

## BURNLEY NEWS

### **1 18 December 1912**

COMMERCIAL TRAVELLER'S DEATH – FOUND IN A RESERVOIR AT COLNE The body of a well known Colne man was found in the upper reservoir of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal Company at Foulridge on Sunday morning. Deceased was Mark Standing (42), a member of a prominent local family, and formerly a partner in the firm of Messrs Standing Bros, drysalters, Brown Street, Colne.

A boatman named **Crabtree** found a jacket on the steps of the footbridge by the reservoir, and afterwards saw the body floating on the water thirty yards from the side. Deceased had latterly been occupying a post as commercial traveller, and prior to this, he and his son were in business as drysalters in Colne Lane. He was a married man, but lived apart from his wife.

Mr H J Robinson (Coroner) conducted the inquest at the Town Hall on Monday morning.

Ann Hettie Standing, wife of the deceased, stated that she had been living apart from deceased since last Easter at 24 Longroyd Road.

The Coroner : Had you to leave him on account of his unsteady habits? Yes.

Had you seen anything of him lately? Not for a month.

You and all your relations have done all you could to stop him drinking? Yes, he has had everything done for him.

PC Ellis stated that on Saturday evening, he saw deceased at 9.50 pm in Longroyd Road, Colne. He was then going in the direction of Foulridge. Witness did not speak to him, but saw that deceased appeared to be rather under the influence of drink.

**Joseph Crabtree**, bank ranger, employed by the Leeds and Liverpool Canal Company, said that on Sunday morning, he found a jacket on the steps of the wooden bridge leading to the boathouse. On looking round, he saw a man's head in the water. The body was about 15 yards from the side. Witness sent for the police, and they recovered the body by means of a drag. Deceased was dressed with the exception of the jacket and hat.

The Coroner observed that there was no question about the man having drowned himself. If he had accidentally fallen into the water, he would have taken his coat with him. Deceased seemed to have done very little but drink for a long time. It was for the Jury to say whether he had weakened his intellect so much as to make him not responsible for his actions.

Mr Seth Lancaster, the foreman : I have known him some time, and have come to the conclusion that his intellect has been weakened by drinking. I don't think he was responsible for his actions at the time.

The Jury returned a verdict that deceased drowned himself, and by reason of his continued drinking, was not of sound mind.

### **2 22 March 1913**

CHARGE OF THEFT Robert Robinson (25), labourer, and **John Marsden** (28), boatman, were charged with stealing a skirt and jacket, value 35s, and Marsden was charged with receiving the same, knowing them to have been stolen.

Robinson pleaded guilty, and Marsden admitted receiving the skirt.

Inspector Williams said the men were employed on Wednesday to assist a man to remove a load of furniture from Chapel Street to Bristol Street. Their employer placed the skirt and jacket in the van in Chapel Street, and on arrival at Bristol Street, they were missing. The police were informed, and the jacket was recovered from Robinson, and the skirt from Marsden.

The accused had nothing to say. Robinson, who had made two previous appearances before the magistrates, was fined 40s including costs, or a month, and Marsden was fined 20s including costs, or 14 days.

### **3 19 July 1913**

MARRIED WOMAN'S DEATH Mr H J Robinson, district coroner, conducted an inquest at the

Burnley Town Hall on Wednesday, relative to the finding of the body of Mary Martin (about 50), Leeds Street, in the Leeds and Liverpool Canal at Burnley the previous day.

Richard Martin, labourer, 50 Hammerton Street, said deceased (his wife) had not lived with him for 17 or 18 years, but had lived in Leeds Street recently. About 12.20 on Tuesday, witness was at work, and could see deceased across the canal on the towing-path. She did not speak or make any sign.

Martha Chapman, 3 Leeds Street, said deceased had worked as a winder, and had lived with her for about three years. Deceased left her on Sunday morning without saying where she was going and when she was returning.

PC Priestley said that about 1.15 on Tuesday afternoon, he went to Godley Bridge and saw that a man named **Balwin**, a boatman, had pulled deceased out. The body was removed to the mortuary. An open verdict was returned that deceased was found drowned.

#### **4 26 November 1913 Todmorden**

**BOATMAN'S SUDDEN DEATH** At the Town Hall on Monday evening, Coroner Hill held an enquiry into the circumstances attending the death of **Charles Heron** (49), a boatman in the employ of the Rochdale Canal Co., who died on Sunday. It appeared that about twenty minutes past ten on Sunday morning, deceased was told to obtain a horse from the stable at the canal wharf, and take a boat to Rochdale. As he did not return for a considerable time, the foreman went to look for him, and found him laid on the stable floor, complaining that he had pain in his stomach. Dr Thorp was sent for, but before his arrival, the man died. In the doctor's opinion, death was due to acute heart failure, consequent on distended stomach. If the stomach had not been impaired by alcohol, it would have been able to perform its function. The Coroner said there was apparently no evidence of poison, except the poison which the deceased had habitually taken in the form of alcohol. Verdict in accordance with the medical evidence.

#### **5 6 May 1914 Burnley Police News**

**REMANDED** Harry Ashton (46) of 27 Ashworth Street, Burnley, was charged with attempting to drown himself at 8.25 am on the 1<sup>st</sup>, in the Leeds and Liverpool Canal near Godley Bridge.

The Chief Constable attributed the prisoner's action to drink, and said he was met on the previous morning by **Walter Moore** of 5 Penny Street, Burnley, a boatman employed by the Exors of John Hargreaves Ltd, walking on the canal bank. His clothing was dripping wet, and he said he had been in the canal. He had jumped in, and a man had pulled him out and left him. He was in trouble and out of work. The latter statement, said the Chief Constable, might be correct, and he had at one time been in business as a fruit salesman. He often went drinking for a considerable time, which was the cause of all his trouble.

Ashton did not consent to a remand until Thursday, and Moore, the witness referred to by the Chief Constable, told of meeting the prisoner on the towing-path on the previous morning. He could scarcely walk, he was so cold. When he said he had been in the canal, witness asked him, "Did you fall, or was you pushed?" and he said, "I jumped in".

Ashton was remanded in custody until tomorrow (Thursday).

#### **6 15 July 1914**

**A BURNLEY CANAL MYSTERY** A good deal of excitement was caused at Burnley yesterday afternoon by the finding of a suit of clothes on the towing-path of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, with a note attached bearing the words, written in pencil : "Dear Mother – I cannot stand it any longer, so goodbye for ever. - Your loving son, Tom". There was no name or address on the note.

The clothes and the note were found shortly after midday by a boatman named **John Marsden**, of 7 Mount Pleasant Street, Burnley, on the towing-path nearby Greenwood's Corn Mill close to the culvert. Marsden informed the police, and PS Stephenson took the clothing to the Central Police Office and dragging operations were commenced by police officers. At the same time, a number of swimmers entered the water with a view to finding the body, and though the dragging was

continued for two hours, no trace of a body was discovered in the water.

The operations for the recovery of the body attracted a large crowd on the bank, and various stories quickly gained currency in the town as to what had happened.

It is possible that the affair is nothing more than a silly hoax.

## 7 15 December 1915

**CANAL BOATMEN CONVICTED OF THEFT AT BURNLEY – SACKS OF FLOUR AND A CASE OF SALMON** A series of theft charges, brought by the Leeds and Liverpool Canal Company, against several employees, occupied the attention of the magistrates – Messrs W Whittaker, E Ashworth, and W H D Flack – at the Burnley Police Court yesterday. **James W Smith** (Blackburn), **James Davies** (Adlington), **Joseph Derbyshire** (Adlington), canal boatmen ; and Arthur Harrison, warehouseman, 126 Mitella Street, Burnley, were charged together on remand with stealing two sacks of flour, value 50s, the property of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal Company. All the prisoners pleaded guilty with the exception of Smith.

Mr Waddington appeared to prosecute, and Mr Mossop defended Davies, Derbyshire and Harrison.

Mr Waddington said that three of the prisoners were working on the same canal boat, Davies as captain, Derbyshire the mate and Smith as an extra man. The boat travelled between Blackburn and Burnley. In consequence of certain information, a special watch was set at the canal wharf at Burnley. It appeared that on Wednesday night, December 8<sup>th</sup>, two policemen were concealed under some tarpaulin on a canal boat. Shortly after midnight, the three prisoners, who were in another boat, brought the latter alongside, so that they had a straight walk from the boat to the door of the warehouse in which the flour was stored, and having got the boat into that position, Harrison, who was the night watchman for the Canal Company, in whose employ he had been for some years, came up and stopped with his back to the warehouse door. Davies, the captain, afterwards joined them. He had in his possession an empty sack. Harrison then opened the door, and the two men went inside. At that time the other two prisoners were still on the boat. Shortly afterwards, Davies came out of the warehouse with a sack, which he took to the front end of the boat, and he also placed another sack, containing the flour, there. Whilst this was going on, the prisoner Smith was keeping watch from the back end of the boat. Mr Waddington said that he did not suggest that Smith actually took part in the sack carrying, but he submitted that he was an accessory in the theft of these goods.

Smith : You are wrong, sir. I was fast asleep when the boat was shifted.

Evidence for the prosecution was given by Charles Henry Walsh, agent for the Canal Company ; Thomas Thomas, foreman ; Detective Constable Gregson and PC Smith.

The accused, with the exception of Smith, pleaded guilty. The latter gave evidence on oath, and denied that he knew anything about the sacks being taken from the warehouse to the boat, and that he kept watch for the other men. Smith called Derbyshire as a witness in his defence.

**FURTHER CHARGES** In a second case, **Robert Walmsley**, boatman of Chorley, and Arthur Harrison, warehouseman, Burnley, were charged with stealing two sacks of flour and a box containing forty tins of salmon, value £4 15s, from the warehouse of the Canal Company on December 6<sup>th</sup>. Mr Neville, Chorley, defended Walmsley, who pleaded not guilty.

Mr Waddington stated that the flour and box of salmon were missed from the warehouse on December 6<sup>th</sup>. The accused's boat was at the wharf at the time of the theft, and his home was afterwards searched by the police, who recovered the goods there. The accused, Walmsley, was brought to Burnley by a police officer, and whilst in custody he said, "I have three sacks of flour and a case of salmon. I am willing to pay for them. I have only a few left, and they are at home".

Mr Neville objected to any evidence concerning the search of his client's house, unless a search warrant was put in. He also protested against any evidence being tendered about a casual conversation accused had with the police officer, contending that accused's statement was not made voluntarily.

Mr Waddington pointed out that his friend had a remedy if the police had not been in order. The evidence he held was quite permissible.

The Magistrates' Clerk (Mr Meller) agreed with Mr Waddington.

Harrison pleaded guilty.

Walmsley, on oath, stated that on the afternoon before the theft, he had about eleven pints of beer – two more than it usually took to upset him. About midnight, he was on the barge, when someone whistled, and the night watchman came up and asked if he wanted to buy some flour. Witness paid him 10s for a sack and some tins of salmon. He did not go to Chorley until next morning, and when he then saw the property, he thought of taking it back to the warehouse, but he was afraid of the consequences. He took the goods home, and they were found in the house just as he received them when in drink.

Mr Neville submitted that it was a foolish act committed by a drunken man, without criminal intent. The Chairman announced that the Bench found the case against Walmsley proved.

Mr Mossop, on behalf of Derbyshire, Davies and Harrison, who pleaded guilty in the first case, said he did not wish to minimise the seriousness of the offence, but would point out that the three men had hitherto borne excellent characters. On that account, he asked the magistrates to deal with them in a way otherwise than sending them to prison. Two of the men, added Mr Mossop, were willing to join the army immediately. One had made arrangements to attest with his friends, but he could not do so through being detained there.

After a retirement of the Bench, the Chairman said the magistrates could not see their way to deal leniently with the prisoners. Smith, Davies, Derbyshire and Walmsley were each sentenced to two months hard labour. Harrison was committed to prison for three months in the first case, and three months on the second charge, the sentences to run concurrently.

Mr Waddington commended Detective Officer Gregson on the way in which he carried the case through. His remarks were endorsed by the Magistrates.

## **8 18 November 1916**

**A BURNLEY WARNING – SUNDAY TRADERS AND PURCHASERS SUMMONED** Sunday traders and Sunday purchasers received a warning at the Burnley Borough Police Court on Wednesday, when Thomas William Keirby (48), confectioner, 67 Padiham Road, was summoned for a breach of the Sunday Observance Act, and **John Whitfield Thornton** (56), canal boatman, 1 Ash Street, was summoned for aiding and abetting.

The charge was that on the “Lord's Day, commonly called Sunday”, defendant did “exercise certain worldly labour, business and work of his ordinary calling of a confectioner, the same not being a work of necessity or charity”.

The Chief Constable said that on Sunday the 5<sup>th</sup> November at 8.30 pm, PC Appleby saw Thornton leaving Keirby's shop, and ascertained that he had purchased half an ounce of twist. He (the Chief Constable) recognised the necessity of summoning shopkeepers for Sunday trading, especially at that late hour on a Sunday night, when other shops on other days had to close early. He thought that summoning purchasers would be one of the best methods of stopping Sunday trading.

Keirby said that his wife was under the impression that the extension on the Sunday was the same as Saturday.

The Chief Constable said that, although defendant was not summoned under the Order, the Order said “every day”.

Thornton said he had been a smoker for over forty years, and seeing the shop open, he went in. He never thought anything about it. He had no sooner got in than the policeman popped up.

The Chief Constable did not press for a heavy penalty, but he pressed for a conviction as a matter of principle.

The Bench ordered each defendant to pay costs, 5s each.

The Chief Constable asked that a conviction should be recorded.

The Bench fined Keirby 5s and ordered Thornton to pay the costs, as a man might be going along the street and seeing a shop open, he might go in. This was done as a warning.

The Chief Constable said he thought there was a principle at stake, though he agreed with the Bench showing sympathy to Thornton, The only way to stop the increase in Sunday trading was to take

action against the purchaser.

**9 12 January 1918**

At Colne yesterday. **Sidney Ackroyd**, a canal boatman, and Mary Alice Turner, weaver, both of no fixed abode, were remanded until next Wednesday on a charge of stealing fifty yards of cloth from a boat, the property of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal Co.

**10 26 January 1918**

William Crabtree, collier, and **Edward Henshaw**, boatman, both of Burnley, were remanded in custody till next Wednesday by Reedley magistrates yesterday on a charge of stealing four hens from a cote at Higher Buck Clough, Cliviger, belonging to Wm Ratcliffe, a gardener.

**11 15 May 1918**

SUFFERED FROM INSOMNIA - BARROWFORD WOMAN SCHOOL CLEANER'S SAD DEATH At an inquest held at Colne on Monday, touching the death of Mary Ann Lavan (48), school cleaner, 15 John Street, Barrowford, whose body was recovered from the Leeds and Liverpool Canal on Friday.

Honine Maria Lavan, daughter of the deceased, said that she last saw her mother alive at 6.30 of the morning of the 10<sup>th</sup> inst, when she was going out to her work as a weaver. Witness asked her mother why she had got up so soon, and she replied that she was going to clean the St Peter and Paul Day School. She complained that her head was bad. Deceased had been under the care of a doctor, having suffered from insomnia. She had been living apart from her husband for many years. By the Coroner : She had never threatened to do anything to herself.

**James Draper**, 32 Station Road, Foulridge, canal boatman, said that about 9 o'clock on the morning of the 10<sup>th</sup> inst, he was in charge of a boat on the canal, and was opening the third lock gates at Colne in order to allow a boat to enter, when he found that one of the gates did not open properly. He got a boat hook, and in probing between the lock gates and the canal bank, he pulled the body of the deceased to the surface. He got assistance, lifted the body to the bank, and sent for the police. The jury returned a verdict of "Suicide whilst of unsound mind, through suffering from insomnia".

**12 7 December 1918**

**Colne**

CRUELTY TO A HORSE On Wednesday, at Colne, **William Simms**, a boatman in the employ of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal Company, was fined 40s for cruelty to his horse.

**13 25 June 1919**

CHILD DROWNED AT BURNLEY Last night, about 8.30, the body of a boy named Albert Metcalfe, aged 4, of 4 Parkinson Street, Burnley, was recovered from the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, near to Finsley Gate Bridge, by **Charles Lamb**, a boatman residing at 142 Finsley Gate. PC Morrissey tried artificial respiration for half an hour without success. It is surmised that the boy was playing on the bank when he fell into the water.

**14 9 February 1821**

OLD BOATMAN'S DEATH - HUNCOAT SEPTUAGENARIAN FOUND WITH HIS THROAT CUT **Jacob Cronshaw** (75), a retired canal boatman of Railway Road, Huncoat, died at Accrington Victoria Hospital on Saturday from a wound in the throat. Deceased had been depressed for about twelve months.

On Friday, it is stated, his daughter and son-in-law found him leaning over the slopstone with his throat cut. A doctor was sent for, and the wound was stitched, deceased being afterwards removed to the hospital, where he died as stated.

At the inquest held on Monday, a verdict of "Suicide whilst of unsound mind" was returned.

## 15 1 August 1923

### BURNLEY CANAL TRAGEDY

#### Why Boatman did not take body from the water

#### HORSES MIGHT TAKE FRIGHT

A sad story of depression and suicide following injuries received while on active service was told at an inquest held at the Burnley Town Hall yesterday on the body of Arthur Methuselah Salter (37), of 7 Willow Street. Salter, who was formerly a tram driver in the employ of the Burnley Corporation, was found drowned in the Leeds and Liverpool Canal on Monday.

#### WOUNDED IN THE WAR

Jane Elizabeth Salter, widow of the deceased, said there were three children, the oldest being four years old and the youngest five months. In 1914, her husband joined the RGA, and he served during the war in France. He was wounded in the right leg whilst on active service, and for some months afterwards he was in hospital. He was finally discharged on the 17<sup>th</sup> October 1917, and granted a pension. After his discharge, he became a tram driver, and worked for about 12 months, when he was compelled to give up his job owing to his leg failing. Since then, he had been a pedlar in smallwares, but two months ago, after his pension had been varied, he was awarded a full pension of £3 5s a week, and placed on hospital treatment. He went to Grangethorpe Hospital, Manchester, and had since been attending the Burnley Hospital as an out patient.

Lately, he had complained of great pain in his leg, and he had said to her that if it were not for the children, he would drown himself. On Saturday, he was about as usual, and did not give the impression that he was likely to take his own life. She retired about 10 pm, and her husband said he would await the arrival of his brother, who lodged with them. That was the last time she saw her husband alive. She got up about midnight to awaken the brother, but was unable to do so. She returned to bed, and about 4 am, she went on Clifton recreation ground in search of her husband. She thought "he might be rambling about somewhere". Failing to find him, she returned home about 5.15 am. Her brother-in-law also searched and, failing to find him, the matter was reported to the police.

Asked by the Coroner what she thought was the cause of her husband committing suicide – assuming he had done so – the widow said she blamed the condition of his leg and the fact that his father had recently died.

#### TIED BODY TO CANAL SIDE

A canal boatman named **Aspinall** said that while near Whittlefield Bridge on Monday morning, he saw the body of a man in the water. He pulled the body to the side and tied it to a stoop. He did not pull the body out of the water because he thought the horses that were coming behind would take fright.

The Coroner : Was he dead then?

Aspinall : Yes, sir.

The Coroner : You don't appear to have taken much trouble. I think the most natural thing would have been to pull him from the water and lay him on the bank, if you could not do anything more.

Aspinall : The horses take fright, and if a horse got into the canal, it would have been a lot more trouble pulling a horse out.

Aspinall added that he went to a mill close by, and a clerk telephoned to the police. He remained with the body.

PC Groves said that about noon on Monday, he went to the spot and saw the body of the deceased in the canal. Witness recovered the body, which was conveyed to the mortuary.

Percy Salter, brother of the deceased, said that his leg had been a great trouble to him. His brother had been more than usually depressed during the past week.

The Coroner returned a verdict of "Suicide whilst of unsound mind due to depression, consequent on injuries received to the right leg whilst on active service.

## 16 5 March 1924

ALL THROUGH A DOG At Burnley Police Court yesterday, **Dennis Robinson** (25), a canal

boatman of Adlington, near Wigan, was charged with disorderly conduct in Manchester Road, at 11 pm on Monday. Robinson pleaded guilty, and the Chief Constable stated that, although requested to go away while shouting and brawling, he got worse, and was arrested. He was not drunk, but had had some drink. Robinson told the magistrates that he was very sorry, and that it was “all through a dog”. He was going to his boat, and a great dane came running out. He thought it was going to bite him, and he told the man in charge of it that there would be a bother if it did. The man wanted him to go to the Fire Station to see if it had bitten him, and that started an “argument”. Robinson was dismissed on payment of costs.

### **17 3 January 1925**

**CANAL SUICIDE – WEAVER'S COMPLAINT OF PERSECUTION BY BOYS** After being missed from home since the 6<sup>th</sup> December, the body was recovered on Monday from the Leeds and Liverpool Canal at Barnoldswick of Francis Ruskin Waddington (20), weaver of 41 Water Street, Earby, and on Wednesday, Mr Edgar Wood, coroner, held an inquest at the Police Station, Barnoldswick.

Dr Falconer said that deceased was brought to the surgery a week prior to his disappearance, when he was morose, and complained of persecution by boys. He was melancholy and miserable. There was no suicidal tendency at the time, but his condition was such that the tendency would easily develop. The appearance of the body was consistent with drowning, and the lacerated wound on the head was done after death.

Walter Wilkinson Waddington, the father, stated that deceased left home on December 6<sup>th</sup> after tea, saying that he was going to Barnoldswick, where he was employed. They had had some bother at home with him lately, and they feared that something unfortunate had happened to him when he did not return home. He was not resentful of anything they had said to him. He was very quiet.

**Thomas Baldwin**, a boatman, spoke to seeing the body in the water and reporting it to the police, and PC Lester gave evidence of recovering the body. He found deceased's cap in his inside coat pocket.

The Coroner returned a verdict that deceased drowned himself while of unsound mind.

### **18 20 March 1929**

#### **BODIES IN THE CANAL**

#### **SUICIDE OF TWO ELDERLY MEN AT BURNLEY – TRAGEDIES OF ILL HEALTH**

Two drowning tragedies were inquired into at the Burnley Town Hall on Monday by the Coroner, Mr H Proctor. Both were on the bodies of old men who had had long illnesses, and both men were employees of the Exors of J Hargreaves Ltd.

The first inquest was on the body of **Mr George Marsden** (76) of 98 Elm Street, Burnley, whose body was found in the canal by his 13 year old grandson on Saturday morning.

#### **MISSED FROM HOME**

**Mrs Mary Marsden**, the widow, said her husband was a canal boatman for the Exors of J Hargreaves, up to about 15 months ago, but he had not worked since then. Eighteen months ago, he had an accident. He was loading a boat with boxes of coal, when one of the boxes swung around and caught him in the ribs. He was off work about eleven weeks, and got 10s a week compensation. He was then attended by Dr Hodges, and after the expiration of eleven weeks, he went back and did two days work. He had not received any further compensation since he went back. During the past fortnight, he had had a cold, and complained of his head aching. He had stayed in bed for several days at a time during the past fortnight. On Thursday, he went out for a walk, and when she went to bed about 10.30 pm, deceased was sitting in the kitchen holding his head in his hands. He was sitting up waiting for a grandson to return home. Witness heard nothing during the night, and she did not see him again.

About 6.30 on Friday morning, her son-in-law, who lived with her, told her that deceased was not in bed, and he thought he had got up to go for a walk. On Saturday, she was informed that the body of her husband had been taken out of the canal. Deceased had never threatened to take his own life.

He had not been attended by a doctor during his last illness. As soon as she knew he was missing from the house, she let the police know.

#### GRANDSON'S DISCOVERY

Henry Briggs, 13, a grandson of the deceased, living at the same address, said that at a quarter to eleven last Saturday morning, he was on the canal bridge at New Hall Street, when he saw what appeared to be a jacket in the water of the canal several feet from the side. He went home, and told his brother what he had seen. He had an idea it was his grandfather, as he was missing, and had been troubled about it. They went to the place where he had seen the jacket and found it was his grandfather, who was in the water, face downwards. He went to the police telephone box in Old Hall Street, and telephoned for the police, afterwards going back to the spot. When the police came about five minutes afterwards, they recovered the body from the canal. Witness had last seen his grandfather at home on the Thursday evening.

PC Bates deposed to being present when Inspector Roberts and PC Preston recovered the body from the canal.

The Coroner returned a verdict of "Suicide while of unsound mind through ill health".

#### COLLIERY BLACKSMITH'S SUICIDE

The body of Mr John Pickering (68) a colliery blacksmith of 198 Gannow Lane, was found in the canal not far from his home on Sunday morning. Like the deceased in the previous enquiry, he had left home in the early morning, without awaking the other occupants of the house.

Sarah Jane Grimes, sister of the deceased, said he was a widower, and had lodged with her for about 13 years. He had not been well for a number of years, having suffered from rheumatism in his feet. He had also had influenza badly since Christmas, and had had to be off his work a lot. Every week, he had had to be off work for two or three days owing to the effects of influenza. He was attended for his illness by Dr Wearing. About a fortnight ago, when going to work, he slipped and fell on the pavement at Gannow Top. He complained of feeling shaken up, and was very sick when he returned home. He had not been back to work since then.

Always of a quiet nature, he appeared to become more so after the fall. He had slept well up to the fall, but after that he slept very badly. Dr Wearing was called in and said his nerves were very badly shaken. There was only a slight bruise on his knee as the result of the fall. He went out occasionally for a short walk after the fall. On Saturday, he was feeling faint, and she gave him some tea with brandy in it before he went to bed at 11.30 pm. About 4 am on Sunday, she was awakened by his coughing, and she went to look at him, but as he was asleep, she did not disturb him. She did not hear anything else until she was aroused by the police knocking at her door between 7.30 and 8 am. The policeman asked her if her brother was in bed, and she went to the bedroom and found he was not there. The policeman then told her they had found him in the canal. Her brother never threatened to take his life, and he was the last person she thought would have done it.

PS Greaves said that at 7.20 am on Saturday morning, he was walking on the towing-path of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal in the direction of Lowerhouse. On passing under Gannow Bridge, he saw the body of a man face downwards in the canal about 10 ft from the towing-path side. Witness at once rang to the Fire Station, and on the arrival of an officer with grappling irons, the body was recovered from the water.

The Coroner said in this case there was evidence of a long illness from influenza. Using his experience as acquired from some doctors of that dreadful disease, he came to the conclusion that it had affected his mind. A verdict of "Suicide whilst of unsound mind" was returned.