

**Benjamin Legg**

**Isle of Wight Observer - 31<sup>st</sup> March 1900**

**NEWPORT.**

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**SUICIDE AT PARKHUST FOREST.** — On Monday afternoon, an inquest was held before the Deputy-Coroner, (Mr. E. F. Blake), at the White Lion Inn, Newport, touching the death of the aged woodman, Benjamin Legg, of No. 10, John Street, Barton's Village, who on Saturday afternoon last was found lying dead in Parkhurst Forest. William Comer, Master of the wood factory at Parkhurst Forest, said the deceased had been in his employ for about fifteen months making faggots, etc. He last saw him alive just before eight on Saturday morning, when he was going to his work. Witness spoke to him and thought he appeared rather strange. At half-past three on Saturday afternoon he went to the place where he had been at work. He found him lying on his side. He noticed his injuries — a large wound in the neck. There was a razor on the ground not more than two feet away from him. — Sarah Legg, wife of the deceased, said her husband had been in the habit of going to the forest to his work for several years. He partook of his breakfast and started away about half past six. He seemed in his usual health. He had recently been worried about his money — his pension of 5s. a week. He did not always get the same amount owing to his having had money advanced when he was out of work. Some of this was deducted. The razor produced did not belong to the deceased. She was quite sure of this. — Leonard Jackman, a carter at the forest, said he knew the deceased very well. He saw him just before eight on Saturday morning, but did not speak to him then. This witness identified the razor produced. About a month since the deceased showed it him when they were on the Ryde Road, explaining that he used it for cutting his corns. The Coroner thought it evident deceased had committed suicide, but suggested that the evidence was by no means clear that the deceased was insane when he committed the rash act. — The jury returned a verdict of "Suicide whilst in a state of unsound mind." — Deceased has it appears, worked at the forest as boy and man for nearly 60 years. He was 73 years of age, and had recently been awarded a small pension from the Crown.

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