

**INQUEST ON MR. JAMES MASON
OF RYDE**

Last week we referred to the painfully sudden death of our esteemed townsman Mr. **James MASON** who died suddenly on one of the steamers which left Ryde for Portsmouth on Monday morning at 10.10 The inquest was held last Wednesday afternoon, our publishing day, and we had arranged for a report of the inquest by telegram, but unfortunately the telegraphic service appeared to be out of gear on Wednesday owing to the numerous telegrams to the Island, and it took two hours for a telegram to reach us with reference to the inquest.

The inquest was held before Mr. BRAMBDEN at the Town Hall.

Walter COOMBES, upholsterer, etc., at Cross-Street, Ryde, identified the body which the Coroner and the jury and viewed as that of James MASON, bookseller and stationer, carrying on business at 6, Cross-Street, Ryde. He had known Mr. MASON for about 30 years. He appeared to enjoy good health during that time, and he had never known him to complain of sickness or giddiness. He last saw Mr. MASON alive on Sunday, the 20th last.

Henry KERLEY of 51 Sea-Street, Newport (formerly in the employ of the Postal and Telegraph Department), and that on Monday last he was on the deck of the boat which left at 10.10 am. He was close to where the deceased was standing. The boat had got just about half way across when he saw deceased fall forward against one of the luggage trolleys. He went to his assistance but deceased was unconscious, and never spoke a word. He died before they reached Portsmouth. He gave no warning whatever, but fell forward against the truck and then over on his face on deck.

William Henry DOWNER, of 7, Marlborough-Road, Kingston, deposed that he was the captain of the steamer, Alexandria, and was in charge of her when she left Ryde at 10.10 a.m. on Monday. Saw deceased run across Ryde Pier, and take his ticket at the booking office. He then came from the booking office to the boat. Deceased said that the boat was about 2 minutes late. He came off the Pier and on to the upper deck. He seemed out of breath, through hurrying. Did not speak to him, and shortly afterwards missed him. When they went half way across, he seen deceased being supported by the last witness. Went to the assistance of the deceased but he was quite unconscious. Witness tried to find if there was a medical man on board, but there was not. He found one of the passengers had some stimulant with him.

Ernest A. DUFFELD, a registered practitioner deposed that he made a post-mortem, and found pleurisy round the lungs. The heart was larger than normal size, weighing about 4oz more than was usual. He found some diseased patches the sorts and valves of the heart, which was fatty. Considered death was caused by syncope arising from a diseased and fatty heart.

The jury returned a verdict of "Death from Natural Causes."

THE FUNERAL

Took place on Thursday at Ryde Cemetery. The mourners were - Mr. and Mrs. Henry MASON (brother and sister-in-law), Mr. E. BROOKE (brother-in-law), and two nephews; Mr. H.H. POLLARD, J.P., Ald. E. GROVES. The following were present, Messrs. G. GODFREY, T. GRIMSDICK, G. RANDS, C. JACKMAN, P. McLEAN, WILLIAMS, W. LOCKE, W.H. DENHAM, W. HOPGOOD, A. TEAGUE, ADAMS, HALSTED, A. WOODS, W.H. THIRKELL, T. DASHWOOD, J.P., E.G. STROUD, W.H. LONG, J. STEWARD, W.H. JACOBS, A. PREWER, T.W. MORPHEY, F.N. BRODERICK, F. MOOR, JENNINGS, H. ADAMS, RICKARD, J. DIMMICK, A.S. MARLOW, W.E. NOTCUTT, E.T. MINTER, C.C., and S.W. COMDEN, and Captain S.N. CAWS.

The Revs H. COLEY and E. Bruce PEARSON officiated, the former making a few touching remarks on the terrible suddenness of the death of him whom they knew so well. The flowers included a wreath sent as a tribute of respect and sympathy from the Portsmouth Dockyard Excursion Committee and another from the P.S.A. Other floral tributes, in addition to that from the widow, were others from "Our Nellie," Mr. H.H. POLLARD, Mr. Arthur Cecil DANIELL, Mrs. And Miss BEALE, and Mrs. CHARD.

Messrs. W. and J. COOMBES were the undertakers.

Great sympathy is felt for Mrs. MASON in her great loss.

Researched & typed by
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