

John Scott

Isle of Wight Times - 2 January 1913

A DISTRESSING DISCOVERY.

Early on Friday morning a distressing discovery was made at Plaish Sheepwash near Carisbrooke, by a carter named Ralph, who seeing a pair of men's boots with a pipe in one of them by the side of the sheepwash, searched in the water below and found the dead body of John Scott, a barman in the employ of the Royal Brewery at Newport, a single man, who had been living with his sister close by. The body which was lying in about 3ft. of water, was only partly dressed and the legs were tied together, whilst hanging from his neck was a flat iron. Inquiries showed that deceased attended a picture palace at Newport on Boxing Night and returned home late. When his sister retired for the night he told her he would be going to bed shortly. Early on Friday morning his sister found he had not been to bed and on going downstairs saw some of his clothing. She reported the matter to the Police, and it was in consequence of this that the search, which resulted in the finding of his body, was made. The deceased had formerly served in the Army.

On Saturday the Isle of Wight Coroner (Mr F. A. Joyce) held the inquest at Plaish, near Carisbrooke.

Deceased's sister, Mary Jane Hillier, of Meadow Cottage, Plaish, said that deceased lived with her. He returned home from the picture palace at Newport about 12 on Boxing Night and had supper with her. He then told her she could go to bed, and she did so. She went to his room to call him about four o'clock next morning, and found his bed had not been slept upon. On going downstairs she saw his clothes in the kitchen, and she searched for him, thinking he had wandered away. She went to the farm near and saw his boots on the bridge by the Sheepwash and saw something in the water. She called for assistance, and Mr. Miles and Mr. Ralph got the body out. Deceased was sober when he returned home. He had been suffering severely from rupture lately, and also from very bad toothache. She told the police deceased had had some drink but was not drunk.

The evidence of P.S. Foyle and other witnesses showed that deceased only had his vest, pants and socks on. There was about 3ft. of water in the Sheepwash. There was no note left behind. Deceased had never threatened to commit suicide. He was sober when he left the picture hall and called at a public house on his way home. Dr. Castle said drowning was the cause of death. He had spoken to the deceased repeatedly about his intemperate habits.

The jury returned a verdict of 'Suicide during temporary insanity.'

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