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### AN INSECURE SCAFFOLD

CAUSED THE DROWNING OF WILLIAM JOHN QUINN.

Coroner's Jury Considered Case On Tuesday Evening—Scaffold Rope Attached to Insecure Part of Steamer.

At the coroner's inquest into the death of William John Quinn held in the police court-room on Tuesday evening the jury rendered the following verdict: "That William John Quinn came to his death by drowning due to the rope holding the scaffold folding on which he was at work being attached to an insecure and defective part of the steamer."

Dr. W. W. Sands, coroner, presided, and the jury elected William A. Newlands foreman. The other members of the jury were: J. Russell Forster, Robert Henderson, Thomas Nash, G. O. Aiken, N. A. Smith, E. Cain, Samuel Hamilton, James Angrove, E. Hartrick, C. Gray, E. Hunt. The first witness called was P. C. James Downey who told of being called to Swift's wharf at 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, of the recovery of the body and the means employed for resuscitation.

David Cummings, who was the foreman in charge of the work on the steamer St. Lawrence, said that the deceased came to him on Friday or Saturday of last week and wanted a job. He gave his name as J. Irwin. "He came to work on Monday morning and scrubbed all day Monday on the side of the boat—the steamer St. Lawrence. He came back on Tuesday morning and turned to at the same work on the same side of the boat. When the accident happened we were in the stern. He commenced this morning where they left off Monday night. Somewhere between 9 and 10 a.m. I was putting out another triangle to put a plank on. The same one they were working on. My attention was drawn by someone hollering and hearing the splash in the water. When I looked the triangle was gone and two men were in the water. I took the triangle I had with the rope and handed it to the boy to catch hold of. There were two in the water. Young Wright was the one I saved. I told him to hang on to it. When I looked up the other man was lying with his stomach on the plank. Wright called out and when I looked again I saw bubbles where the other man sank. We got ropes and things to try and find the other man."

Cause of the Accident. Question by member of jury: "Were there any life preservers on the boat?" Answer—"Yes, but not where we were, they were down on the main deck. There was no person to go for them. A rope was thrown to the man as soon as it could be got."

"What was the cause of the scaffold falling?" "The railing the scaffold rope was fast to, broke away."

"What was the cause of it breaking away—was it due to the condition of the wood?" "The nails drew out. The wood is not very rotten. The rail was put there about three years ago."

"Did you look to see if the wood was rotten?" "I did."

"Are you an official of the company or a contractor?" "I was just hired for the job."

"Who attached the ropes to the railing?" "I did."

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Examined the Steamer. At this point the jury expressed a wish to examine the steamer where the railing to which the scaffold was attached collapsed, and after their return Silas Grimshaw was called by the coroner. He said: "I visited the scene of the accident and saw where the scaffold went astray."

Question—"In what condition was it?" Answer—"It was in good condition. It was screwed on by one and a half inch No. 12 screws. The wood was in good condition."

Question—"How thick was the plate the screws went through?" Answer—"About half an inch. The plate was bolted to the deck beams. The screws had been pulled out."

Question—"Would that not have been the logical place to attach the rope to avoid leverage?" Answer—"Yes."

Question—"Do you do any work for the Canada Steamship Lines?" Answer—"No."

Witness identified a screw exhibited by one of the jury as belonging to the rail, but it was not an inch and a half long, and some of the wood adhered to the rust on it. Wright said he thought the screws were longer.

Question—"Don't you think that it would have been better to tie the rope to the inner rail or the rings in the deck?" Answer—"Yes, it would, but we have always tied it to the rail."

Question—"You didn't test the rail?" Answer—"I did with my knee."

Question—"Would that have broken the rail pipe?" Answer—"No, I think it gave away at the rear end first and then the pipe connection pulled apart."

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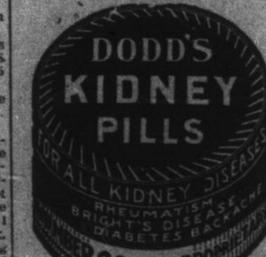
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