

Death of Jno. Bowman

Through Taking An Overdose Of Chloral.

THE INQUEST. On Monday morning the 2nd inst the public were startled by hearing more or less contradictory rumours that John Bowman had committed suicide by poisoning himself. Many of his friends doubted that he had committed suicide, but his death seemed to be a settled fact. Dr. Doherty, coroner, was summoned and held an inquest on the remains on Monday afternoon. A reporter was sent to the residence of Mr. Bowman, who lived at Alimia, a Concession Markham, and through the kindness of Coroner Doherty, secured all the principal evidence given, bearing on the cause of his death. The reporter also spoke to several of the neighbours, and they were almost unanimous in asserting that they believed Mr. Bowman's death was caused by a mistake on his own part in taking an overdose of chloral or morphine, which his friends knew he had been in the habit of taking for that most distressing of diseases, typhoid.

THE INQUEST. The jury were: Jas Brodie, foreman, Alfred Spifford, Peter Purves, Andrew Brilinger, Phillip Query, Wm Mustard, Geo Mustard, Geo Mackay, Wm Carruthers, Benj Jenkins, Geo Lawson, Thos Williamson, Philm Macklin, Geo H Summerfeldt, and Berj Hoover.

Sarah Bowman, wife of deceased, sworn, said: Mr. Bowman, deceased, has suffered very much for several years with dyspepsia. He has taken a great deal of medicine of different kinds. Among the medicine he has been in the habit of taking was chloral which he has been in the habit of taking for several years, to relieve distress arising as he supposed, from dyspepsia. He appeared to suffer more the last few weeks than formerly and took in consequence larger quantities of chloral. I noticed during the last three days of his life his mind seemed to be affected, which I supposed was caused by the medicine. I was aware that he sent Miller for medicine on Friday to Unionville. I don't know whether he took any medicine on Friday or Friday night. On Saturday morning about eight he appeared about as he had for some days, except weaker. I left the room not more than ten minutes. He came to the door and called for a drink. He said he had taken an overdose of the medicine; that he made a mistake. I wished to produce vomiting but he could not swallow. I then sent for Dr. Langstaff. Deceased remained unconscious from the time of the attack until the following afternoon, about four o'clock, when he became conscious. He died about two hours afterwards. I have no doubt he died in consequence of an overdose of the medicine administered by himself.

Dr. J. Miller, of Whitechurch, sworn, said: I was called on Saturday afternoon to see deceased; found him lying on the floor insensible. From his appearance I should judge he was suffering from the effect of narcotic poison. We used all means without result to restore consciousness and partially succeeded, but eventually he sunk about six o'clock Sunday evening. I think he has been in the habit of taking chloral (at least he told me so) and I am of opinion that the habitual use of that drug would produce a morbid condition of mind perhaps amounting in certain cases to mania or temporary insanity.

John Miller, sworn, said: I knew deceased had told him that he was in the habit of taking chloral for dyspepsia, and to the fact that he sent to Unionville for medicine on Friday.

Albert Pingle, of Unionville, doctor of medicine, sworn, said: I knew deceased John Bowman for several years. I last saw him alive in Toronto, on 29th last May. I have had several conversations with deceased about his health and the effect of certain drugs. I then heard him complain of dyspepsia, or bilious attacks, as he sometimes called them. He told me he was accustomed to taking morphine, chloral and other medicines. He told me so this spring, on different occasions, and I inferred from his language that he was quite familiar with the usual doses of these medicines. I furnished him medicines twice last week. On Tuesday, I think it was, I furnished him by his son, one half ounce of chloral and six powders of Calomel, of five grains each. I was particular in writing the quantities in each powder as well as on the bottles. On Friday I received an order from him by John Miller, for twenty doses of morphine and one-half ounce of chloral. I sent him six grains morphine in one powder, and wrote on the package "six grains morphine - 24 doses." I also sent him one half ounce chloral. I heard on Saturday evening he had taken an overdose of the medicine. I believe in his case if he took all the medicine I sent on Friday in one dose, it would be quite sufficient to produce death. My opinion is that the medicine he told me he was in the habit of taking, if taken continually, would tend to produce depression of spirits, or a morbid condition of mind.

THE VERDICT. The jury after a short deliberation, brought in a verdict that the said John Bowman came to his death at his own house, in the township of Markham, on Sunday the first day of June, inst., by an overdose of chloral and morphine, administered by himself by mistake.

John Doherty, Coroner. J. T. Brodie, Foreman.

The late John Bowman was a leading miller in the township of Markham, and represented the township in Council for 5 years, one as Councillor, one as Deputy Reeve, and three years as Reeve. He was also the Conservative Candidate for the East Riding of York, for the first Local Assembly, in 1867. He was considered an excellent business man, and had many of the elements of character necessary to make a prominent public man. He was affable in his manner, quick to read human nature, had perfect control of his temper, ready witted, prompt and decided in business action. The deceased leaves many warm friends to mourn his sudden taking off. - Economist.

From a report submitted last session to the Ontario Legislature by the Government, in regard to the Boundary question, we learn the area of this Province, including the recent acquisition obtained by the settlement referred to, is now 221,000 square miles. - The extreme length is given at 1,070 miles, and the greatest width 400 miles - with a coast line of 310 miles. Northward, Ontario extends to James Bay, and Westward to the Lake of the Woods, Manitoba.

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RICHMOND L. O. L. No 778 - Meets in the Temperance Hall, on the Friday or before full moon, at 8 p.m. J. H. Sanderson, W. M.

RICHMOND HILL TEMPLE, No 465, I. O. G. T. Meets in the Temperance Hall, every Wednesday evening, at 8 o'clock. Wm Harrison, T. D.

DUNKIN A.C. - Central Committee meets at the call of the President in the Temperance Hall, Dr. J. N. Reid, Thonhill, President; John Sanderson, Richmond Hill, Sec.

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METHODIST - Services at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. in Sunday School at 2:30 p.m. Prayers meeting every Thursday evening, and Sunday School Teachers meeting and Bible Class on Friday evening, led by the pastor, Rev Mr McCallum, Assistant, Rev Mr Howson

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ROMAN CATHOLIC - Services: Thornhill at 9 a.m. and Richmond Hill at 10:30 a.m.; the following Sunday at Richmond Hill at 9 a.m. and Thornhill at 10:30 a.m., alternating with Markham every 3rd Sunday

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