

George Prince

Hampshire Telegraph – Saturday 27 January 1894

SINGULAR FATALITY AT NEWPORT

On Tuesday afternoon Mr. E. F. Blake held an inquest at the Trafalgar Inn, Newport, I. W., on the body of George Prince, 69, of Orchard-street, who met with his death early the same day, at the West Medina Cement Mills, where he had worked for about half a century.

The night watchman, George Pragnell, said deceased was foreman of the bag store, and went to work on the morning in question shortly before six, and shortly afterwards he saw him lying on the cement immediately beneath the opening in the bag store floor, having apparently fallen through from the floor above, which was reached by a ladder. The opening in the floor was for passing the bags up and down. His head was bleeding. A doctor was not sent for. Deceased was dead when removed from the works. He lived about three-quarters of an hour after he was found.

John Sweetman, labourer at the Mills, explained that the opening in the floor, through which deceased must have fallen, was protected by match-boarding on three sides, and formerly there was a rail three feet from the floor across the opening leading to the aperture to keep anyone from falling through, but it had not been put up during the last six or seven months. There had never been an accident there previously. Deceased, as foreman, was responsible for the absence of the rail. When witness went into the store there was no light there. He heard a noise below, and on descending found deceased, who was a very heavy man, with his legs bent under him. Deceased only asked for his daughter; he said nothing as to how he sustained the injuries. Deceased was in the habit of walking across the floor to the other part of the mill to get a basin of hot tea from the miller, and he must have walked into the aperture when he was going for tea.

Dr. Waterworth attributed death to concussion of the brain.

The Manager of the works (Mr. A. H. Douglas) explained that the rail referred to was a permanent fixture, which had been removed by the men unknown to him. When the bags were drawn up they were supposed to pull them over the rail. He naturally assumed that the safeguards put there for the protection of the workmen would not be removed. He had now given instructions for the opening to be boarded up to where the rail used to be.

A verdict of accidental death was returned.

Isle of Wight County Press – Saturday 3 February 1894.

NEWPORT

THE FUNERAL – of the late Mr. George Prince, who met with a fatal accident at the Cement Works on the previous Tuesday, took place at Carisbrooke Cemetery on Sunday afternoon. A large number of deceased's fellow employes, including Mr. A. McDine (works foreman), joined the cortege, the followers numbering over 100. The firm of Messrs. Francis, Son and Co. was represented by Messrs. Philpott and Denham, and Mr. J. Witham, who has retired from the service of the firm, was also present. The Conservative Club, of which deceased was a member, was represented by Messrs. J. George, J.P., W. Whittington, T.C., W.L. George T.C., and F.D. Shields. Amongst the beautiful floral

tributes were wreaths from deceased's employees "To the memory of an old and valued servant," Mr. A.H. Douglas (manager) "With great regret," the staff of the firm "With deepest Sympathy, " and the Conservative Club.

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