

ISLE OF WIGHT OBSERVER Saturday 28th November 1891

SINGULAR DEATH THROUGH MIS-ADVENTURE.

An inquest was held at the Royal Isle of Wight Infirmary and County Hospital, on Thursday evening, on the body of **Charles MEW**, 61 years of age, of Sun Place, labourer. In the absence of the coroner (Mr BLAKE), Mr H.R. HOOPER acted as deputy.

Mr TURNER was foreman of the jury.

Thomas UPWARD, of Asheys, deposed that he was an agricultural labourer. On the 6th of Nov., he was employed by Mr PITCHER, loading a cart with mangle. The deceased and another man named DYER were working with him. In play witness took MEW by the legs and pretended to lift him into the cart. He didn't lift him more than 18in or 2ft. It was done for a joke, and without any intention of hurting the man. They had always been very good friends. Deceased said "I think you have hurt my back," but went on with his work as usual, and he came to work for four following days afterwards, walking from Ryde to Asheys. He came on the following Monday, but went home on Tuesday. There was no ill will. Poor old MEW and himself were excellent friends. MEW was a very jovial, joky man. Witness did it without a thought. Came and saw MEW on the following Saturday night at his own house. He was ill and sick. Nothing was said about the accident. Never saw him again alive. He was very sorry. Would sooner have done MEW a good than harm any day.

Mr Alfred WOODWARD, M.R.C.S., deposed that he was called to see the deceased on the 13th of Nov. Found him suffering a good deal of pain in the abdomen. He gave no reason for it. Treated him for the pain for about four days. The appearances witness saw were consistent with the evidence given by last witness, and the injuries might have been sustained in the manner described. On the fourth day of visiting the man, he saw he was getting a good deal worse, and witness got a carriage and sent deceased to the Infirmary. On the following day the bowels acted, and the man appeared to be better, but a re-action set in and he gradually sank, and died on Tuesday last. Thought there must have been some injury and obstruction to the bowels. Had attended deceased for a somewhat similar illness three or four years ago.

Richard Arthur BAYLISS, House Surgeon, deposed that deceased was admitted on the 19th, suffering from obstruction of the bowels. On Saturday he seemed to rally, then re-action set in and he slowly sank. A man lifting another in the manner described was, he thought, likely to cause injury to the intestines.

The Coroner briefly summed up, and said that although one did not expect practical joking from two such elderly men, still he did not think it was anything more than accident. A verdict of "Accidental death" was returned.
