

A MYSTERIOUS DROWNING FATALITY

On Wednesday morning, at about 5 o'clock, the body of a man named **Henry WARDER**, living at Alfred Street, Weeks, aged 62, was found on the beach near the Canoe Lake. Deceased was last seen at about 9 o'clock on Tuesday evening, when he had been out selling salt. The body was found by George WEEKS, Harding Road, Oakfield.

Mr F.A. JOYCE (Deputy Coroner for the Island) held an inquest at the Primitive Methodist Schoolroom, on Thursday, touching the death of Harry WARDER. Mr George MORRIS was chosen foreman of the jury. The body having been viewed, the following evidence was taken:

George WEEKS stated that he found the body covered with seaweed on the shore at 5 o'clock on Wednesday morning. He informed the police at about 6 o'clock, and went back with the constable to take the body away. The body was not in the water when found.

Frederick HOARE, Simeon Street, a labourer, identified the body as that of Harry WARDER. On Tuesday evening he saw deceased, at about 8.30, at the Rajah Brooke Hotel, in Monkton Street. He was not inside, but walking up and down. His face was covered in blood, and his hat was off. He seemed rather strange, so witness spoke to him, and asked him what was the matter, or if he had fallen down. He did not take much notice of what witness said, but asked the time. Witness told him it was half-past 9, whereas it was only half-past 8. Deceased said "You have made a mistake. It is half-past 10." Witness said "Yes, it is," thinking the deceased might then go home."

By the Foreman. – Deceased did not seem to have been drinking.

Supt. HINKS said deceased was very moderate old man.

Witness said deceased went away towards the Railway Station, in the direction of his home.

Dr. Alfred WOODWARD, Police Surgeon for the Borough of Ryde, stated that he viewed the body on Wednesday morning, at about 8 o'clock, at the Mortuary. He examined the body externally, but could not discover any marks of violence, or any injury to account for death. He observed signs of drowning, and concluded that death resulted from that cause. He should think deceased had only been in the water a few hours.

A witness named INGRAM, who resided with the deceased, was not present although he had been summoned.

The Coroner said he would adjourn the inquest if necessary.

The witness HOARE stated that when he saw deceased he did not appear injured to any extent. He had his basket with him.

The witness WEEKS said there was no basket when he found deceased. At 10 p.m. on Tuesday the tide would be in.

James INGRAM, having now arrived, gave evidence. He said the deceased man lived with him. He last saw deceased about nine o'clock on Tuesday morning. He took his basket of salt, as usual, and went out hawking. He had never known deceased stop out all night before. Deceased usually came back fairly early in the evening. He did not seem in bad health. Witness had never heard him say anything about destroying himself. Witness was home about 7 o'clock in the evening, and deceased did not come home after that.

By the Foreman. – Witness went down stairs several times during the night to see if deceased had come home.

By a Juror. – Deceased had no scar on his face when witness knew him.

By the Coroner. – He had never noticed deceased the worse for drink. He did not suffer from apoplexy or fits. He had lived with witness for 32 years.

Supt. HINKS said 41/2d was found on the body.

The Coroner briefly summed up the evidence, and said there was not sufficient before them to return a verdict of suicide.

The jury returned a verdict of "Found Drowned."
