12s 6d for being drunk and disorderly at Shipley.

14 22 September 1900

WEST RIDING COURT, BRADFORD, THURSDAY

BAD SCHOLARS **Jonathan Cowman**, boatman of Shipley, had been summoned by the Shipley School Board for not sending his children regularly to school, but he did not appear. Fred Booth, an attendance officer under the Board, said that defendant's daughter **Ruth** had attended school 74 times out of a possible 219 ; **Annie** had attended 98 out of 189 during the last six months ; and during the last five months **Walter** had attended 99 out of the 163 times the schools had been open. Defendant, who had been fined on five previous occasions for similar offences, was now fined 5s in

each of the three cases.

15 29 September 1900

WEST RIDING COURT, BRADFORD, THURSDAY

Frank Butterfield, boatman, Shipley, was fined 15s for being drunk and disorderly.

16 6 October 1900

BINGLEY PETTY SESSIONS, WEDNESDAY

Frederick Cowburn, boatman, Bingley, appeared in custody to answer a charge of being in arrears with his bastardy payments. An order was made against the prisoner, three years ago, to pay 2s 6d a week to Sarah A Swaine, who now stated that arrears had accumulated amounting to £6 10s. As prisoner said he could not pay the money until he got work, he was sent to gaol for two months, with hard labour.

17 27 October 1900

A BOATMAN DROWNED AT SALTAIRE Yesterday morning, Mr Deputy Coroner Hill and a jury, of which Mr Gordon Jones was the foreman, held an inquest into the circumstances attending the death of **William Taylor**, who was drowned in Hirst Lock, Saltaire, on Monday afternoon last. The first witness called was Elizabeth Taylor, 27 Waller Hill, Skipton, who deposed : Deceased was my husband and was 61 years of age. He never did live with me. During the last 12 months, he had been a boatman, but I did not see him for eight months. He used to come sometimes, on the last occasion staying two days. **Susannah**, wife of **Robert Thackeray** of 23 Piccadilly, Shipley, said : My husband is captain of the boat *Jack*, owned by **Messrs Barron** and Sons of Bingley. On Monday we were coming from Bingley to Shipley, my husband steering. Deceased went to get the lock ready at The Hirst, Saltaire. Deceased had lived with us for the last three weeks. Previous to that, he was with Robert Kendall, farmer. All went right until we got to the Hirst Lock, just above Saltaire. He shut the lower gates, opened the upper sluice of the upper gates, and began to cross the gates as though going to open the other sluice. When about half way across, I saw deceased fall and disappear ; he fell into the lock. We ran the boat ashore, but could see nothing. My husband took a boat hook and I came to Shipley to report the occurrence, and the body was afterwards brought to the mortuary. It was not a proper way for deceased to cross by the gates, as a proper footbridge is provided for crossing. On some locks there is an iron rail or guard on the top of the gates themselves, by which even a woman can cross, and it was quite safe that way. Robert Thackeray said he saw deceased fall into the lock, and saw no more of him until he found him about the middle of the lock, after he had taken the boat through. Boatmen often went over by the gates instead of going round by the bridge, which is just the length of the lock lower down. Some lock gates were provided with an iron rail, but where that was the case, no bridge was provided like there was at the Hirst. Eliza Ann Walton, 10 Cross Church Street, Windhill, said she laid out the body of deceased. There was a cut on the right eye and across the bridge of his nose, as though he had struck something in falling. There was no other mark of violence on the body. A verdict of "Accidentally drowned" was returned. Some of the jury were in favour of recommending the Canal Company to fix an iron rail on the top of the lock gates, so that men might cross there in safety ; whilst others were of opinion that, whilst a footbridge was already provided at Saltaire for the purpose, it would be unreasonable to make such a request. Eventually, however, a request for a protecting rod to be fixed on the top of the lock gates was tacitly agreed to.

18 17 November 1900

WEST RIDING COURT, BRADFORD, THURSDAY

NOT WISELY **William Ingham**, boatman was fined 12s 6d for being drunk and disorderly in Leeds Road, Windhill, on the 31st October.

19 1 December 1900

OVER INDULGENCE The following persons were fined 12s 6d each for being drunk and disorderly at Shipley :- Amos Emmott, labourer, Shipley ; Henry Heywood, blacksmith, 38 Windhill Crag ; **Benjamin Parker**, boatman, Bingley ; James Briggs, blacksmith, Keighley ; John Dirkin, labourer, Thomas Brindle, moulder, and William Carey, woolcomber, of Bingley.

20 16 February 1901

WEST RIDING COURT, BRADFORD, MONDAY

NOT A PROFESSIONAL **Thomas Aspinall**, said to be a boatman, with a wooden leg, appeared in the dock on a charge of being drunk and disorderly. Constable Watson said he found the prisoner early on Sunday morning in Carlton Street, Bingley Road, Shipley, and as he refused to go away, the officer locked him up. Prisoner told a long story as to how he had spent Saturday night, and offered to sing a comic song for the edification of the Court, but the Chairman would not consent to his doing so. Superintendent Crawshaw having informed the Bench that Aspinall was before them in September last, the prisoner remarked that he had travelled a thousand miles since then, and had not been locked up. They never interfered with him anywhere but at Shipley. He was ordered to be imprisoned till the rising of the Court.

21 2 March 1901

WEST RIDING COURT, BRADFORD, THURSDAY

OVER THE MARK **Alfred Cockshott**, boatman of Windhill, was fined 7s 6d for being drunk in the tap room at the Bull Hotel, Shipley, on the night of the 16th February ; and **Thomas Kendall**, boatman of Shipley, and James Keenan, warehouseman, Bradford, were each fined 12s 6d for being drunk and disorderly at Shipley.

22 6 April 1901

BINGLEY PETTY SESSIONS, WEDNESDAY

THEFT FROM CLOTHES LINES – A SAD CASE **Ellen Pickles**, wife of a boatman residing in Princess Street, Bingley, was charged with stealing 4 1/2 yards of woollen shirting, the property of Mrs Sarah Jane Hudson of Amy Street, Bingley ; a crepon dress skirt, the property of Mrs Martha Walker of Norman Street ; and towels, the property of Mrs Alice White of Raven Street. From the evidence of the prosecutrixes, it appeared that the articles in question were stolen from clothes lines upon which they were hung to dry, during February and March. These were only three out of a number of charges that might have been preferred against the prisoner, who appeared in Court with an infant at her breast, and who looked half famished and ill. The articles having been identified by the owners, Constable Barrett stated that when he visited the house of the prisoner on the 25th March, he found the piece of woollen shirting, but a child's nightdress had been made of a portion of it, and the prisoner was wearing the crepon skirt at the time. Fred Warburton, assistant at Mr Thompson's, pawnbroker, Bingley, said the prisoner's sons pledged a piece of shirting and two towels at their shop. When apprehended, the woman replied, "I did take them ; it's no use putting anyone else in for it". Prisoner now said, "I am very sorry I did it, but I did it for something to eat". She added that she had seven children, only one of whom worked. Prisoner's husband appeared, and said that sometimes he earned £1 a week, but it was oftener 15s or 10s as his work was so very irregular. The Chairman said that considering the circumstances of the prisoner, the case would be dismissed, but she would be bound over to come up for judgement, if called upon.

23 20 April 1901

DRUNKS **Edward Townsley**, boatman, Shipley, was fined 12s 6d for being drunk and disorderly.

24 13 July 1901

WEST RIDING COURT, BRADFORD, THURSDAY

JOHN BARLEYCORN'S FREAKS The following persons were fined in the amounts named for

being drunk and disorderly at Shipley :- Charles Lightfoot, labourer, and **George T Townsley**, boatman of Shipley, neither of whom appeared, 15s each.

25 20 July 1901

WEST RIDING COURT, BRADFORD, MONDAY

THIRSTY MORTALS John Carroll, moulder, **John W Townsley**, boatman, and **John Taylor**, boatman, were each fined 12s 6d for being drunk and disorderly at Shipley.

26 10 August 1901

WEST RIDING COURT, BRADFORD

JOHN BARLEYCORN'S DEVOTEES **John Buller**, boatman of no fixed abode, was fined 12s 6d for being drunk and disorderly at Shipley.

27 14 September 1901

WEST RIDING COURT, BRADFORD, THURSDAY

John Buller, boatman, for a similar offence (drunk and disorderly) at Shipley on the 10th instant, was fined 10s.

28 18 October 1901

WEST RIDING COURT, BRADFORD, THURSDAY

OBSTRUCTION AT SHIPLEY Joseph Miller, bottle washer, and **Joshua Patchett**, boatman, both of Shipley, were summoned for obstructing the footpath in Otley Road, Shipley, on the night of the 3rd instant. Constable Bacon, in proving the case, said persons passing had to turn off the footpath in consequence of the obstruction caused by the defendants, who had been previously warned the same evening. Defendants were ordered to pay the costs, 7s 6d each.

29 18 October 1901

WEST RIDING COURT, BRADFORD, MONDAY

DRINKERS TO EXCESS John W Ackroyd, labourer, Thomas Collins, polisher, **James Gibbons**, boatman and John W Umpleby, labourer, for being drunk and disorderly at Shipley, were each fined 12s 6d.

30 1 November 1901

BINGLEY PETTY SESSIONS, WEDNESDAY

OVER INDULGENCE **Benjamin Atkinson**, boatman, Bingley, 10s and costs.

31 13 December 1901

WEST RIDING COURT, BRADFORD, THURSDAY

A TROUBLESOME BOATMAN **John W Townsley**, boatman, Shipley, was charged by the Shipley School Board with disobeying a school attendance order. Defendant did not appear, and the officer who served the summons said defendant remarked to him, "You'll get nothing out of me". Mr Walter Popplestone appeared for the School Board and asked for the full penalty ; and the facts having been proved by Frederick Holmes, attendance officer, defendant was fined 20s and costs.

32 10 January 1902

WEST RIDING COURT, BRADFORD, MONDAY

OVER INDULGENCE **Benjamin Green**, boatman, no fixed residence, was fined 12s 6d for being drunk and disorderly at Shipley on the 28th December.

33 17 January 1902

BINGLEY

A BOATMAN FINED A Bingley boatman, **Walter Bramham**, appeared before the Leeds West

Riding magistrates in answer to a summons for unlawfully drawing a lock clough. Mr W Warren (Messrs Ford and Warren) was for the complainants – the Aire and Calder Canal Company – and in opening the case said defendant had rendered himself liable to a penalty not exceeding £5, he having, against the regulations, drawn the lock clough before the lower gate was closed. Defendant was the mate on the boat “*Agnes*”, and the offence, according to the evidence of **Joseph Henry Metcalfe**, the lock-keeper at Woodlesford, was committed on December 11. The gate was open, and witness called out to the defendant to put it down. This Bramham did not do, and nobody attempted to put it down. The gate, in consequence of the neglect, was damaged to the extent of 10s, and two panes of glass in the lock-keeper's house were smashed. The Bench imposed a fine of 20s and costs, or 14 days' imprisonment.

34 21 March 1902

WEST RIDING COURT, BRADFORD, MONDAY

A MATRIMONIAL STORM **John Brayshaw**, boatman, Shipley, was in custody on a charge of assaulting his wife **Catherine**. Complainant stated that on Thursday last her husband came home drunk and fell asleep in a chair. He afterwards woke up, and after asking her if she was ready to meet her God, he kicked her repeatedly, pulled her about the house by her hair, and tore her clothes off her back. She had wounds on her legs now as a result of his violence. Prisoner said that on the day in question he got up and lit the fire and took his wife's breakfast to bed. He then went out and discharged the cargo of his boat, but on coming home to his dinner at 12, the fire was out and nothing ready. He went out and partly discharged the cargo of another boat, and returned at 7 in the evening. She not being at home and nothing to eat ready, he went out and got some beer, and when he came back at 9 she was drunk and trying to light a fire. He struck at her, and she fell over the bucket containing the coal, but didn't kick her. He had given his wife money, which she had spent. In answer to the Chairman, complainant said she remained with her husband until he was locked up, and didn't want him punishing. As both complainant and defendant expressed a desire to forgive and forget, the Bench dismissed the case, the Chairman advising the couple to go away and try to do better.

35 2 May 1902

NEGLECTFUL PARENTS **Tom Stead**, boatman of Shipley, was charged with a similar offence (disobeying a school attendance order). In this case, the child had been present 121 out of a possible 183 times. Fined 10s and costs.

John William Townsley, another boatman of Shipley, who had also been before the court previously for neglecting his son's education, was ordered to pay 10s and costs. In this case the boy had been absent from school 124 times during the last 6 months.

36 16 May 1902

BINGLEY PETTY SESSIONS

A LENGTHY DRUNKEN LIST **Benjamin Atkinson**, boatman, Bingley, was fined 10s and costs for being drunk and disorderly in Main Street.

37 4 July 1902

BOATMEN'S FRACAS At the Bingley Police Court on Saturday, **George William Turner**, boatman of no fixed abode, was brought up on the charge of unlawfully wounding **Abraham Riding**, boatman of Blackburn, at Bingley on the 25th instant. Superintendent Grayson said that the two men were respectively captain and mate of one of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal Company's fly boats, which reached Bingley on Wednesday. A quarrel arose between them with respect to a woman on board, and late at night there was a fracas in the captain's cabin, in which an iron stanchion was used as a weapon. Both men were the worse for drink at the time, and both were hurt, Riding so severely that it was deemed advisable to take him to the hospital at Bingley. After considering the circumstances, he thought the affair was a drunken brawl, and he suggested that the

charge should be reduced to one of common assault. The Bench consented to this course, and evidence was then heard in the case, and also in respect of a cross summons issued by Turner against Riding for assault. In the end, the Bench fined Riding 20s and costs, and dismissed the case against Turner.

38 18 July 1902

WEST RIDING COURT, BRADFORD, MONDAY

EVENING CARROLLING Michael Carroll, woollorter, Shipley, for being drunk and disorderly on the night of the 12th July, was fined 12s 6d. **Thomas Kelly**, boatman, for a similar offence at Shipley on the 13th, was ordered to pay a like sum.

39 8 August 1902

BINGLEY PETTY SESSIONS

BARLEYCORN'S SLAVES **James Taylor**, a boatman well known in Bingley, being thirsty, went to the Fisherman Inn, Dowley Gap at 3.45 on the afternoon of Sunday week, and by falsely representing that he had come from Keighley, induced Mrs Garrett to let him have some beer. But a policeman who knew the sailor came in and made a note of Taylor's presence, and he was now fined £1 and costs, though he has not been seen at Bingley since.

40 29 August 1902

WEST RIDING COURT, BRADFORD, THURSDAY

SUNDAY AFTERNOON GAMBLING George Coultous, mason ; George Watkins, labourer ; Herbert Pawson, labourer ; Joseph Hopwood, brickmaker ; **Thomas Watkins**, boatman ; and Joseph Milner, collier, all young men of Bingley, were summoned on a charge of gaming with coins. Sergeant Blackwell stated that about 5 o'clock on the afternoon of Sunday the 17th instant, he along with Constable Beaton was on duty in Valley Road, Shipley, when they saw the defendants playing pitch and toss on a footpath under Pricking Bridge. They caught two of them, and afterwards visited the others at their homes. Constable Watson gave corroborative evidence. Pawson denied that he was playing, as did also Hopwood and Watkins, but they were all fined 1s each and costs.

41 7 November 1902

WEST RIDING COURT, BRADFORD, MONDAY

A BOATMAN'S VOCABULARY **George Thomas Townsley**, boatman of Shipley, was fined 1s and costs for using obscene language in Albion Street on the night of the 25th October.

42 14 November 1902

WEST RIDING COURT, BRADFORD, THURSDAY

BEERY The following persons were each fined 12s 6d for being drunk and disorderly at Shipley :- Alfred Pratt, labourer, Rawdon ; John Hargreaves, labourer, Shipley ; and **Abraham Thompson**, boatman, Blackburn.

43 26 December 1902

WEST RIDING COURT, BRADFORD, MONDAY

THE INEBRIATING CUP **William Harrison**, boatman of Shipley, was fined 15s for being drunk and disorderly on the 15th.

44 2 January 1903

WEST RIDING COURT, BRADFORD, THURSDAY

George T Townsley, boatman, who did not attend, was fined 15s for being drunk and disorderly in Phoenix Street, Shipley, on Christmas Day.

45 9 January 1903

BINGLEY PETTY SESSIONS, WEDNESDAY

THE FLOWING BOWL **George Cowman**, boatman, and Samuel Bowling, labourer, both of Bingley, were each fined 10s and costs for drunkenness.

46 30 January 1903

WEST RIDING COURT, BRADFORD, MONDAY

TOO MUCH AT A TIME **Stephen Noble**, boatman ; James Hopwood, labourer ; and Philemon Yeadon, dyer's labourer, all of Shipley, were each fined 12s 6d for being drunk and disorderly on the 24th.

47 6 February 1903

WEST RIDING COURT, BRADFORD, MONDAY

OVER INDULGENCE **Robert Blundle**, boatman of no fixed residence, against whom there were 14 convictions, the last being in September, was fined 7s 6d for being drunk at Shipley.

48 6 March 1903

WEST RIDING COURT, BRADFORD, THURSDAY

George Smith, boatman, not fixed, who did not appear, was fined 15s for being drunk and disorderly at Shipley.

49 15 May 1903

BINGLEY PETTY SESSIONS, WEDNESDAY

A DOG THAT WOULD BITE **James Tempest**, boatman, Bingley, was summoned for not keeping a dangerous dog under proper control. A widow named Bridget Lavelle of 17 Eldon Place, Bingley, said that on the 30th April at 7.15 in the evening, as she was crossing the street near defendant's house, the dog approached from behind and bit her heel, which bled profusely, and she went to Dr Crocker, who cauterised it. Alice Yarker, millhand, said she was bitten by the same dog in Dubb Lane on January last. It took a piece clean out of her heel, and she had to go to the doctor. Defendant said he was sorry, and promised to destroy the dog that night. On this undertaking, he was ordered to pay the costs and the doctors' bills.

A BOATMAN AND HIS WIFE **John Slater**, boatman, Bingley, was charged with deserting his wife **Sarah Jane**. On being asked to plead, defendant said he had been away a week or two, that was all, and he didn't know what had ta'en his wife. Complainant said they had been married 31 years. Five weeks before Easter, her husband earned £2 17s, of which he gave her 3s and went away. He came home after a time, but several weeks since went away again, and they had had to do as they could. Complainant not producing any corroborative evidence, the case was dismissed.

50 3 July 1903

WEST RIDING COURT, BRADFORD, THURSDAY

FREE EDUCATION AT A DISCOUNT **Thomas Stead**, boatman, Shipley, was summoned for disobeying a school attendance order. Since December last, defendant's son had attended school 193 times out of a possible 246, and had only made 8 full weeks since November. Mr W Popplestone, clerk to the Shipley School Board, who conducted these prosecutions, said that an order was made on the defendant on the 5th May 1898, and since then he had been fined four times, 10s and costs on the last occasion. Defendant, who did not appear, was now fined £1 and costs.

51 10 July 1903

WEST RIDING COURT, BRADFORD, THURSDAY

A SHIPLEY BOATMAN AND HIS BOYS **Thomas Stead**, boatman, Shipley, was summoned on two counts – for not sending one of his boys regularly to school, and for disobeying an attendance

order previously made with reference to another boy. From the returns given by the attendance officer of the Shipley School Board, it appeared that in both cases the boys had attended school very irregularly. Defendant, who did not appear, was ordered to send the first boy to school and pay costs, and in the second case he was fined £1 and costs.

52 9 October 1903

WEST RIDING COURT, BRADFORD, MONDAY

THE EYE OF THE LAW AT SHIPLEY It was Constable Bateman who was on duty on Saturday noon last about 2.15, when he saw the prisoner in the dock go into the Branch Hotel, from which he was ejected, and for this slight service he began to shout and swear. It was also the same constable who asked him to desist from using such language and behave in a rational manner, but the demon drink had entered his brain, and he trifled with the representative of the law, who then escorted him to a "haven of rest". In "durance vile" they kept him until Monday morning, and although he was not then suffering from the effects of his favourite tonic, his temper was not improved by his recent incarceration, and he loudly proclaimed his innocence.

But who was this individual? None other than Arthur Dixon, moulder of Manningham. He had gone into the Branch Hotel to see a man about "a bob" he had lent him. He said it was always the same, whenever he got into Shipley, they "collared him".

"But why do you go into Shipley?" asked the Chairman.

"I have to go there to work", replied the prisoner, but somehow or other he could not go straight home with his wage on Saturday dinner time.

His wife came presumably to help him out of his difficulty, but she was fain to admit that she found him in the Oddfellows' Hall Inn. He went up to the top of Otley Road with her when she got on the tram, and he could not get on before it started, so he went into "the Branch".

"Any previous convictions?" asked the Chairman.

"Forty, your Worship", answered Superintendent Crawshaw, "but the last one was a year ago. He was here about a month ago, but was not convicted".

During this epilogue, the prisoner wiped his eye with his cap, presumably to wipe away a tear ; but was it the phantom of solitude that floated across his imagination?

"As it is twelve months ago since you were last convicted, you will be fined 12/6 including costs", said the Chairman.

The look of extreme contrition vanished, a smile broke over the prisoner's visage, and with a light step and a wave of his cap in the air, Dixon disappeared into the dock.

The money was soon forthcoming, and once more Dixon was free to perambulate the streets of Shipley.

THURSDAY

The Bench made an order against **John William Townsley**, boatman of Shipley, for the payment of 1s 6d towards the maintenance of his child **Alice**, who had been sent to a reformatory.

53 16 October 1903

WEST RIDING COURT, BRADFORD, THURSDAY

CRUELTY TO A HORSE Thomas Sladen, manager, Shipley, and **James Simpkins**, boatman, were charged at the instance of Robert Rigg, NSPCA inspector, with cruelty to a horse. Complainant stated that on the afternoon of the 24th ultimo he was on the canal bank at Calverley, when he saw the defendant Simpkins in charge of a horse which was pulling a canal boat on which there was a load of about 45 tons. On examining the horse, witness found that there were two sores about 3in in diameter on each of the horse's hips, from which matter was issuing. He asked the boatman why he was working it, and he said he would not have been working it if he had not been compelled to do so. Inspector Barraclough said that, in company with the last witness, he went to see the horse in the evening when it was stabled at Shipley, and saw the sores described. Sladen was present at the time, and said the horse was not like that when it went out on Tuesday.

Mr William Morgan, who appeared for Sladen, described how the wounds were produced 12 months ago. When Sladen ordered the horse out, two days before, the animal was alright and fit to work.

Simpkins confirmed this statement, and added that whilst the horse was in the stable at Leeds, it grazed the healed sores and caused them to break out again. He denied having said that he was compelled to work it.

Sladen went into the box and said that if the wounds had been bad he would not have sent the horse out.

Mr Sam Bradley, veterinary surgeon, said that he had examined the horse. It did not walk lame, nor were the wounds, which were of a superficial character, on or near any joint.

A fine of £2 and costs was imposed upon Sladen, and Simpkins was fined 10s and costs.

ON THE DOWNWARD PATH Jonathan Cowman, 17 years of age, described as a boatman, was charged by Joseph Hodgson with stealing 2 oilstones, 3 chisels and one hammer. Hodgson said that on leaving his work at Dockfield at 5.30 on the 8th instant the articles were there, and he valued them at 7s. Constable Beaton said that from information received he went to prisoner's home and saw his father. On searching the house, he found the missing articles on the mantelpiece. Prisoner said he had only taken them to make a pigeon cote with, and was going to put them back. Prisoner now pleaded guilty. He said he had 5s a week to spend and his food and keep from his father. The Chairman told the prisoner, against whom there were two previous convictions, that they wished to keep him out of prison, if possible, and he would be fined £1 and costs, or a month.

54 13 November 1903

ALLEGED STRANGE CONDUCT OF A BOATMAN

CANAL BOAT HORSE SHOT An extraordinary affair happened on Friday last on the canal bank between Saltaire and Bingley. A bay mare belonging to Messrs Fyfe, Kemp and Co, coal merchants etc of Shipley, was hauling a boat in the direction of Bingley, when it was shot in the flank.

The animal was subsequently brought back to Messrs Fyfe, Kemp and Co's stables at Shipley, where it was seen by Mr Sam Bradley, veterinary surgeon. A large quantity of shot was found to be embedded in the flesh.

The man who was in charge of the horse has, it is said, admitted that it was he who shot it, but whilst the animal was being examined he got away and has not yet been heard of. It was known to the owners that the animal was occasionally in the habit of turning stupid, and it is supposed that it did so last Friday, with the result that the boatman lost his temper. Boatman, it may be added, are in the habit of carrying guns on their boats, so have a "pop" at a rabbit now and again on the banks of the canal.

A Breech loader and some cartridge cases were found in the boat to which the mare was attached.

The Bingley police have the matter in hand.

55 25 December 1903

BINGLEY PETTY SESSIONS, WEDNESDAY

THE SHIPLEY HORSE MAIMING CASE – PRISONER EXPLAINS HIS ACTION

SENT FOR TRIAL – BAIL ALLOWED John Robert Thornton, described as a boatman of Skipton, was before the magistrates this morning, charged by Samuel Robert Kemp of Shipley with maliciously wounding a mare, the property of Messrs Fyfe, Kemp and Co, coal and lime merchants of Otley Road, Shipley, on November 6th.

Mr Percy Taylor appeared for the defence, and Superintendent Tebbutt prosecuted.

Alfred Waller, manager for Messrs Fyfe, Kemp and Co, was the first witness, and he said that the prisoner had been in the employ of their firm for about nine months. On Friday the 6th November, he asked the prisoner to take a bay mare, which was the property of the firm, to Skipton and back with a loaded boat. When he was coming down the yard with the mare, he (prisoner) pulled a cartridge from his pocket and, showing it to witness, said that if she did not go alright, he would

“pop” it into her. He started away with the mare and she went alright for about 400 yards, which was as far as he could see them. The same evening, about 5.15, he went into the office and saw the prisoner there. He was back sooner than he should have been and, in reply to a question as to why he had come back, he said “the horse would do no way”. He then went into the stables, and after examining the animal, he turned to the prisoner and said, “You have ruptured this mare”. When he put his hand underneath her flank, he got some blood on, and on closer examination he found that blood was flowing from her near flank and near hip. When he called Thornton's attention to the state of the animal, he touched him on the back and asked him to go outside. Thornton then asked witness if he knew how it had been done, and when witness said he did not know, he told him that he was firing at her legs, and she turned round and he hit her in the side. He further said that witness had not to tell Mr Kemp, as he would stop and help to (????) her, and the pellets would then come out, and she would be alright in the morning.

Cross-examined by Mr Taylor : The mare was a bad one to work. She had often gone with a boat, but he could not say whether prisoner had had her out before.

Mr Taylor : Did you tell him that she had “stalled” with half a ton of coal up Shipley that morning?

Witness : I might have done.

Mr Taylor : Is it a fact that you told him that if she did not go properly, he had to give her a good whipping?

Witness : I might have said that. I don't remember the exact words.

Mr Taylor : What did you say?

Witness : I told him to make her work.

Mr Taylor : Did Mr Kemp see the mare after she came back?

Witness : Yes, he did.

Mr Taylor : Did you hear Mr Kemp say that if he would pay the “vet's” bill it would be alright?

Witness : No, I did not.

Mr Taylor : Did you know that Thornton had got another situation before this affair happened?

Witness : I didn't know, sir.

Mr Taylor : But perhaps Mr Kemp did.

Witness : I don't think so, sir.

Chairman : What was the gun doing on the boat?

Witness : Well, sir, I think it's a custom. They do it so that they can “drop” anything they come across.

Mr Taylor explained that, as some of them went down Goole and Selby way, they took the guns to shoot the wild ducks and fowl which passed overhead.

The Chairman : I think they would be better without them.

John Firth, lock-keeper at Dowley Gap, said that he saw prisoner in charge of the mare attached to one of Messrs Fyfe, Kemp and Co's boats, and he had just got through the locks when the mare refused to budge. He heard a crack like a gun, and he saw the horse jump round and go towards the bridge. He could see the prisoner, but he did not see a gun in his hand, nor did not see any smoke. When the prisoner brought the horse back, he saw it was bleeding on the left side. He remarked to the prisoner when he came back with the horse “that he deserved sending to Wakefield for that”, and he seemed sorry for what he had done. He (witness) advised him to take it back home, and he did so.

Mr S Bradley, veterinary surgeon of Shipley, said he was called to see the mare about 5.30 on the evening of the 6th November. He found the horse trembling violently and in a state of fright. On examination, he found about 20 small swellings on the hind buttock. The animal was feverish and off its food, and remained in that condition until the Monday following. He attended the animal a fortnight, and then it was fit to work. It was out of danger after the Monday mentioned.

Inspector Kemshall of Bingley said that at 8.15 on the evening of the 8th instant, prisoner came into the Police Station and said he wanted to give himself up for shooting a horse. Witness read over the warrant to him, charging him with maliciously wounding a mare, the property of Messrs Fyfe, Kemp and Co of Shipley, and he replied, “Yes, sir, I did”. The warrant was issued on the 7th

November.

Prisoner was then called as a witness by Mr Taylor, and said that he was in charge of a boat, named the *Ruby*, which he had to take loaded to Skipton and back. Before he went, Mr Waller, the manager, came and asked him to take this mare and see if he could make her work. It had stalled that morning with half a ton of coal ; if she would not work, he must thrash her, but witness said he would not do so, as he had been up before for cruelty to a horse. He did not show Waller any cartridges. It was customary for boatmen on certain journeys to carry guns and shoot wildfowl. They were stood on the canal bank half an hour before the horse would start at all, and Shipley Bridge was full of people watching it. He was about four hours in getting to Dowley Gap Locks, just over a mile. When he got to the locks, the mare stalled again. He tried to entice her to pull the boat, but she wouldn't. He did not want to thrash her, so he went back to his boat and got the gun up to frighten her. He was about 50 or 60 yards away from the horse at that time. He picked the gun up and pulled the trigger, but it did not go off, but while he was examining the cartridge the gun went off and the horse, which had in the meantime turned round, was hit in the side. When he found the mare was injured, he unyoked her, bathed it, and then took the horse home. He showed Mr Waller what was the matter with it, as he did not know until witness pointed it out. He told him how it had happened, and Waller said witness should not have shot it, but have done anything but that. Mr Kemp came in afterwards, and when witness had told him, he said I had to stop and see the vet, and pay his bill. When the veterinary surgeon came, he said it was not serious. Witness said he had a better situation offered on the Manchester Ship Canal, and as Mr Kemp told him he would lose his situation by what had happened, witness went straight away to Manchester that night. When he heard there was a warrant out against him, he gave a fortnight's notice, came back, and gave himself up. He was married and had a family of two.

Mr Taylor, on behalf of the prisoner, asked for leniency, saying that prisoner had been locked up for a fortnight.

Prisoner was committed to take his trial at the ensuing Quarter Sessions, but was admitted to bail in his own recognisance of £20, and two sureties of £20 each.

56 1 January 1904

WEST RIDING COURT, BRADFORD, THURSDAY

JONATHAN'S PREDICAMENT **Jonathan Cowman**, boatman, Shipley, was summoned by his wife **Sarah** for assault. This case was adjourned from last Thursday, as complainant wished to produce witnesses, which she did not do on that occasion.

On the case being called this morning, only the defendant appeared, and he said that his wife had called at his house and said she was not going to appear, and she wanted the summons withdrawing. She said she had done wrong in appearing against him, but it was all through other people telling tales.

The Chairman : Is it true that you have been living with another woman on the boat, as your wife stated last week?

Defendant : No, sir, it is not.

The Chairman : But after what she stated on oath last week, we cannot allow her to withdraw the case without she appears. Do you think she will come if we adjourn the case?

Defendant : She said she wouldn't come.

The Chairman : Have you been threatening her?

Defendant : No, sir.

The Chairman : The case will be adjourned until next Monday, and you must bring her here, and you must appear yourself.

Defendant : I will bring her here then, or I'll -

The Chairman : Do you understand that you are now a prisoner, but you will be allowed out on a surety of 20s? Are you willing to deposit that sum in court?

Defendant : I can do, sir, but I ought to buy something for my children with it ; they can't starve.

The Chairman : If you do not do so, you must remain in custody.

The case was accordingly again adjourned.

57 8 January 1904

THE SHIPLEY HORSE MAIMING CASE

PRISONER ACQUITTED At the Quarter Sessions held at Leeds on Monday, Sir Thos Brook and other magistrates were occupied for a time in the hearing of the case in which **John Robert Thornton** (24), boatman, a Skipton man, was charged with maliciously wounding a mare, the property of Messrs Fyfe, Kemp and Co, at Dowley Gap, Bingley, on 6th November last. Mr W G Stansfield (instructed by Messrs Weatherhead and Knowles) appeared for the prosecution, and the defendant was represented by Mr R Watson (instructed by Messrs Percy Naylor and Cass).

During the hearing, it was stated that the prosecution proposed to offer further evidence concerning a similar offence, and on the application of Mr Stansfield, it was decided to admit this. The jury in the case eventually disagreed, and were accordingly discharged.

The case was again brought before the court on Tuesday.

In opening the case, Mr Stansfield said that when prisoner was told to take the mare on November 6th, he said to the manager of the firm which employed him, "If she doesn't work, I'll pop this into her", at the same time showing a cartridge. The injuries to the mare were discovered on his return, and several pellets were extracted. Subsequently, an examination was made of a chestnut horse, which prisoner had been working, and two pellets were extracted from that animal.

The opening statement of the counsel was borne out by Alfred Waller, Samuel Robert Kemp, George Harrison, John Birch and S J Bradley.

Evidence was also given by Inspector Kemshell, and the accused was placed in the witness box, and gave similar evidence to what we have previously reported.

Addressing the jury, the presiding magistrate said the question for their consideration was whether the injury was maliciously inflicted, and as to this there was no doubt that Birch thought it was not an accident, an important point, in view of the fact that Birch was the only independent witness.

The jury found prisoner not guilty, and he was discharged.

58 29 January 1904

"FOUND DROWNED" AT WINDHILL

BODY NOT IDENTIFIED On Saturday afternoon, a boatman named **David Wright** of Lupton Street, Shipley, was in charge of a boat near Junction Docks, Windhill, when he noticed the dead body of a woman floating in the water. He gave information to the police, and the body was taken to the mortuary, where it lay until Monday, but was not then identified. The body seemed to have been in the water some time.

The inquest was held on Monday morning at Sir Titus Salt's Hospital.

David Wright stated that about two o'clock on the day mentioned, he saw something in the canal near to the stern of his boat, and on looking more closely, he saw it was the body of a woman. He got a boat hook and got it to the side of the canal, and then sent for a policeman. He noticed that the woman's blouse was loose and her clothes torn.

Elizabeth Ann Walton deposed to laying out the body. She said that the face and head were badly cut, but she did not think these wounds had been inflicted before death, because she noticed no signs of blood. What clothes covered the body were worthless, and the corpse appeared to have been in the water about a fortnight, or even longer. The clothing consisted of a black blouse, cloth topped boots, satin underskirt, grey stockings and an outer skirt. The deceased would be about five feet high and about 45 years of age. She had black hair and brown eyes, and had tattoo marks on the left arm and other parts of the body.

A juryman asked witness how she arrived at the conclusion that the wounds on the face and head must have been done after death.

Witness replied that she had seen a similar case at Windhill some time ago, and that there was also the fact that no traces of blood were to be seen.

The Coroner pointed out that at the place where the body was found canal boats were frequently

passing, including steamboats, and the probability was that the injuries had been caused by some of these vessels.

The jury returned an open verdict of "Found drowned".

59 19 February 1904

SERIOUS CHARGE AGAINST A SHIPLEY BOATMAN At the Bingley Petty Sessions on Wednesday – before Mr Wm Ferrand and other magistrates – **George Cowman**, boatman of Shipley, was brought up on remand charged by Joseph Bartle of Crossflatts with stealing 30 cwts of coal. Mr H M Dawson appeared for the prisoner and pleaded guilty. Superintendent Tebbutt said that the prisoner was charged with stealing coal between 3.30 and 4.30 in the morning of the 20th of October from a coal wharf at Morton, which was the property of the Bingley Co-operative Society. The prisoner was passing that spot on that morning on his boat, and he instructed his men to remove a quantity of coal, which was on the wharf, on to the boat, and when he got to Shipley this coal was taken to his house. The man in charge of the wharf discovered the loss and reported the matter to the police. Joseph Bartle, residing at Cross Roads, East Morton, said he was agent for the Bingley Co-operative Society, and had charge of the coal yard at Morton Bridge. On Monday the 19th of October, when he left the yard, he noticed that there was a certain amount of coal on one of the stacks, as it had been placed in a certain number of sacks. When he went next morning, he noticed that there was some of it missing, and he estimated the amount at about 30 cwt. It was good house coal, and its value would be about 30s. He had not given anyone permission to take it away. Mr Dawson, on behalf of the prisoner, expressed his great regret at having taken the coal. He did not think he would be doing his duty if he omitted to mention that it was not the first time his client had been charged with that offence, but his previous conviction was some 15 years ago when he was a lad of about 13 years of age. He had good work to go to, and if their worships would take a lenient view of the case, and allow him to go back to work, he would try and lead a good life. Magistrates' Clerk : Can he go back to his present position? Mr Dawson : Yes, sir, he can. Superintendent Tebbutt said there was one thing he thought he should tell the Bench, and that was the prisoner was a married man, and that whatever view they took of the case, he had another warrant against him for deserting his wife. Mr Dawson : I ought to have told you that, your Worships, and I should have done so, but I am instructed that he has an absolute defence against that charge, which is being brought against him at Leeds. The Chairman, after consultation with the Bench, said they had decided to give him one more trial, and hoped that in this case it would lead him to a more honest life. He would be fined £3 and costs, with the alternative of one month's imprisonment.

60 4 March 1904

KEIGHLEY

A MILKMAN'S DROWNING On Monday at the Marquis of Granby Inn, Stockbridge, Keighley, Mr T P Brown (District Coroner) held an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the death of Robert Smith, milk dealer (37) of 67 Enfield Road, Keighley, who was found drowned in the Leeds and Liverpool Canal at Stockbridge on Saturday morning last. Clara Riley, wife of John William Riley, joiner, of 91 Spencer Street, Keighley, said she last saw Smith alive on Sunday week when he brought the milk. William Davy, proprietor of the Bridge Inn, Stockbridge, saw Smith about half past two on Friday afternoon last. The Coroner : What was his condition then? Witness : He was perfectly sober. **William Deakin**, boatman employed by the Leeds and Liverpool Canal Company, deposed that about half past seven on Saturday morning last he saw the deceased in the canal. He stopped the horse, and gave information to a warehouseman. The body was taken out of the water, and removed to the Marquis of Granby Inn. Police-constable Atkinson of Riddlesden, on searching the body, found a pocket book, a silver watch and chain, 18s 6 1/2d in money, a pencil, a latch key and a knife. The book appeared to belong to a man who collected debts. Clara Riley was recalled and asked by the Coroner if she knew Smith had been summoned for being drunk on licensed premises. Witness : We had heard about it. The jury returned a verdict of "Found drowned".

61 10 June 1904

WEST RIDING COURT, BRADFORD, THURSDAY

MINOR OFFENCES John Smith, labourer, and **Thornton Kendall**, boatman, both of Shipley, were charged with obstructing the footpath by fighting thereon. Constable Barker proved the offence, which happened on the 24th May. Smith, who did not appear, was fined 2s 6d and costs, or seven days ; Kendall, who was represented, was fined 1s and costs.

62 24 June 1904

WEST RIDING COURT, BRADFORD, THURSDAY

FINES FOR NON ATTENDANCE **Jonathan Cowman**, boatman of Shipley, was charged on two counts with the non attendance of his two sons **Alex** and **Walter**.

Booth said that Alex, who was in standard four, had made 82 out of a possible 132 attendances. Walter, who was standard two, had made 82 out of a possible 132. The parents gave no excuse, except that they took the children with them on the boat when they went away. In the case of Alex, there had been four previous orders made, and five previous orders had been made in the case of Walter. A fine of 10s and costs was imposed in each case.

63 24 June 1904

TRAGIC DEATH OF A MAN AT WINDHILL

FAILED TO WALK THE PLANK A labourer named **Frank Henry Wilcock** of Windhill, who has of late spent most of his time on canal boats, met his death in a rather tragic fashion on Saturday evening. He had obtained permission to sleep on a boat which was in the dry dock of Mr G E Ramsay's boat building yard at the Junction Dock on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal at Windhill, and it was supposed that whilst he was walking across the plank from the shore to the boat, he had overbalanced and fallen to the bottom of the dock, and thus broken his neck.

An inquiry into the circumstances attending his death was held at the Manor House on Monday afternoon by Mr E H Hill (district coroner).

The first witness called was Lydia Widdop of 14 Hope Terrace, Carr Lane, Windhill, who said the deceased was her brother, and he was 30 years of age and a moulder by trade, but had been an assistant boatman for some time, and he generally slept on the boats. She last saw him on Friday night, when he was in good spirits.

Firth Dawson, mason, said he was in the Blue Bell on Friday night with **Tom Thornton**, who was captain of a boat which was in the dry dock at Windhill, when the deceased came in about nine o'clock, and asked Thornton if he could stop and sleep on the boat. Thornton told him to ask witness, as he was captain when he (Thornton) was away. Witness gave permission, and they all three went to the boat to sleep that night. They all slept in the same cabin, and to get on to the boat they had to walk along an 11ft plank, which was about 10 inches wide. The dock was about ten feet deep, and the boat was about 9 feet from the dock edge. There was no light about, and the plank was hard to see at night. Wilcock had stayed on the boat on one occasion about a week previous, and had then walked along the plank in the dark. On the following night (Saturday) he saw the deceased in the Blue Bell about 10.30, when he asked witness for the key of the cabin, as he wanted something to eat. He was a bit fresh when he gave him the key. He would not have had anything to drink at the Blue Bell, as they would not serve him owing to some previous bother. Witness left the Blue Bell about 11 o'clock and went down to the boat, walking straight on the deck to the ketch, which he thought would be up. It was fastened, and he shouted out, "Wilcock", but, as he received no answer, he went down the steps into the dry dock, where he saw Wilcock laid on the bottom on his side. He lifted him on to a plank and went for assistance. From the position in which deceased was laid, witness was not able to say whether he had missed the plank altogether, or had fallen from the side of the plank. Wilcock wore clogs.

The Coroner : But the plank was not slippery, was it?

Witness : No, but he might have caught on something.

Constable Benjamin Firth, stationed at Shipley, said he knew the deceased, whom he saw about 10

o'clock on Saturday night near the Blue Bell Hotel, and he was then under the influence of drink. He was carrying some eatables, which he informed the witness were for next day's dinner. About 11.45 the same evening, witness was on duty at the top of New Street, when a lad named Dawson came up to him and said, "Come here, you are just the man we want, Wilcock's killed himself". Witness went down to the Junction Dock, when he saw Wilcock laid on his right side in the bottom of a dry dock. He thought he must have fallen from the side of the plank. He could not walk steady when he saw him earlier in the evening. He found the key of the cabin in his pocket. Deceased's head was very loose, and he thought that deceased had broken his neck.

Eliza Ann Walton, who laid out the body, said deceased had a cut at the back of his head and his neck broken, as it hung on one side, and was quite loose.

The Coroner : It was not as if he had been having a fight with anyone? - No, sir.

A verdict of "Accidental death" was returned, and the Coroner remarked that it would have been a wonder if he had got on to the boat, judging from the description given of the place.

64 8 July 1904

A DROWNING MYSTERY Yesterday afternoon, as a boatman named **F Perkins** of Shipley was coming down the canal bank in the vicinity of the Seven Arches, he saw the body of a man come to the surface of the water. The body was got to the side, and eventually lifted out on to the bank. The police were communicated with, and the body, which did not seem to have been in the water more than a few hours, was removed to the Shipley mortuary to await identification. The man is about 50 years of age, with grey hair and moustache, his height is 5 ft 4 in, and he weighs about 16 st. He was dressed in blue serge jacket and vest, dark tweed trousers, with blue collar and tie, Derby boots and grey ribbed stockings. There was nothing found in his possession by which he could be identified.

An inquest was held this morning at the Manor House, before Mr E H Hill (coroner).

The body was identified by David Hainsworth as that of his father, Greenwood Hainsworth, foreman dyer of 89 Girlington Road, Bradford. In giving evidence, his son said the deceased left home about 12.30 yesterday afternoon. He had been troubled about his employment lately.

A verdict of "Found drowned" was passed.

65 8 July 1904

WEST RIDING COURT, BRADFORD, THURSDAY

A SLIP OF THE HAND **Joshua Lupton**, boatman of Windhill, was summoned by Ruth Watson with assault.

Complainant said that on Saturday night she was sat on the doorstep when defendant came up and asked her why she had sent a man to him. She denied having sent one, and the defendant thereupon struck her twice. He was drunk at the time.

Defendant said he had gone up to her to ask her why she had sent this man, and she jumped up and attempted to strike him with a knife she had in her hand. He knocked her hand away in defence and hit her face by mistake.

Several witnesses of both sides gave conflicting evidence.

The Bench decided that an assault had been committed, and fined the defendant 20s and costs, or one month's imprisonment.

66 19 August 1904

BINGLEY PETTY SESSIONS, WEDNESDAY

REPEATED IN DEFENCE **Fred Patchett**, boatman, his wife **Mary** and Sarah Jane Craven, all of Bingley, were charged with using obscene language on Bradford Road at Cottingley on the 4th inst, about half past ten at night.

Fred Patchett was not present, but his wife pleaded guilty for him, at the same time saying she never opened her mouth. Craven also pleaded not guilty to using the language shown to her by the policeman. Craven said she was coming home from Shipley on the night in question, in company

with the other two defendants, when Patchett commenced to call his wife. She interposed, whereupon Patchett turned upon her, and commenced to swear at and abuse her. She only "repeated it back to him in self defence".

A fine of 5s and costs was imposed in each case.

67 19 August 1904

WEST RIDING COURT, BRADFORD, THURSDAY

THE SIGN OF THE BARREL **John Bulley**, boatman of no fixed abode, pleaded guilty to being drunk and disorderly at Shipley on the 16th inst, and he was fined 12s 6d or, in default seven days.

68 23 September 1904

WEST RIDING COURT, BRADFORD, MONDAY

A DEFAULTING SCHOOLBOY **Thomas Stead**, boatman, Shipley, was summoned for not looking after his boy's attendance at school. Fred Booth, an attendance officer at Shipley, said the lad had only made 58 out of 116 possible attendances. The case was adjourned so that arrangements may be made for sending the lad to an industrial school.

69 14 October 1904

BINGLEY PETTY SESSIONS, WEDNESDAY

ANOTHER ANTI VACCINATOR **Fred Patchett**, boatman of Bingley, was charged with neglecting to have his child vaccinated.

Defendant said that when his wife appeared to get an exemption, they wouldn't let her pay.

The Clerk explained that she had called at the office, but the law was that the husband should appear if they were living in the same house.

Defendant : But how could I appear when I was away?

The Chairman : Are you prepared to have the child vaccinated?

Defendant : No.

A fine of 10s and costs was imposed, and the Clerk advised defendant that he had better have the child vaccinated, or he would be fined again.

Defendant : I won't have it vaccinated if I am fined 20 times.

70 23 December 1904

WEST RIDING COURT, BRADFORD, MONDAY

ATTENDANCE ORDER **Thomas Stead**, boatman of Shipley, was charged by Fred Booth, school attendance officer under the Shipley Education Committee, with disobeying an order made by that court against defendant.

Mr Popplestone, secretary to the Education Committee, said that on the 29th of September the defendant was before the court for the non attendance of his son, and at that time an order was made for arrangements for the lad to go to an industrial school, and defendant had entirely disobeyed this order and had taken the lad straight away on the boat.

A fine of 20s was imposed.

71 20 January 1905

WEST RIDING COURT, BRADFORD, THURSDAY

CALM AFTER STORM **William Patchett**, boatman of Shipley, was charged by his wife **Sylvia** with assault.

The mother appeared when this case was called, and said that the parties had got right again, and complainant had gone away with her husband on the boat.

The case was withdrawn.

72 10 February 1905

WEST RIDING COURT, BRADFORD, THURSDAY

DRUNK AND DISORDERLY **George Albert Kendall**, boatman of Shipley, was mulcted in 12s 8d for a similar offence (drunk and disorderly).

73 24 February 1905

WEST RIDING COURT, BRADFORD, THURSDAY

A DEFAULTING SCHOLAR **Tom Stead**, boatman of Shipley, was summoned by the Shipley Education Committee for disobeying a school attendance order made at this court on the 29th of September of last year. On the 9th of December, defendant was again before the court for disobeying the order, and it was now asked that the boy be sent to a training ship. An order to this effect was accordingly made.

74 24 March 1905

IRREGULAR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE **Fred Perkin**, boatman, Shipley, was summoned at Bradford West Riding Police Court on Thursday for failing to send his child regularly to school. Frederick Holmes, school attendance officer, proved the case, and an attendance order was granted.

75 21 April 1905

ASSAULT BY A BOATMAN At the West Riding Police Court, Bradford, on Monday, **William Patchett** and **Isaac Patchett**, boatmen of Shipley, were charged with assaulting **Sylvia Patchett**, the wife of the former. Mr F G Smith, solicitor, appeared to defend the husband. The Chairman of the Bench (Sir Theo Peel) pointed out that it might be advisable to give the complainant an opportunity of being represented by a solicitor, and the case was allowed to stand over for a few minutes. When it was again called, Mr Smith stated that the complainant withdrew the charge against her husband, and the latter promised to treat his wife properly in future. The case against Isaac Patchett was then proceeded with. Complainant said she had gone to the defendant's house to see her husband, and when she got to the door, the defendant came out and hit her on the face and kicked her in the stomach. No defence was offered, and a fine of 20s and costs was imposed, with the alternative of one month's imprisonment.

76 28 April 1905

HE PREFERRED THE "FARM" **Joseph Rennard**, boatman, was charged before the Bingley Bench on Wednesday with being drunk and disorderly. In the course of a statement he said he had been given drink by some friends, who had threatened that they would throw it over him if he did not take it. The Chairman (Mr Ferrand) said it would have been almost better if he had let the men throw the drink over him, but Rennard replied, "It would be silly to lose good beer". The Bench decided to give the prisoner the option of taking the pledge at once, or of being fined 5s and costs, with the alternative of seven days in prison, and Rennard at once decided that he would "go to the farm", Superintendent Tebbutt explaining to the magistrates that by this term was meant the gaol.

77 4 August 1905

A REFORMATORY BOY'S MAINTENANCE **John William Townsley**, a boatman of Shipley, was summoned for the payment of £1 19s at the Bradford West Riding Police Court yesterday, being arrears of maintenance of his son in a reformatory. Asked what explanation he had to give, he said he was not going to pay. He was sent to prison for a month.

78 22 December 1905

BODY FOUND IN THE CANAL AT BOLTON BRIDGE At 8.25 on Saturday, **Arthur Smith**, boatman of Kirkstall Road, Leeds, recovered from the canal near to Bolton Bridge the dead body of a man afterwards identified as George Herbert Neal (30), warehouseman, 19 Chatham Street, Bradford.

79 23 February 1906

IRREGULAR ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL At the West Riding Police Court, Bradford, yesterday, **Fred Perkins**, boatman, Shipley, was fined 5s and costs for disobeying a school attendance order made in regard to his child some months ago.

80 23 February 1906

WITHDRAWN A summons was taken out last week by Mr Charles W Clapham, relieving officer, against **Samuel Hardy**, a boatman residing at Windhill, for neglect of family. At the West Riding Police Court on Monday morning, Mr Clapham intimated that defendant had paid the amount expended by the Guardians, and asked to be allowed to withdraw the summons. The Bench agreed to this course.

81 4 May 1906

JUMPED INTO THE RIVER WITH BABY

SAD TRAGEDY AT WAKEFIELD A Wakefield woman named **Louisa Hampshire**, aged 30, wife of a boatman living in Wellington Street, Thornes Lane, drowned herself and her six months old child on Monday morning.

Shortly after nine o'clock, a youth named William Walker of Durkar was near the riverside in the neighbourhood of Messrs Stubley's mill in Florence Lane, when he saw the woman, who was holding the child in her arms, jump into the water. Walker was unable to swim, but in the hope that the woman would assist in her rescue, he took off his coat and stretched it out in her direction. She either would not or could not get hold of it, however, and Walker thereupon raised an alarm.

Assistance was soon at hand, but when the bodies were recovered from the water, life was extinct.

It appears that Mrs Hampshire left home with the child about nine o'clock, giving a neighbour the key of the house and asking her to look after the fire. She stated that she would be back in about an hour. On the house being entered, a note written by Mrs Hampshire was found, expressing her intention of taking her life.

No reason can so far be assigned for the rash act, except that the woman had for some time past complained of pains in her head. At the time of the sad occurrence, the husband was away from home.

82 1 June 1906

A BARGE OWNER'S LOSSES **Charles Watson**, barge owner, 37 Salisbury Street, Shipley, who came up for public examination in bankruptcy at the Bradford County Court on Wednesday, had a deficiency of £63. He saved £60 as a boatman, and four years ago began on his own account as a barge owner and carrier. He bought a barge for £75 and a horse for £16, and travelled on the canal from Frizinghall to Castleford. He saved another £50, and went in for another boat, which was to cost him £65, and a horse. His turnover with the two barges was about £6 a week, and his expenses were £4. His turnover fell off considerably owing to bad trade, and he lost one of his horses by death. During the last eighteen months he thought he had lost £200. The examination was closed on the application of Mr J A Loe.

83 6 July 1906

WILFUL DAMAGE **Samuel Hardy**, boatman, Shipley, was summoned at the instance of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal Company for doing wilful damage to the extent of 12s 6d to an iron anchor plate.

Mr Alfred Platts, who prosecuted, said that the defendant was seen to place the anchor plate on the boat. He was requested to place it back on the bank, and he complied, but he threw it down and smashed it.

A fine of 10s and the costs, a total of £1 2s 6d, was imposed, with an alternative of one month's imprisonment.

84 27 July 1906

NEGLECTED HIS DAUGHTER At the Bradford West Riding Police Court on Thursday, **Jonathan Cournan (Cowman?)**, a boatman of no fixed residence, was summoned by Mr C W Clapham, relieving officer, for neglecting his daughter, thereby causing her to become chargeable to the North Bierley Union. It was stated that defendant had work in Goole. His daughter was subject to fits. The defendant was ordered to pay £1 down of the amount only (£2 6s 3d), the remainder to be paid off within a fortnight.

85 10 August 1906

Jonathan Cowman, boatman, Shipley, was charged at the Bradford West Riding Court yesterday, at the instance of Mr Charles W Clapham (relieving officer for the Shipley district of the North Bierley Poor Law Union) for neglecting his daughter. The relieving officer, however, asked for an adjournment of the case for a month, and this was granted.

86 24 August 1906

KILLED BY A SACK OF CORN At Ashton-under-Lyne on Tuesday, Mr J F Price inquired into the death of a Stalybridge boatman named **Benjamin Iles**, of Sheffield Street. He was on the canal wharf on Friday steadying sacks of corn as they were being hoisted to the fourth storey of the corn mill of Messrs Buckley and Newton. A steam driven barrel hoist was used, and the bags were secured with a single hook containing two fangs. The hook tore through one sack of corn when about 33 feet from the ground. It fell upon Iles, striking him on the chest, and he died the next day. Another boatman admitted to the Coroner that it would have been safer if they had used slings to hoist the bags instead of hooks, but the sling method took longer. A verdict of accidental death was returned.

87 31 August 1906

BOAT HORSE ILL-TREATED **George L Young**, boatman of Shipley, was charged at the West Riding Police Court, Bradford, yesterday (Thursday) with working a horse while physically unfit. PC Braithwaite stated that his attention was drawn to the animal on Wednesday morning, August 15th, at 9.40. It was then towing a canal barge on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal at Shipley. A gentleman remarked to witness that the horse was altogether unfit for work, and upon inspection he found two large sores on its shoulders. The boatman first said that the horsekeeper had ordered him to work the animal, but afterwards he contradicted that statement. The horse was, in witness's opinion, totally unfit for work ; in fact, it was little more than skin and bones.

Inspector Rigg of the RSPCA said he saw the horse on the 16th at the stables of Messrs A Kendall and Sons, Shipley. It was physically unfit for work and was suffering from sores. He saw the horsekeeper, who denied having any knowledge that the horse was working. Defendant was in the employ of Messrs Kendall.

Superintendent Crawshaw said that defendant had been twice before the Court previously for cruelty to animals, the last offence being in 1899.

Defendant, in answer to the Chairman, said that he was then in the employ of Messrs Fyfe, Kemp and Co, Shipley.

A fine of 40s and costs, with an alternative of one month's imprisonment, was inflicted.

88 21 September 1906

CALVERLEY

MR WOODHOUSE ON THE LIVES OF CANAL BOATMEN Mr E Woodhouse of Calverley (Lord Mayor of Leeds), who was accompanied by the Lady Mayoress, presided over a gathering held in the Leeds Town Hall on Monday in connection with the autumnal meetings of the Incorporated Seamen and Boatmen's Friend Society.

The Lord Mayor said that the lives of canal boatmen had always seemed to him to be of the most mysterious character. Their insularity was extreme ; and their lives were very different from those

of the ordinary artisans. Altogether, the canal boatman's life was not very laborious, but it must be extremely tedious and trying. There was a total absence of anything in the shape of domestic comforts. One could hardly conceive it possible that in these days young families had to be brought up in boats with such a total absence of domestic comfort. Yet it had to be done. Unfortunately, there was every inducement for the people in this sphere of life to turn their attention to things that were morally injurious. What was to be done so long as this kind of life was necessary, he did not know. It certainly seemed to him that where men and their wives and families had to live on board these boats, some provision should be made to make their surroundings a little more attractive and comfortable, especially for the sake of the children. It had often occurred to him that canal boatmen and their families were a pitiable class, standing halfway between the gipsy and the ordinary artisan classes. They knew the difficulties of dealing with the gipsy. It seemed to him that the difficulty of dealing with the canal boatman must be as great. Welcoming the society to Leeds, the Lord Mayor expressed a hope that good results would follow their meetings in the city.

89 5 October 1906

ACCIDENT OR SUICIDE?

THE THACKLEY DROWNING MYSTERY An inquiry was held by the City Coroner at the Bradford Town Hall on Tuesday into the circumstances attending the death of a smallware hawker named Wilson Turner of 51 Windhill Old Road, Thackley, who was found drowned in the Leeds and Liverpool Canal at Thackley on Saturday morning.

Richard (?Ron), a boatman of 20 Piccadilly, Shipley, said that at about a quarter to ten on Saturday morning, he was proceeding with his boat near Buck Mill Bridge, Thackley, when he noticed the body of a man floating in the water. With the aid of a boat hook, he brought the object to the side, and after satisfying himself that the man was dead, he summoned the police. There were a hat and walking stick lying together on the canal bank near where the body was found. Witness assisted in the recovery of the body from the water, when the police arrived.

Sergeant Hardcastle, the Coroner's officer, intimated that deceased had no relatives who could be called to give identification evidence. His only known relative resided in Australia.

Sarah Ann Hudson, Buck Wood Cottage, stated that she had known the deceased for about four years. He was about 66 years of age, and told witness that he had no relatives except one in Australia. For some time past, he had complained of feeling poorly, but would not have a doctor.

Has he ever said that he wished he was out of his misery or anything of that kind? - No, I have never heard him.

Was he a very eccentric sort of man? - No. He seemed to be a very nice person, and I never saw him get into a temper.

Who used to clean the house for him? - I don't know.

Did he do it himself? - I don't know. I expect so.

The Coroner remarked to the jury that deceased's house was in a very dirty condition, and this witness was the only person who had been able to get inside.

Witness added that she identified the hat and stick found on the bank as belonging to deceased.

John Morse, a farmer of Thackley End, said that deceased came to his farm at about half past seven on Saturday morning last for some milk. He came to the house twice, the first time at about seven o'clock. He appeared in a very cheerful mood.

Would he have occasion to cross over the canal in order to get home from the farm? - No.

Lately he had been out of sorts, but witness had never heard him threaten to do away with himself.

Has he been in the habit of going to the canal to wash himself? - No, I don't think so.

He was one of the "great unwashed" perhaps? - Well, I don't think he often washed himself.

PC Frank Hill deposed that he assisted to take the body from the water on Saturday morning, and afterwards conveyed it to the Public Mortuary. He knew deceased slightly.

Was he a person you would expect to have gone and made away with himself? - He was an eccentric man.

Did you think he was strange in his mind? - No.

Was it a foggy morning when the body was found? - Yes.

Witness found no indications of foul play or anything of a suspicious nature on the canal bank.

In summing up, the Coroner remarked that it was quite possible for deceased to have fallen into the canal accidentally, the morning being foggy, but apart from this supposition was the fact that his hat and stick were found high and dry on the bank. He thought there was no reason to suspect that anyone had interfered with deceased, for he was a man who had no enemies. There was no evidence that his mind was unhinged, however, and he did not see what other conclusion the jury could arrive at except that deceased was found drowned with no marks of injury or violence on the body.

A verdict of "Found drowned" was returned, the jury being of the opinion that there was insufficient evidence to show how deceased got into the water.

90 9 November 1906

CAREFULLY PLANNED THEFTS AT SALTAIRE MILLS

POLICE EFFECT FOUR ARRESTS

FUGITIVE SWIMS THE CANAL In consequence of the disappearance of lead from one of the yards at Saltaire Mills, a watch was set on the place, and four arrests were made on Tuesday night. The prisoners were **John Dennison Smith**, boatman, Jane Hills, Shipley ; John William Smith, bank ranger, Gallows Bridge Cottage, Shipley ; **Samuel Butterfield**, boatman, Cryers' Yard, Shipley ; and James Child, labourer, Shipley. The two prisoners named Smith were charged with stealing five stones of lead worth 10s, and the other two with stealing four stones of lead (value 8s), the property of Sir Titus Salt, Bart, Sons and Co Ltd.

Mr H Holland, solicitor, represented the prisoners.

The charges against the prisoners named Smith were taken first.

Superintendent Morley said that on the 6th inst PC Bacon and another constable hid in a yard at Saltaire Mills in order to watch the lead heap. They saw Joseph Smith come along and take a quantity of old lead piping, one piece of which he twisted and placed round his neck. As he was walking away, the police accosted him. "What are you doing with that lead?" they asked, and he replied, "I am going to take it away". They took him to the Police Station, and when charged with the offence he said, "That's just it". Later, while Inspector Barraclough and a constable were looking over the premises, they saw a man climb over a wall. It was about 7.10 pm. Evidently the intruder mistook the police for confederates, and came quite close to them. "Joe", he remarked, "Wheear's ta been? Has ta got owt?" Then, realising his mistake, he bolted, the police following. Headlong he rushed until he got on to the canal bank. Nothing daunted, he dived head first into the water and, swimming across, got safely away. "The police", Superintendent Morley remarked, "did not follow suit, but they got round by some other way". (Laughter). It was not until 11.30 pm that the fugitive was arrested. Subsequently, the police, while searching his house, found in the oven the jersey they had seen him wearing. It was still very wet. Afterwards they found other portions of his clothing, which were also wet. When charged, he said, "The game is up".

John Baker, clerk of works, said that between the spinning, warping and scouring portions of the mills there was a bin in which they stored old metal. For a few months, they had suspected that some one was taking lead away, so he informed the police. He identified the lead produced as similar to the remainder of the heap in the yard.

PC Bacon stated that PC Robinson and himself secreted themselves in the mill yard. His evidence was corroborative of the superintendent's statement in regard to both prisoners.

Mr Holland submitted that so far as John William Smith was concerned there was no evidence of theft, and he should therefore be dismissed.

The Chairman (Dr W H Ellis) : On that charge there is a doubt, and prisoner shall have the benefit of it. The case against him is dismissed.

Mr Holland : Then he may leave the court?

Superintendent Morley : Oh, no. I shall lay another charge against him – one of being on enclosed premises for an unlawful purpose.

Butterfield and Childs were then ranged alongside of Joseph Dennison Smith.

Superintendent Morley said the evidence and circumstances of the charge against Butterfield and Child were identical with those in the case of Joseph Dennison Smith. PCs Holden and Robinson hid in the mill yard and caught them.

PC Robinson stated that he apprehended Butterfield and Child at 7.30 pm. When charged, the former said, "Yes, it's the first time I have been", and the latter, "I didn't know where the lead was ; I had not been before".

Mr Holland pleaded guilty on behalf of Butterfield, Child and Joseph Dennison Smith. He asked for their cases to be dealt with under the First Offenders Act. His clients, he said, knew that other people were fetching lead from the mill yard, and they followed suit. None of them had been previously convicted for felony. Two of them had wives and families dependent upon them.

The Chairman : We have been considering whether we can adopt the suggestion made by Mr Holland to extend leniency under the First Offenders Act. We are asked to look upon these offences as a casual taking of something which they imagined to be nobody's in particular, and everybody's in general. But we have concluded that it has been a carefully and deliberately planned robbery, and consequently we cannot extend that leniency. The three prisoners are each committed to a month's imprisonment with hard labour. We hope this will be a lesson to others.

The charge against John William Smith – of being on enclosed premises with unlawful intent – was then made.

Mr Holland asked for a remand until Monday, and it was granted.

Prisoner was allowed bail in the sum of 40s.

91 16 November 1906

APPERLEY BRIDGE

FOUND DROWNED On Tuesday morning a boatman named **Eli Wilkinson** of Bingley noticed the body of a woman in the canal at Apperley Bridge. PC 122 Hardaker of Idle was summoned to the spot, and he recovered the body from the water. The body, which had evidently been in the water some time, was removed to the public mortuary at Bradford. There were two deep cuts at the back of the head, probably caused by canal barges. The deceased woman had dark hair and grey eyes. She was wearing a green and white blouse, black underskirt and black laced boots. The body has not been identified.

92 28 December 1906

SHIPLEY HOTEL WAITER'S DEATH

ON THE CANAL BANK IN A FOG

JURY RETURN A VERDICT OF "FOUND DROWNED" Mr E H Hill, District Coroner, held an inquest at the Manor House, Shipley, last Saturday morning, touching the death of a man named John Dennison (32), who resided in View Croft Place, Shipley, and whose body was recovered from the Leeds and Liverpool Canal near the Canal Tavern, Windhill, on the previous Wednesday. Mr Major Lightowler was foreman of the jury.

THE BROTHER'S EVIDENCE The first witness was the brother of the deceased, Thomas Dennison, who gave evidence of identification. Witness said his brother was employed as a waiter at the Royal Oak Hotel, Shipley. He left home on Sunday about three o'clock.

Did you know what he was going to do at the Canal Tavern?

Witness : No, I did not.

The Coroner : When did you get to know that your brother was missing?

Witness : On Tuesday morning.

The Coroner : When did you see the landlord of the Canal Tavern?

Witness : On Tuesday night.

The Coroner : What did the landlord tell you about your brother?

Witness : He said that he had assisted him to repair the beer pumps, which were not in working order. Deceased afterwards had his tea, and left his house about half past five, saying that he had to

go to the Royal Oak.

The Coroner : Would the deceased have to walk along the towing path when he left the Canal Tavern?

Witness : Yes.

The Coroner : How wide is the towing path?

Witness : About three yards.

The Coroner : Is it lighted at all?

Witness : No.

The Coroner : How deep was the water where you found him?

Witness : It would be about six feet.

The Coroner : Could he swim?

Witness : No.

THE LANDLORD'S EVIDENCE Edmund Barratt, landlord of the Canal Tavern, said the deceased came to his house on Sunday and assisted him to do some repairs to the beer pumps. Soon after he had gone, a boatman who came into the house remarked that there was someone in the "cut" just above.

The Coroner : Did you ask him how far off?

Witness : I did not.

The Coroner : Did you ask if he had tried to get him out?

Witness : No, I did not say anything to him ; he drank his beer straight off, and was out in a few seconds.

The Coroner : Did you know anything about the boatman?

Witness : No.

The Coroner : What did you do when he had gone?

Witness : I went out many a time, but it was so foggy that I could not see a finger before me, and I dare not go more than a yard from the house. I have only been in the place a week, and I was afraid that I might fall into the canal.

The Coroner : Could you not have taken a lantern?

Witness : The boatman never told me whereabouts he had seen the body.

The Coroner : Did you tell anyone about it?

Witness : No, not until his brother came to make inquiries.

The Coroner : Would you know the boatman again?

Witness : I do not think so.

The Coroner : Do you know how far it is from your house to where the body was pulled out?

Witness : About fifty or sixty yards.

The Coroner : You heard nothing after the deceased had left the house – no outcry or splash?

Witness : No.

The Foreman : Is there not a wall which runs right along the canal bank?

Witness : I believe there is one about forty yards from my house.

The Foreman : When the deceased came to your house, was he perfectly sober?

Witness : He was.

Eliza Ann Walton, who laid out the body of the deceased, said there were slight bruises on the side of his nose and on his brow.

In summing up, the Coroner remarked that the evidence of the landlord was of a somewhat curious nature, but the police had made inquiries, and so far as they could judge, his story was correct. There was no evidence to show that the pockets of the deceased had been touched, and there was nothing to lead them to think that he had been pushed in. He asked the jury to take into consideration that it was a night when an accident was extremely likely to happen.

The jury returned a verdict of "Found drowned, there not being sufficient evidence to show how deceased got into the water".

93 3 May 1907

BOATMAN FALLS INTO THE CANAL About half past three on Saturday afternoon, an exciting incident occurred near Jane Hills. A boatman named **John Miller**, in the employ of Messrs **Abraham Kendall** and Sons, was in the act of pulling a sheet over one of the boats (which was near the bank) when the cord snapped and Miller fell into the water. An alarm was raised, and Police-constable Taylor and a number of other men went to the assistance of Miller who, being unable to swim, was in difficulties. When pulled on to the boat he was quite unconscious. PC Taylor, who has attended ambulance classes in Shipley, tried artificial respiration for over a quarter of an hour, and his efforts were rewarded by the man coming round. Miller, who was still in a very critical and exhausted condition, was carried into a house in the vicinity, where he was subsequently attended by Dr Eames, who expressed the opinion that but for the prompt action of the policeman, he would in all probability have lost his life. Miller was not in a fit state to be removed to his home until the following morning. Police-constable Taylor's conduct in connection with this case was reported by Superintendent Morley to the Chief Constable for the West Riding, who has promoted him from the rank of third class to first class constable.

94 17 May 1907

ASSAULTED ON WINDHILL BRIDGE

BOATMAN KICKS HIS WIFE **Samuel Hardy**, boatman of 2 Lupton Street, Bradford Arms, Shipley, was summoned at the West Riding Police Court, Bradford, yesterday (Thursday) morning for assaulting his wife, **Mary Ann Hardy**. Defendant did not appear.

The prosecutrix told a peculiar story. She said that she had quarrelled with her husband (the defendant) because he lived with another woman on a canal boat of which he had charge. On Saturday night at about ten o'clock, she saw him taking the woman to the boat, so she followed. The assault was committed on Windhill Bridge. Defendant told her to go home, and said he was going to take the other woman with him on to the boat. He kicked her (the prosecutrix) about the legs, and struck her in the face. In answer to the Chairman, complainant said she used to go with her husband on the boat, but she had not done so during the past twelve months. He had declined to let her accompany him.

Walter Nuttall stated that he went to the boat and told Hardy that the prosecutrix wanted him on Thursday afternoon last. Hardy gave him 6d to give to her, and told him to tell his (Hardy's) wife to go to the Queen Hotel. There was a woman on the boat with Hardy at the time.

Defendant was fined 10s and costs, with an alternative of 10 days' hard labour.

Hardy was also summoned yesterday morning in respect of his child's irregular attendance at school. This prosecution was at the instance of the Shipley Education Committee, on whose behalf Fred Booth (school attendance officer) stated that the defendant's child had made 71 out of a possible 156 attendances. An attendance order was made.

95 7 June 1907

PITCH AND TOSS AT BAILDON

SHIPLEY YOUTHS SUMMONED At the Otley Police Court today, before Mr E P Arnold-Forster (in the chair), Mr G A Robinson, Mr F Holmes and other magistrates, **George Millar**, boatman, Shipley ; William Hird, labourer, Shipley ; and Edward Stenson, apprentice, Shipley, were summoned for gaming by playing pitch and toss at Baildon on May 25th. PC Anderson said that on the day in question, he was in the Otley Road, Baildon, in uniform, when he saw two youths on the footpath by the river side, gaming with coins. He went home and came back in plain clothes. On return, he found that the boys had been joined by three others, on getting over the bridge the five youths passed under, and he afterwards saw them gaming behind a building. He was a distance of about 200 yards away, and gradually worked up to them. He saw money change hands frequently. When he made himself known the youths ran away, and he gave chase. PS Holiday, who was coming in the opposite direction, stopped them. Hird, however, got away, and after a race of about 700 yards, witness caught him. Hird thereupon threw himself down and started struggling. He

refused to give his name and address, which had to be obtained from another sergeant. Miller and Stenson said they expected they would have to stand by it, and Hird said he didn't care a ----. PS Holiday said that while he was holding two of the defendants, one of the lads said he had "picked up three pints" and he didn't care a ----, so long as he had got so much out of the job. Stenson, the only defendant who appeared, was fined 2s 6d and costs, and Hird 7s 6d and costs or seven days, and Miller 5s and costs or seven days.

96 28 June 1907

ALLEGED WIFE DESERTION **Herbert Betts**, boatman, was summoned by his wife (**Kate Betts**) at the West Riding Police Court yesterday (Thursday) morning, for desertion. The complainant stated that her husband, who used to abuse her "shamefully", had been at home only occasionally since Easter. Between Easter and Whitsuntide, during which period the defendant was in full work, he only gave her 4s 6d, whilst since Whitsuntide he had only given her 8s 6d. She had four children, and she wanted her husband to maintain them. The defendant expressed sorrow at what had happened, and promised to do better. Eventually the case was adjourned for two months to give the defendant an opportunity to carry out his promise.

97 26 July 1907

HOW HE EVADED THE POLICE **Samuel Hardy**, boatman, formerly of the Bradford Arms district, Shipley, was charged at the West Riding Police Court, Bradford, on Monday morning, at the instance of the North Bierley Board of Guardians, with neglecting his wife and family. Mr Chas W Clapham, relieving officer for Shipley and district, stated that the prisoner's wife and six young children became chargeable to the Union on May 23rd, and remained so until June 15th. The Board were now claiming £6 2s 8d in respect of maintenance. A police officer stated that after being arrested the prisoner said that he had known for some time that there was a warrant out for his arrest, but he had tried to evade its execution. He was employed as a boatman on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, and in order to evade the Shipley police, who would know him, he had made a practice when travelling along the canal with the boat to take train at Apperley Bridge and ride to Bingley, or vice versa. The Bench committed prisoner to gaol for a month with hard labour.

98 13 September 1907

DESERTING HIS WIFE At the West Riding Police Court on Thursday, **Herbert Betts**, boatman, Windhill, was summoned for deserting his wife, **Kate Betts**. Defendant's wife stated that he left her about four weeks ago, and had not been home since, nor had he provided in any way for her or his children. She also stated that he had gone away before, and she had brought him before the Court then, when he promised to do better. Defendant said he would not live with his wife again, and accused his wife of drinking. The case was dismissed, and defendant was told that he would have to support his wife and children.

99 27 September 1907

BOY DROWNED IN THE CANAL On Tuesday afternoon, the body of a boy named John Lee Knowles, six years of age, son of **John Lee Knowles**, boatman of 17 Dale Street, Hargreaves Square, was taken from the Leeds and Liverpool Canal between the Otley Road and Gallows Bridges. The deceased had been missing since Saturday afternoon, when he was seen playing on the canal bank not far from where the body was found. As it was thought that he might have accidentally fallen into the water, dragging operations were carried out on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, and on the latter day the body was recovered by a man named Thomas Mansley, labourer, 4 Dixon Street, Windhill. Mr E H Hill, District Coroner, held an inquest on the body of the boy at the Manor House on Wednesday afternoon. The mother of the deceased said she last saw the child alive about a quarter to twelve on Saturday noon. At that time he asked her for a halfpenny, and she gave him one with which he bought some fruit. He did not come home to his dinner, and about half past five witness commenced to search for him. In answer to the Coroner, who asked if the

deceased was in the habit of going on to the canal bank, witness said she had never known him go there without first asking her permission to do so. **Harry Barraclough**, boatman, Spring Place, Valley Road, said he saw the deceased child on the canal bank near the Otley Road Bridge about half past three on Saturday afternoon. He appeared to be playing along with several other children, and witness ordered them away, but he did not notice in which direction the deceased went. Thomas Mansley, labourer, gave evidence with regard to the recovery of the body about three o'clock on Tuesday afternoon near the Otley Road Bridge. The water in the canal at that point was between five and six feet deep. The jury, of which Mr Halstead was foreman, returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased had accidentally fallen into the water and been drowned.

100 4 October 1907

CRUELTY TO A BOAT HORSE **John Craven**, boatman, Bingley, was summoned at the West Riding Police Court, Bradford, yesterday (Thursday) morning, for cruelty to a horse, and his employer, **William Oldfield**, boat owner of Riddlesden, was summoned for causing the animal to be worked while in an unfit state.

PC Braithwaite, stationed at Windhill, stated that on September 17th at 3.25 pm, he was on the bank of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal at Windhill, when he met the defendant Craven, who was in charge of a horse which was drawing a boat. The animal flinched as though in pain when Craven urged it forward. On examining the horse, he (witness) found that it was lame, and was suffering from a large sore on one shoulder.

Inspector Rigg of the RSPCA said that he examined the horse at Shipley about an hour after PC Braithwaite had stopped it, and found it quite unfit for the task that had been imposed upon it.

Oldfield stated that he had had the horse about five years. He gave £40 for it, but it had got "run down" considerably since. He did not deny that the animal was in poor condition, but he pointed out that immediately it was stopped, a fresh horse was substituted, and the animal in question was sold to be slaughtered.

Oldfield was fined 20s and costs, or one month, and Craven 10s and costs, or ten days.

101 11 October 1907

DISHONEST LODGERS **Thomas Walker**, boatman, Windhill, and Mary E Crowson, married woman, were charged at the West Riding Police Court, Bradford, on Monday, with stealing a coat, vest and quilt, the property of **Joseph Garforth**, boatman of 62 Crag Road, Windhill.

Superintendent Morley stated that on the 13th of last month, prisoners went to the prosecutor's house and asked to be permitted to stay there. When prosecutor went away with his canal boat on a journey to Castleford, he left them in possession. He returned on the 3rd inst, and found that prisoners had gone away, and that the articles alleged to have been stolen were missing. He gave information to the police, who traced prisoners and apprehended them. It was found that the stolen articles had been pawned, with the exception of the quilt which was found at a house which the prisoners had taken at Windhill to live in.

Garforth bore out this statement in evidence, and said that the articles were worth 13s 6d.

Harold Bell, a boy of fourteen years, said he pawned the jacket and vest for Walker. He told the pawnbroker that he had been sent by Thomas Walker, 60 School Hill, and he obtained 10s on the goods. This sum he gave to Walker, who gave him 3d.

Mrs Mary Townsley of 5 Lane Bottom, Windhill, stated that on the previous Wednesday she saw the female prisoner in the Rock Inn, and she had the quilt with her. She said, "I am bahn to tak' this 'ome".

PC Braithwaite apprehended the prisoners at 34 Cowling Road, Windhill. The female prisoner said, "The quilt is not stolen ; it was lent to me until I got one".

Walker pleaded guilty, but Mrs Crowson denied the offence.

Prisoners were each fined 20s and costs, or a month's imprisonment in default.

102 11 October 1907

A SINGULAR MISTAKE **Hugh Kershaw**, a boatman, who formerly resided in Browgate, Baildon, declared before the Leeds Recorder yesterday week that he had been mistaken in swearing before the magistrates that Peter Jackson, a baker, who was in the dock, was one of the two men who were concerned in robbing him of £1 2s 6d on July 23rd.

The Recorder told the jury that though the case was one of strong suspicion, it would not be safe to convict after the statement now made by Kershaw.

A verdict of "Not guilty" was accordingly returned, and the prisoner was discharged.

103 25 October 1907

"WANTED" FOR FOUR YEARS On Monday last, a charge against a man who had been "wanted" for four years was heard at the West Riding Police Court, Bradford. **George Whitfield**, described by the police as a boatman, but who said he was a cart driver, formerly of Windhill district, was charged with stealing two sacks of horse corn, the property of John Wade, coal merchant, Windhill.

Examined by Superintendent Morley, W J Rushworth, manager for John Wade, stated that the sacks of corn were missed from the firm's premises at Windhill on July 17th 1903, and the police were informed of the theft. The value of the stolen property was 10s.

Mary Hartley, housekeeper for Rushworth, stated that she saw prisoner in the stable yard with a sack of corn on his back. He was under the influence of drink, and staggering beneath his load, he fell to the ground. He went away, but later returned with a barrow and wheeled the sack of corn away.

Jonas Murgatroyd, ironfounder, Walker Fold, Windhill, stated that prisoner asked him to buy a sack of corn from him, stating that it was his own, and that he had brought it from his boat. Witness bought it, but when prisoner came with a second sack, he refused to buy any more. The sack he did buy had no name on it at all.

PC Braithwaite said that on Friday last he proceeded to Yeadon to make inquiries respecting prisoner. He apprehended him in a public house named the Robin Hood. In answer to the charge, prisoner said, "Yes, I am the man. I am not going to give anyone else away".

Prisoner pleaded guilty, but declined to offer any explanation.

Superintendent Morley stated that there were previous convictions against the prisoner, who was sent to prison for three months with hard labour.

104 20 December 1907

SCALDING ACCIDENTS Two cases of accident by scalding were admitted to the Saltaire Hospital on Wednesday. A boy named David McDonald of Katherine Street, Saltaire, knocked over a tea pot and was rather badly scalded about the legs. **John Guy**, boatman, upset a pan of boiling water in a lodging house, and was so badly injured that he had to be removed to the hospital.

105 28 February 1908

THEFT FROM A CANAL BOAT At the Skipton Police Court on Saturday, **John Moore**, boatman of Burnley, was charged with stealing 240 lbs of flour, the property of Messrs Greenwood and Sons, corn millers of Burnley, during the course of consignment by the Leeds and Liverpool Canal Company from Barnoldswick to Shipley and Bradford ; and Charles Leyton, innkeeper of Snaygill, Skipton, was charged with receiving the flour knowing it to have been stolen. Evidence was called to show that the prosecutors had often received complaints from Shipley and Bradford of shortage in flour consignments, and it came to their knowledge that on Wednesday the 12th inst, the prisoner Moore, who was in charge of a boat with a consignment of flour to Shipley and Bradford, had disposed of a pack to the defendant Leyton. Instructions were given to Shipley and Bradford to have the consignment weighed, and the result was a shortage to the amount so disposed of. Moore was arrested at Crossflatts, Bingley, on Monday the 17th, and after being remanded in custody at Skipton made a confession to the police. He said that he left the boat at Snaygill and entered the

public house to have a pint of beer. The landlord asked him what his boat was carrying, and he replied that he was conveying flour. Leyton asked the prisoner to let him have two half packs, and Moore replied that he could not, as he had places at which to deliver the consignment. After persuasion, Moore fetched two half packs, and the contents were emptied into sacks belonging to Leyton, the latter paying 12s for them. Moore also stated in his confession that the landlord asked **John Smith**, the mate of the boat, who carried the flour to the public house, to go to the rear and see if anyone was about. After the flour was delivered, Moore took the empty sacks back to the boat and refilled them out of the other packs.

In support of the case against Leyton, Police-sergeant Daniel spoke to interviewing him. Leyton said that he got half a pack of flour from Moore and paid him 13s for it. Moore told the defendant he had the flour for a customer who said he had not ordered it, and would not take it in. Therefore he was prepared to sell it, so long as he received value for it. The defendant denied all knowledge of the flour having been brought from a canal boat.

The Bench found the charges proved. Moore, the boatman, was fined £3 and costs, and Leyton, for receiving the flour, was fined £6 and costs.

106 13 March 1908

ALLEGED NEGLECT OF CHILDREN At the Bradford West Riding Police Court yesterday (Thursday), a widow named Alice A Perkins of Shipley was summoned for cruelty to her two children. The magistrates on the Bench included Sir Theo Peel, Bart (who presided), Dr W H Ellis and Councillor John Pitts. Defendant did not appear.

Mr Alex Neill, who appeared to prosecute on behalf of the RSPCC, stated that the husband of the defendant died about a year ago, leaving two young children. The children were badly neglected, and were practically running wild. The defendant was cohabiting with a boatman, and had it not been for the assistance of neighbours, the children would have starved to death.

Police-constable Marvin stated that when he served the summons on the defendant, she replied, "All right".

Inspector Butler said the children were in a very neglected condition. The boy was sleeping on a sack on the floor, and he was in a very dirty and verminous state. He had since been removed to the Workhouse.

The Chairman : Has the boy been going to school? - Yes.

In the state you described? - Yes.

The Bench issued a warrant for the defendant's arrest.

107 20 March 1908

INHUMAN MOTHERS

AMAZING CASES OF CHILD CRUELTY – INDESCRIBABLE FILTH AND NEGLECT

RICHLY DESERVED SENTENCES Two shocking cases of cruelty to children were investigated at the Bradford West Riding Police Court on Monday. The magistrates on the Bench included Sir Theo Peel, Bart (chairman), Dr W H Ellis and Councillor John Pitts.

The first case was one in which two millhands, Clara Robinson and Rebecca Robinson (mother and daughter), of no fixed abode, were charged with neglecting two children.

Mr Alex Neill, who prosecuted on behalf of the NSPCC, said Mary Rebecca Robinson was the mother of the children concerned. Both children were illegitimate, the mother being apparently about twenty years of age. The two prisoners were evidently travelling about from place to place. In October last they were living at Keighley, where they were brought under the observation of one of the society's inspectors on account of the shocking state of the house in which they were living. They afterwards left Keighley and went into the Halifax district, where the authorities were compelled to take action owing to the shocking state which the children were found to be in. Prisoners thereupon left that district, and were subsequently found to be living at Clayton Heights. On March 11th, Inspector Mercer had his attention drawn to the case, and on examining the children, he found one of them to be in a very delicate state of health. This child, for some reason or other,

was wearing damp clothing, on the top of which was an old overcoat. The inspector warned the prisoner against allowing the child to remain in that condition, and told her that he would call again. He visited the house on the 13th of March, and found that the elder prisoner was present along with the other child, who was in a shocking condition from head to foot. The child was crying from pain, which was evidently the result of vermin bites, these having caused blood to flow. In order to preserve their lives, it was deemed advisable to have the children removed to the hospital at Clayton Workhouse.

Inspector Mercer said that the baby was born on the roadside near Bingley, and was not much bigger than a quart jug.

Inspector Summerfield stated that the prisoners came under his observation at Keighley on the 4th of February. He found them to be living under shocking conditions. The house was very dirty, and the only food he could see was one or two loaves of bread. He advised the prisoners to go into the Workhouse at once, but instead of doing so they decamped.

One of the society's inspectors from Halifax also gave evidence, describing the deplorable conditions under which the prisoners lived during their stay in that town.

Dr Higgins spoke to examining the children. They were in a dirty condition, and poorly nourished.

The Chairman : Where are the children now?

Mr Neill : In the Workhouse.

The elder prisoner pleaded poverty as an excuse. She stated that she buried her mother a short time ago, and she had not a halfpenny at the time.

The younger prisoner said she was willing to work for her children.

Addressing the prisoners, the Chairman said : This is a very serious case. I don't remember ever having heard such a story of filth, ill treatment and neglect in my life. It is really very difficult to decide what sort of punishment to give you. The order of the Court is that you be both imprisoned for three months with hard labour.

SHIPLEY WOMAN'S DISGRACEFUL CONDUCT The other case before the magistrates was one in which a widow named Alice Ann Perkins of Shipley was charged with neglecting her two children. The case was before the Court on Thursday of last week, but as defendant then failed to appear, the Bench issued a warrant for her arrest.

Mr Alex Neill, who prosecuted on behalf of the NSPCC, stated that the husband of the prisoner died about a year ago. Prisoner, who had had three children, appeared to care very little about their welfare, her only idea being to get rid of them. She had parted with one child, the agreement being in writing in the following terms :- "I deliver this child up to Martha Haste. (Signed) Alice Ann Perkins". Fortunately, said Mr Neill, the woman referred to was respectable, and the child had therefore a good home. Proceeding, Mr Neill pointed out that the prisoner cohabited with a boatman of the name of **Stead**. She was in the habit of going away with this man and leaving the children to take care of themselves. Stead had shown a dislike to the children, with the result that they were practically left to the mercy of the world.

Inspector Butler said that having received a complaint respecting the condition of the children, he visited Shipley on the 21st of last month. He made inquiries, and found that one of the children, a boy aged nine years, was living with a woman named Mountain at Lane Bottom, Windhill. The boy was poorly clad and ill nourished. Witness asked to see the boy's sleeping accommodation, and he was taken upstairs, where he found a piece of sacking in a corner with some flocks in it. The prisoner was cohabiting with a boatman, who was away for three or four days, and on several occasions a week at a time. When she returned, prisoner usually spent her time in the public house.

Prisoner : I do not.

Witness said that he again visited the house on the 24th, and found the boy in the same condition as before. He afterwards had him examined by Dr Higgins and removed to Clayton Workhouse. Witness further stated that a woman named **Mrs Townsley** of Thornhill was prepared to take charge of the boy.

Prisoner denied that the Inspector had ever complained to her about the condition of the children.

A female witness stated that on one occasion the prisoner brought the children to her house and

asked if she would allow them to go to bed. Witness replied in the affirmative, and prisoner promised to return. Several days elapsed, however, before she came. She was then drunk. Prisoner had gone away and left her children on several occasions.

The Chairman said this was also a bad case, and the prisoner would be committed to prison for two months with hard labour.

The elder boy, a bright looking little fellow, was handed over to **Mrs Townsley**, who said that both she and her husband (a boatman) were total abstainers. They would adopt the child.

108 20 March 1908

BAD LANGUAGE At the Bradford West Riding Police Court yesterday (Thursday), Albert Lee, labourer of Shipley, was summoned for making use of bad language. Police-constable Spencer stated that on Monday March 2nd he was on duty in Otley Road, Shipley, in company with Police-constable Holden, when he saw the defendant in charge of a pony. He was shouting at the top of his voice and making use of filthy language. When defendant saw witness making towards him, he made off. Police-constable Holden corroborated. Defendant pleaded not guilty. He stated that on the day in question he had been to Skipton. He denied having used the language stated by the police officers. Several convictions were recorded against the defendant, who was fined 5s and the costs, or seven days. **Walter R Nuttall**, boatman, also of Shipley, was summoned for a similar offence at Shipley on March 3rd. Police-constable Horton stated the case, and defendant, who did not appear, was fined 5s and the costs, or seven days.

109 27 March 1908

A CANAL TRAGEDY At the District Council offices on Tuesday morning, Mr E H Hill, District Coroner, held an inquest on the body of a man taken from the Leeds and Liverpool Canal near to Mason's Bridge early the previous morning.

Police-constable Harrison stated that about half past six on Monday morning he received information from a boatman named **Kershaw Bates** that there was a man's body in the canal near to Mason's Bridge. The body was floating in the water. In the pockets of the deceased were found a pair of spectacles, 11d in copper, and a red bandage bearing an official mark.

Police-sergeant Thorpe stated that the authorities at Bradford Workhouse had seen the bandage referred to, and had identified it as their property, but they were unable to state how it had come into the possession of the deceased.

The jury returned a verdict of "Found drowned".

Later in the day the body was identified as that of Peter Dyson, who had been staying at a lodging house in Captain Street, Bradford. The deceased left the house about half past twelve on Sunday morning. He had been an inmate of the Bradford Workhouse.

110 3 April 1908

CANAL TAVERN, WINDHILL

A SUNDAY PARTY CAUGHT BY THE POLICE At the Bradford West Riding Police Court yesterday (Thursday) before Sir Theo Peel, Bart (chairman), Dr W H Ellis, Mr Asa Briggs (Clayton) and other magistrates, Fred Booth, labourer, Albert Metcalfe, mechanic, Fred Sugden, labourer, **Benjamin Parker**, boatman, **Joseph D Smith**, boatman, and Henry Hiles, all of Shipley, were summoned for being found on licensed premises during prohibited hours.

All the defendants appeared with the exception of Smith.

Police Inspector Warburton stated that on Sunday March 15th at ten minutes past three in the afternoon, he, along with Sergeant Thorpe and Constable Braithwaite, visited the Canal Tavern, Windhill. When they got within twenty yards of the front door, they noticed some men in the tap room jump up and rush towards the door. Witness found Hiles and Booth in the passage, and afterwards proceeded to the kitchen, the door of which he found to be fastened. He shouted to the men inside to open the door, and subsequently the landlord said, "Come out, don't give the show away". Two of the defendants, Parker and Metcalfe, then came out of the kitchen and went into the

tap room, where Smith and Sugden were also found. Witness took the names and addresses of the defendants, and afterwards found that they resided within a mile of the public house. He asked them what they were doing there, and Booth and Metcalfe said they had been to a football match at Leeds, and were just returning home. Parker replied, "It's a fair cop", whilst Sugden, Smith and Hiles made no reply. Continuing, witness said he found the names of the defendants written in the book along with their addresses. One of the defendants had given his address as "Leeds", and another "Australia". (Laughter).

The Chairman : Were the addresses written opposite the names?

Witness : Yes.

Booth : Did I give you my proper name and address?

Witness : Yes.

Was my address down in the book? - Yes, it was given as Leeds.

Had we walked from Leeds? - I don't know.

All the defendants pleaded guilty. Metcalfe, Sugden and Hiles had nothing to say, and Parker remarked, "It is all true".

William Bradley, the landlord, said he had kept the house since October last. On the date in question, the defendants visited the house, and on being asked where they came from, they gave various addresses. Witness told them the responsibility he was taking in having them in the house at that time of the day. The defendants were supplied with drink, he (witness) thinking that their statements were true. When the police came, he gave them every assistance.

Superintendent Morley : Did defendants try to get away?

Witness : Yes. Continuing, witness said that the defendants were strangers to him.

Booth : Didn't I tell you we had come from Leeds?

Witness : Yes, you did. I thought it was far enough.

The Chairman said that Booth, Metcalfe, Sugden, Parker and Hiles would each be fined 5s and the costs, or seven days, and Smith 7s 6d and the costs, or seven days.

111 1 May 1908

CRUELTY TO A BOAT HORSE **John T Holmes**, boat owner of Shipley, was summoned at the Bradford West Riding Police Court yesterday (Thursday) for causing a horse to be cruelly ill-treated, and **Edward Patchett**, boatman, was summoned for working the animal whilst in an unfit condition. Police-constable Dobson stated that on Wednesday the 15th of the present month, he was on duty with Police-constable Brown near to the Pricking Locks, when he saw the defendant Patchett in charge of a brown horse, which was drawing a loaded boat. Witness noticed that the animal was in a very weak condition, and upon examining it he found a large sore on the shoulder, and also one on the neck. On being spoken to, defendant stated that the animal was not in a fit condition to work, but that he had been told by the owner to use it. Witness afterwards saw the owner of the horse, and he stated that the animal had been in the stable for three weeks, and that he had brought it out for exercise. After corroborative evidence had been given by Inspector Rigg of the RSPCA and Police-constable Brown, the Bench fined Holmes 20s and the costs, and Patchett 5s and the costs.

112 29 May 1908

MOTHER AND CHILD IN CANAL

A SOUTHOWRAM TRAGEDY

VERDICT OF "WILFUL MURDER" A Coroner's jury sat at Halifax Workhouse Hospital on Wednesday to enquire into the circumstances connected with the death of Maud Ellis, the ten months old daughter of William Henry Ellis, mechanic of Hill Top, Southowram, which took place in that institution on Monday.

On April 30th, the mother left home with her child in the forenoon, and early in the afternoon the two were taken from the canal at Park Nook, Elland, by two boatmen. The baby was unconscious, and over an hour afterwards a young constable restored animation. The mother was later taken

before the magistrates and committed for trial at the Assizes on a charge of attempted murder.

The husband of the accused said he was in bed the day his wife left home, having been ill from influenza. The child had been attended by a doctor at Christmas.

Dr Alice McLean, the medical officer at the hospital, said the child appeared comfortable when it arrived at the hospital, though during the night it developed signs of pneumonia, and death occurred on Monday from meningitis following pneumonia.

Willie Battye, a Brighouse boatman, said his attention was directed by his captain to a woman standing breast high in the water. He fetched the woman out, and found that she had her child in her arms, and had had it under the water. He took them to the lock house and stripped the child of its wet clothing, and in the meantime his captain had found a policeman.

PC Stone said, when he charged her with the offence, she replied, "Yes, my husband drove me to it ; he is such a bad one to me", and added that she had intended drowning herself and child. He tried artificial respiration for three quarters of an hour on the child before it showed signs of life.

Mrs Long of Elland, sister of the accused, said the latter had had twelve children, and had gradually gone worse with each. She was a bright girl at home, but since had been twice in an asylum. Her husband had ill used her more than once.

The Coroner said that where death followed an act of another intended to cause death, the verdict must be wilful murder. The question of sanity would be dealt with at the Assizes. The jury returned a verdict of "Wilful murder", and asked the Coroner to compliment the policeman and the boatmen.

113 17 July 1908

APPERLEY BRIDGE

A CANAL BOAT PROSECUTION The Leeds and Liverpool Canal Company Limited, and a boatman named **Thomas Barrow** of 43 Ridgewater Street, Ince, were summoned at the Bradford City Court on Tuesday for using a canal boat at Apperley Bridge as the dwelling place of two persons in excess of the number which the boat was registered to accommodate. Mr J H Wilkinson, inspector of boats, stated that the defendant, his wife and one child occupied the aft cabin, while the fore cabin was occupied by the mate, his wife and two children. The latter cabin was only registered to accommodate two persons.

Mr S Neumann, for the defence, said the canal company knew absolutely nothing of these happenings, Barrow, who was the captain of the boat, being personally responsible. The mate's wife had been in the Leeds Infirmary, and was then taking a trip on the boat to recuperate her health.

The summons against the owners was withdrawn, and Barrow was fined 5s and the costs.

114 4 September 1908

BOY FALLS INTO THE CANAL Shortly before half past three yesterday (Thursday) afternoon, **Moses Hardy**, aged 4 years, son of **Sam Hardy**, boatman of 5 Raglan Street, Shipley, was playing on the towing path of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, and in trying to get hold of a piece of wood which was floating on the water, he fell in. George Bolton, spinning overlooker residing in Field Street, was in the vicinity, and he went to the boy's assistance. When the lad was got to the side, his right leg got fast in a hole in the bank, and after he had been pulled out of the water, it was found that his leg had been fractured below the knee. The boy was taken to the Saltaire Hospital, and was subsequently removed to the Children's Hospital, Manningham.

115 4 September 1908

"ONLY TWO PINTS" **Samuel W Hainsworth**, a boatman of no fixed address, was charged at the Bradford West Riding Police Court on Monday with being drunk and disorderly at Shipley on Saturday. Police-constables Potter and Woodhall said that the prisoner was reeling about the footpath and making use of bad language. Hainsworth pleaded not guilty, stating that he could not have been drunk, as he had only had two pints of beer. A fine of 12s 6d including costs was imposed.

116 11 September 1908

RABBITING ON LORD ROSSE'S ESTATE The magistrates on the Bench at the West Riding Police Court, Bradford, yesterday (Thursday) included Dr W H Ellis (who presided), Councillors James Roberts, John Pitts and Mr Ellis Denby. **Peter Keeling**, a boatman, was summoned for trespassing in search of conies.

Mr Sydney Neumann, who appeared to prosecute, said that on the afternoon of Tuesday the 1st inst, Tom Firth, a gamekeeper in the employ of the Earl of Rosse, was walking through Northcliffe Woods, in company with a friend, when he saw the defendant, who appeared to be setting nets. The gamekeeper made towards the defendant, who ran away but was subsequently caught by Firth and his friend, who had given chase. On being asked what he was after, defendant replied that he was out for a walk, but on being questioned as to what he had in his pocket, produced a ferret and two nets which he handed over to the gamekeeper. Firth, along with his friend, then proceeded to the place where they found a net which had been set over a rabbit hole. Mr Neumann asked, if the Bench considered the offence proved, to inflict a severe penalty, as the Earl of Rosse had been considerably troubled by trespassers, and verbal warnings had not been of any use.

The gamekeeper, Mr Firth, gave evidence bearing out Mr Neumann's statement.

Joseph Keighley of Manningham, who was with the gamekeeper at the time, also gave evidence. He said that the defendant appeared to be looking for a suitable place to set the nets.

Defendant : Did you see me set any nets? - No.

Asked if he had anything to say, defendant pleaded not guilty. On the day in question, he said he had been to Wilsden to fetch a ferret, and on coming back called to ask a friend if he would lend him a box. He went through a field and down the footpath, and if he had trespassed he was not aware of it. There was no notice posted up to say that the road was not a footpath. He further stated that of late rabbits had been eating the flowers and plants on the graves in the cemetery, and he had obtained permission to catch them with a ferret.

A fine of 20s and costs was imposed, with the alternative of one month's imprisonment.

117 30 October 1908

Peter Keeling, boatman of Shipley, was fined 12s 6d (including costs) at the Bradford West Riding Police Court yesterday (Thursday) for being drunk and disorderly at Shipley on the 17th ult.

118 6 November 1908

DISORDERLY CONDUCT **Joshua Padgett**, boatman of Wood Street, Shipley, was summoned at the West Riding Police Court, Bradford, yesterday (Thursday) for using bad language. Defendant's wife appeared. Police-constable Endersby said that on the 17th of last month at 11.10 pm, he was in Otley Road in company with Police-constable Potter, when he heard a disturbance going on in Wood Street. On proceeding there, he saw the defendant, who was stood in the doorway of his house. Defendant went into the house and locked the door, and afterwards broke the window, put his head out and made use of bad language. A fine of 2s 6d and the costs was imposed.

119 11 December 1908

"GOODBYE TO A BAD LIFE" - A BRADFORD MAN'S SUICIDE

WARRANT FOR HIS ARREST An inquest was held by the Bradford City Coroner (Mr J G Hutchinson) at the Town Hall on Wednesday, having regard to the death of Samuel Conyer (57), debt collector, who resided with his married daughter at Mildred Street, and whose dead body was recovered from the Leeds and Liverpool Canal near Bolton Bridge on Tuesday afternoon.

Ethel Stockwell, 198 Ripon Street, daughter of the deceased, said he was employed by Mr Peel, accountant, Sunbridge Road, up to the 17th of November last. Deceased formerly lived with witness, having been separated from his wife. She last saw him alive on the (20th) of November last. She understood that the following day deceased called for some of his belongings, and on the Monday in the (next?) week a letter was received from the deceased. This bade "Goodbye" to deceased's wife. Nothing further was heard until Tuesday night, when his body was identified at the

mortuary. Immediately prior to leaving home, deceased had spent lavishly on drink.

The Coroner : Had he ever threatened to do away with himself?

Witness : Yes, many times when he has been in drink.

Did you know that a warrant had been issued against him? - Yes, sir.

Did you see your father after you knew that the warrant had been taken out on the 19th of November? - No.

Did he ever mention to you that there was a warrant taken out? - No.

But you knew he had taken some money from certain people? - Yes.

Did he ever mention it? - No.

Albert Peel, 46 Burnett Avenue, an accountant, said the deceased commenced working for him on Friday the 6th of November, and finished the Tuesday following. On the 11th deceased did not come to the office, and about five o'clock witness went to the deceased's home. When he arrived, he found deceased asleep with his head lying on the table. He appeared badly drunk. Witness aroused him, and asked if that was a fair return for all that had been done for him. Deceased asked to be excused a minute to go to the backyard, but he did not return. His suspicions aroused, Mr Peel went out, but found that the deceased had gone. On the Tuesday following, he heard that the deceased had come home, and when witness saw him he again asked him to account for the money he had received. The deceased said he could not account for the money going at all, his mind being a complete blank. He asked witness what he intended to do, and Mr Peel replied that he would see about it. On the following evening, deceased came to the office, and said that he had made up his mind to end everything, and again asked what witness intended to do. Mr Peel replied, "Well, I don't like your excuse, and I don't like you blaming other people for what you have done and, therefore, I shall take a warrant out in the morning". Deceased intimated that he contemplated doing away with himself, saying that he had destroyed all the papers which would give any clue as to his identity. On the 19th, witness took out a warrant against deceased for appropriating monies belonging to him.

Arthur Wright, boatman, 11 Piccadilly, Shipley, spoke to seeing the body floating in the canal. The body was decomposed.

The son of deceased, William Conyer, said the letters marked "A" and "B" were in the deceased's handwriting. The following letter was received by deceased's wife on the 16th of November.

Dear Emily – for the last and only time I say goodbye to a bad life – Sam.

Continuing, witness said that deceased had had some monetary trouble at his work, and had about the 19th of November been drinking heavily.

The Coroner, in summing up, remarked that from the evidence it appeared that deceased had destroyed himself after hearing of the threatened warrant. They might therefore think the case justified a verdict of "*felo de se*".

The jury returned a verdict of "Suicide", but they did not think there was sufficient evidence to show the state of deceased's mind.

120 18 December 1908

BINGLEY DROWNING CASE

WOMAN'S FEET SEVERED BY CANAL BOAT

WALKED INTO THE WATER IN THE FOG The body of an elderly woman named Mrs Bridget Leonard of Princess Street, Bingley, was recovered from the Leeds and Liverpool Canal at Dowley Gap on Monday morning.

She had been missing from her home since the night of Wednesday the 2nd inst. When she left her house, she took with her a medicine bottle, apparently with the intention of calling upon a doctor. On the same evening she paid a visit to some friends, but since then she had not been heard of until this morning.

It is stated that she had been depressed for a time in consequence of her two sons being out of

employment.

At 8 o'clock on Monday morning, **J Lamb**, a boatman of Blackburn, was walking along the canal bank when he noticed that a boat had disturbed a body, which was floating on the water. It was recovered, and subsequently identified as that of the missing woman Leonard. Lamb informed the police of his discovery.

The inquest was held on Tuesday morning at the Bingley Town Hall, before Mr Edgar Wood (Coroner).

Andrew Leonard, woolcomber, 8 Princess Street, identified the body of the deceased as his mother. He said she was the widow of Martin Leonard, a labourer, who was killed at Nelson. The deceased was 49 years of age, and lived with witness and his younger brother. She was in the house when he arrived home from work in the evening a week last Wednesday. He last saw her alive between half past six and seven o'clock, when she went out of the house. She then said she was going to Dr Crocker's for some medicine. She had been ailing for some time, and had previously been to the doctor's for medicine but had not had the doctor in attendance. There was no quarrel between them before she went out, and there had been no quarrel with his brother, who had previously gone out to the Catholic Club in Russell Street. The deceased had never threatened to commit suicide so far as he knew ; indeed, he added, "She was one of the jolliest women in Bingley". The younger brother was out of work, and had been unemployed about three weeks. She had got him employment the same day as she left home, at Crabtree's paper mill.

The Coroner : Was she depressed through his being out of work? - No, she was troubled. She was a little bit depressed about the debts.

Was it for rent? - Mostly.

Proceeding, witness said that as his mother did not return, they made inquiries.

The Coroner : What sort of a night was it? - It was one of the worst foggy nights we have had.

Dowley Gap was a good way from his house. Deceased was in the habit of going on the canal bank to Mrs Hudson's. Witness had found no letters saying that she had intended to commit suicide.

Mary Lavell, 2 Garden Row, The Dubb, Bingley, said deceased had called at her house about seven o'clock on the evening of Wednesday week. She seemed a bit depressed, told her that the boys were "laaking", that she was in debt, and had got in arrears with her rent, and that she did not know what to do. She further said she felt ill and was going to the doctor's. She had a medicine bottle with her. Did she say anything about wishing she was dead? - No.

Was there any complaint about the boys? - No, she said Andrew was doing very little, and that the other was out of work altogether.

Eliza Hudson, Lund's Yard, Bingley, said she had known the deceased for twenty years. She called at the house of witness between 7 and 8 o'clock a week last Wednesday (December 2nd) and stayed about ten minutes. She told witness she was going to the doctor's. The deceased also told her she was troubled about her sons being out of work, adding that she had nothing in the house and owed some money.

Did she say she would sooner be dead, or something to that effect? - We were both talking about our troubles, and she said, "We'd both be better dead".

If she was going home from your house, could she go by the canal bank? - Yes.

From what she said, do you think she went and drowned herself because of her troubles? - No, I never thought such a thing, and haven't thought so since.

John Lamb, boatman, 28 Dewhirst Street, Blackburn, spoke to finding the body in the canal at Dowley Gap yesterday morning. It got fast in the propeller of his boat.

The Coroner : Do you think it possible that the propeller had cut the feet off? - I fancy the feet were jammed between the propeller and the keel bar, and that they had been torn off.

You think that the boat would do that, do you? - Yes, sir.

Witness said he got the body out. All her clothing was torn off except her jacket and stays.

Dr Crocker said he had made a post mortem examination of the body, and found that death was due to drowning. One of the feet was cut off and the other was almost off, probably caused by a screw boat. This had occurred after death. The deceased had not called at his house on the night of

December 2nd for medicine.

The jury returned a verdict that deceased had accidentally fallen into the canal and was drowned.

121 18 December 1908

WAREHOUSE BREAKING AT CROSSFLATTS – LIMEFIELD MILLS ENTERED

PRISONER COMMITTED FOR TRIAL At Bingley Police Court on Wednesday, Fred Last, labourer, no fixed abode, was charged with breaking and entering Limefield Mills, Crossflatts, and stealing a brown leather handbag, a man's jacket, a spring balance and several other small articles, to the value of 13s 2d.

Inspector Slack stated that the mills were locked up at 5.30 pm on the 8th inst, and at 6.30 the following morning the articles were missing. A window at the rear of the mill had been tampered with and used as a means of entrance. Information was given to the police, and it was ascertained that the prisoner was seen at 11.30 on the night of the 8th at Crossflatts. Subsequently the handbag, which had been left by the prisoner at a house in Shipley, was recovered. A search was made for Last, and he was discovered at Crossflatts on the 10th inst by PC Wilson, who charged him, in reply to which Last said, "I can only say I took them".

Evidence of the goods being missing was given by Joseph Thompson, New Street, Micklethwaite ; Gordon Laycock, Victoria Street, Oakworth ; and Joe Barwick, Chapel Street, Crossflatts, employees of the firm of Messrs J and J Hartley, Limefield Mills, Crossflatts.

Benjamin Barker, boatman, 48 Dale Street, Shipley, spoke to the prisoner visiting his house on the morning of the 9th inst. He then had a jacket with him and the small leather bag produced. He said he had got the latter from the Prisoners' Aid Society, but it was no use to him, and he would leave it for **Herbert** (the son of witness) to use as a football bag. The prisoner said he was going to pawn the jacket, and that he thought he could get 2s 6d on it.

PC Wilson said that from a statement made voluntarily to him by Last, he recovered the spring balance and other stolen property from Joseph Mitchell, general dealer, 500 Leeds Road, Bradford, and the jacket from Narcissa Adams, second hand dealer, Wakefield Road, Bradford.

The prisoner was committed for trial at the next Quarter Sessions for the Riding, bail being refused.

122 8 January 1909

A SALTAIRE WIDOW'S TRAGIC END At the Manor House, Shipley, on Tuesday afternoon, the district coroner (Mr E H Hill) held an inquiry relative to the circumstances of the death of Mrs Susannah Phillips, a widow 66 years of age, who resided at 6 Queen's Road, Saltaire, and whose body was recovered from the Leeds and Liverpool Canal near Hirst Locks, Saltaire, the previous evening.

William Illingworth (brother of the deceased), insurance agent of 80 Boldshay Street, Bradford, stated that his sister, who was the widow of a cabinet maker named James Arthur Phillips, had been in a very depressed condition for a period of twelve months. On some occasions she had expressed a wish that her life was ended, though she had never threatened to commit suicide. The doctor who attended her said she was suffering from nervous debility.

Emily Sergeant, who resided with the deceased, said the latter was only able to go out of doors occasionally. Prior to Monday, she had not been out for several weeks. On Monday morning, she was more than usually depressed on account of the fact that a niece of hers was being buried that day. The deceased must have suffered greatly, and was much worried because her health did not improve. She had not slept particularly well. She went out on Monday at about ten minutes past four, and did not again return.

Samuel Binns, bank ranger in the employ of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal Company, who lives at Dowley Gap Locks, Bingley, said he saw the body in the water when returning from work at about twenty minutes past five. With the help of a boatman on a passing barge, he got the body on to the bank, where he found it was that of a woman only partly dressed. He noticed a few articles of clothing which were laid on a wall near by, and which were neatly arranged and not in any way torn.

Mrs Walton gave formal evidence as to laying out the body, and stated that there were no marks of violence.

The jury returned a verdict of "Suicide whilst of unsound mind".

123 5 February 1909

For having been drunk and disorderly, **Joshua Patchett**, boatman of Shipley, was fined 12s 6d (including costs) at the West Riding Police Court, Bradford, yesterday (Thursday).

124 2 April 1909

FAULTS ON BOTH SIDES Jonathan Cowman, boatman of Shipley, was summoned at the West Riding Court, Bradford, yesterday (Thursday) morning for deserting his wife, **Sarah E Cowman**. The complainant said that when her husband came home last Saturday he was in a bad temper and turned her out. She again got into the house, but about nine o'clock her husband began to swear at and threaten her. He left her the same night, and had not been home since. She did not want to live with him again, and she asked for a separation order.

Defendant denied that he used threats to his wife, and he further added that she was drunk at the time. A son of the parties swore that his mother was drunk, and that his father did not threaten her, though he swore at her.

The case was dismissed.

125 16 April 1909

WIFE ASSAULT Joshua Patchett, boatman of Lupton Street, Shipley, was charged at the West Riding Police Court, Bradford, yesterday (Thursday) morning, before Dr W H Ellis (in the chair), Councillor James Roberts, Councillor J Pitts and other magistrates, with assaulting his wife on the 6th inst. Mrs Patchett stated that on that day her husband came home late at night in a drunken condition. She was ill and was in bed. He at once commenced to use foul language, and getting hold of her by the hair pulled her violently out of bed and kicked her about the body. She broke away from him and ran into the house of one of the neighbours. He followed her, and said that if she did not come back he would break all the windows. All the while he used foul language. She was afraid to go back, however, and stayed with the neighbour all the night. They had been married two years and had two children. Her husband had never given her much money, and had spent his wages in drink and in backing horses.

Mrs Cryer of Lupton Street said she offered Mrs Patchett protection from her husband on the night in question. PC Quinn stated that he was called to the house shortly before twelve on the 6th inst, and saw the complainant, who was in a very distressed condition. She complained to him that the defendant had kicked her, and the latter did not deny the offence. Mrs Patchett's hair was very untidy, as if she had been pulled about. Superintendent Morley said there were four previous convictions against the defendant.

The Chairman remarked that the defendant ought to be ashamed of himself. It was not a question of that particular offence, but it was his general behaviour towards his wife and his continuous ill-treatment of her. He must go to prison for one calendar month.

126 18 June 1909

SHIPLEY BOY CHARGED WITH BEGGING A seven year old boy named **Tom Hardy**, who resides with his parents at 5 Raglan Street, Bradford Arms, was, at Bingley on Friday, charged with begging.

Inspector Slack explained that the boy was found by Police-constable Thorpe begging in Main Street, Bingley, at 6.30 on the previous Wednesday evening. He was taken to the Police Station, where he told several different tales, one of which was that his father was dead and that his mother had sent him out to beg. It subsequently transpired that the lad had a grandfather living in Ferncliffe, Bingley, and he was handed over to his care.

Evidence was given by Constable Thorpe, who said that he saw the boy stop a man near the

Midland Hotel and say something to him. The boy then went up to the officer and asked him for a ha'penny. "Do you want it to buy some spice with?" asked the policeman. "No, I want to buy a bun", replied the lad. He said he lived at the Bradford Arms, Shipley, that he had been to school but had had no tea, that his mother had sent him out to beg, and that he had come along the canal bank to Bingley. He afterwards said that he had had his tea at a lodging house.

Inspector Slack said that it had transpired that the boy's grandfather had provided his tea and started him back on his journey to Shipley. His father was a boatman and was at present at Leeds with his boat. The boy attended the Church schools at Windhill, and he (the Inspector) had found that he had not made a full week in either April or May. The mother admitted that she had had considerable trouble with him. The Inspector said he understood from the police at Shipley that they had cautioned the mother previously with respect to allowing the boy to go out begging. It was said that the home surroundings were not what they might be.

The mother denied that she sent the boy out to beg.

The Chairman said the Bench could only reprimand Mrs Hardy for the way in which the lad had been allowed to grow up.

The mother, who promised to do her best to look after the lad, was ordered to pay 4s costs.

127 20 August 1909

BOATMAN COMPLIMENTED At a Leigh inquest on Saturday on a Barton boatman who was drowned whilst bathing in the canal, it was stated that a fellow boatman named **Evans** made determined efforts at rescue.

He got him to the side, but became exhausted, and with difficulty scrambled out himself, deceased, who had his arms round Evans's neck, unfortunately releasing his hold. He was highly complimented by the Coroner and jury.

128 27 August 1909

CANAL INCIDENT AT BINGLEY

BOATMAN'S EARLY MORNING DOUCHE "Help! Help!! Help!!!"

These were the cries which alarmed Police-sergeant Duffield and Constable Coldwell of Bingley in the early hours of Tuesday morning.

They were standing at the top of Park Road, and as the appeal came from the direction of the canal, they hastened in that direction, to hear a splashing and a further cry for assistance coming from the water. On going down into Messrs Barton's wharf, they found a man named **Crowther** just managing to hold the head of another man named **Strickland** out of the water.

Assistance was immediately rendered by the officers, who managed to get the man aboard, where it was found that he was very much exhausted by his immersion, but he soon came round.

Strickland, it appears, had had some occasion to leave the cabin, and on getting a-deck he missed his footing and fell into the water. Crowther, hearing the splash, rushed up and managed to fish Strickland to the side by a boat hook, and he succeeded in holding his head above water until the policemen came.

It seems fortunate that the constables were at hand to render assistance – otherwise there might have been a tragedy.

129 3 September 1909

AT THE CANAL TAVERN, WINDHILL

DRINKING DURING PROHIBITED HOURS The sequel to a visit paid by the Shipley police to the Canal Tavern public house at Windhill on Sunday the 22nd ult was heard at the West Riding Police Court, Bradford, yesterday (Thursday). Dr W H Ellis was in the chair, and the other magistrates present included Councillors James Roberts and John Pitts. The defendants were George Potts, John Morgan, teamers ; **Frank Butterfield**, boatman ; John Thomas Whitefield, labourer of Windhill ; William Briggs, labourer, Shipley ; and Samuel Petty, warp dresser, Baildon, and they were summoned for being on licensed premises during prohibited hours. The landlord,

William Bradley, was also summoned for keeping open licensed premises during prohibited hours. Police-constable Stringfellow stated that at half past four in the afternoon of the date named, in company with Police-constable Beaumont, he visited the Canal Tavern in plain clothes. Beaumont went to the back door, and witness went in by the front entrance. When about twenty yards away from the house, witness observed the landlord standing at the door. As soon as he saw witness, he shouted out, "Police! Get outside". Witness ran to the door and was about to enter, when a dozen men rushed out of the house, knocking him down. He recognised Butterfield, afterwards obtaining the names of the other defendants. There were five men in the passage, and he took them into the tap room. Three of them said that they were lodging in the house, and the other two gave addresses at Bradford. On the table were fifteen pints of beer. Witness afterwards saw Morgan and Potts, who stated that they went to the house and asked for two pints of beer, and that they were served by the landlord, who did not ask any questions. At ten minutes to six the same day, witness again visited the house, and found Briggs and Whitfield each with a pint of beer in front of them. When witness entered the house the second time, Whitfield was underneath the seat, and when discovered he became very abusive, stating that the first time he saw witness outside he would throw him into the canal. Butterfield stated that he lived at 4 George Street, Bingley, but it was afterwards found that his proper address was in Windhill.

In reply to Superintendent Morley, witness said that all the defendants lived within a mile of the Canal Tavern.

Police-constable Beaumont corroborated, stating that there were several men in the house. He recognised Potts and Morgan, whom he knew personally. There were five men in the tap room with beer in front of them. The landlord told witness that he should summon him for trespassing, because he had come over a wall.

Police-constable Spencer said he accompanied the two last witnesses to the house. Whitfield was underneath the seat, and the landlord was endeavouring to keep him from observation.

Bradley : Did you see Whitfield get underneath the seat? - No.

The defendants had nothing to say, and Superintendent Morley said that Whitfield and Briggs had previously been before the Court for drunkenness.

Bradley was fined 40s and the costs, and the other defendants were each fined 2s 6d and the costs.

130 24 September 1909

For failing to send his seven year old child regularly to school, **Samuel Hardy**, a boatman of Shipley, was summoned at the Bradford West Riding Police Court yesterday (Thursday). The usual order (with costs against the defendant) was made.

131 29 October 1909

THE HALIFAX TRAGEDY

RESUMED INQUEST – A VERDICT OF WILFUL MURDER The adjourned inquest on the body of **Beatrice Cook**, wife of **Arthur Cook**, canal boatman, who was found at the bottom of Shroggs tip on Friday morning, was held on Saturday.

Livingstone Thwaite (28), painter of Fairfield Terrace, Shroggs Road, who confessed to the killing of the woman, was present in custody.

James Binns, iron moulder, spoke to seeing the deceased and Thwaite at the Royal Hotel, Hall Street, just before eleven o'clock on Thursday night. They appeared to be on friendly terms and had a drink together, and seemed as if they had had something before getting there. When they left, they went in the direction of Pellon Lane.

Harry Radcliffe, labourer of Lee Bridge, said he saw what resembled the accused and Mrs Cook together on Thursday night at 11.15 in Green Lane. They were singing and unsteady in their movements, and the man tried to drag the woman to a fried fish shop at the top of Stannary Lane, but she didn't want to go, and said she was going down Stannary Lane. The man stuck to the woman and said, "You are going across the ---- tip with me", and he took her on Angel Road towards Shroggs, and they were singing soon afterwards.

Thwaite : Why did you follow me on Angel Road? - I thought it was singular that you should drag her along a dark road after she had refused to go.

Are you a private constable? - No.

John William Jagger, house fixture setter of West Hall Court, stepfather to the accused's wife, said about one am on Friday morning he knocked him up and asked to be admitted. He gave him some bread and butter, and Thwaite handed him a pocket knife, saying, "That's what I did the job with", and also gave him two rings. He said he had taken them from Beattie's fingers. Witness did not know then to what he referred, but the rings had since been identified as the deceased woman's. Thwaite asked that the rings should be kept for his sake.

A verdict of "Wilful murder" against Thwaite was returned.

132 12 November 1909

SHOPBREAKING AT SHIPLEY

PRISONER COMMITTED TO THE SESSIONS James Antill, labourer of no fixed abode, was on Monday morning, at the Bradford West Riding Police Court, committed to the next Quarter Sessions on a charge of breaking and entering the shop of Mr John Blackwood, pawnbroker of Briggate, Shipley, and stealing therefrom three metal watches, a gold filled albert, a locket and a six chambered revolver. A further charge had been preferred against him – breaking and entering St Paul's Church, Shipley, with intent to commit a felony – but Superintendent Morley said he would not proceed with this, as he had not got sufficient evidence. The magistrates on the Bench included Dr W H Ellis (in the chair), Sir James Roberts Bart and Councillor J Pitts.

Mr Morley related the facts of the case, and pointed out that Mr Blackwood's shop was entered on the night of the 28th of last month. The articles specified in the charge were all missing, with the exception of the albert, which was found on Bethel Hill (opposite the shop), and which the thief must have dropped as he was running away.

Joseph Spence Waite, manager at the shop, said that when he locked up the shop at 8 pm, the missing articles were in the window, but when, in consequence of something said to him, he visited the shop at 10.15, he saw that almost the whole of the window behind which jewellery was displayed had been smashed in. The missing articles were valued at about 30s.

John Smith, boatman of 8 Smith Street, Shipley, stated that at 9.30 on the night in question, he saw the prisoner standing about five or six yards from Blackwood's shop. Witness proceeded to walk up Briggate, but in a short time heard a crash of breaking glass. He went back, and saw the prisoner running away up Bethel Hill. The Prisoner : Did anyone see me break the window? Witness : I saw you running away after it had been broken. Do you think you did see me at all that night? Yes, I did. The Prisoner : You're a liar then, you did not. William Kendall, fish hawker of 66 Briggate, Windhill, gave evidence to the effect that at 9.30 pm on the day in question he was in Briggate, Shipley, when he saw the prisoner standing opposite Blackwood's shop. Antill asked witness for a "tab", but he replied that he hadn't one. He (witness) had proceeded a little up the road when he heard a crash of glass. He went back, and found that Blackwood's shop had been broken into, and that the prisoner had gone away. He recognised the prisoner amongst five other men at the Shipley Police Station on the following day. Herbert Watmough, tailor of 2 Leeds Road, Windhill, said he was returning home at 10.45 on the night of the theft, and on Bethel Hill he discovered the gold albert. It was lying about twenty yards from the pawnshop. Subsequently he handed the article to Police-constable Quinn. Lawson Thornton, labourer of Shipley, deposed that at 8.15 pm on the 28th ult he encountered the prisoner in Westgate, Shipley, near the Junction Hotel. Antill spoke to him and said, "Will you help me to do a "dark" job?" Witness asked Antill if he was going to "flit", and the prisoner replied, "No, I am going to break into a shop". Witness then told Antill to "get away". After that, Antill told witness that that morning he had been to the West Riding Court, and that Dr Ellis had told him to give up drinking. "I shall have to do", Antill added, "as I have no brass". Witness had since identified the prisoner. Prisoner denied that he had ever seen the witness. Police-constable Brown said that he apprehended the prisoner who, in reply to the charge, said, "I know nothing about it". Witness did not find on the prisoner any of the missing

property.

Asked if he wished the clerk to put any statement on the depositions, Antill said, "You can put down what you want ; it doesn't bother me".