

Henry John Woodford

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NEWPORT.

Man Choked in a Pit

On Wednesday afternoon the Deputy Coroner for the Island (Mr. F. Joyce) held an inquest at the Guildhall, Newport, on the body of Henry John Woodford, 20, labourer, of Melbourne-street, Newport, who was found dead in the Westminster brickyard, Newport, where he was employed, on Tuesday afternoon. Deceased's father said that deceased had been subject to epileptic fits from childhood, and he usually had a severe attack at least once a week. Deceased was in the habit of remaining in the brickyard for dinner.

Alfred Arnold, brickmaker, of Hunnyhill, who, with his son, was working with deceased on the previous day, said that he and his son went home to dinner at mid-day, when deceased was in his usual health and made no complaint. When they returned about one o'clock deceased was lying on his right side dead, with some of his dinner – bread and butter and cheese – by his side.

Dr, Castle, who attended quickly, said there were no marks of violence on deceased, and he was unable to say from external observation the cause of death. A post mortem revealed the fact that the upper part of the deceased's windpipe was full of food, which deceased had evidently drawn in when seized with the fit, with the result that he choked.

The jury returned a verdict accordingly, and expressed sympathy with the relatives.

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