

**James West**

**Isle of Wight County Press – Saturday 01 August 1908**

**NEWPORT DEALER'S ACCIDENT.**

**FATAL TERMINATION.**

On Tuesday afternoon the Deputy Coroner (F.A. Joyce, Esq.) held an inquest at the I.W. County Hospital touching the death of James West, a dealer, of Newport, aged 57, who died as the result of an accident he met with some weeks ago, as reported in our columns. Mr. F.W. Munt was chosen foreman of the jury.

FRANK PLUMBLEY, living at 69 Castle-road, Newport, said that on July 13th, at about 7.10 p.m., he was in Castle-road. He had got about a stone's throw from the corner when he heard a rattle behind him, and on looking round saw deceased in a pony cart. The pony had run away. It was a high two-wheeled cart, and seemed as if it had taken control of the pony. Deceased was holding on to the reins with both hands, and calling out "Steady" to the mare. Witness saw the bit hanging from the mare's mouth, and concluded that it had broken. Mr. Wood's manager was driving a high dog cart further down the road. Deceased called out to him to clear the way. Immediately after that there was a collision. Mr. Wood's manager drew in as far into the left as he could, but deceased's cart struck the wheel. The cart did not turn over, but deceased was thrown out. The harness broke, and the pony got free. Witness went to deceased's assistance, and Mr. Charles Cant was also there. Deceased was unable to speak, and appeared to be injured about his head. He was taken into a garden and laid on the grass, and a doctor was sent for. He was afterwards taken to Mr. Bird Cheverton's place on a stretcher. The pony took the reins and the bit with it.

The CORONER pointed out to the jury that the fracture of the bit seemed to be of long standing, and that would explain how it came to break.

In reply to the Foreman (Mr. F.W. Munt), WITNESS said he did not know what caused the pony to run away.

CHARLES CANT, 12 Castle-road, Newport, a labourer, said he was in his garden at the time. He heard shouting, and immediately ran out. He saw deceased coming down the road, with the horse out of control. Deceased could not stop it, as the bit was broken. Witness ran by the side of the animal with the intention of trying to stop it. Each time he put his arm out to stop the horse deceased shouted "Be easy" to it, with the result that it plunged away from him. Witness had to fall back, and was about 30 yards behind when deceased's trap collided with the dog cart driven by Mr. Wright. Witness corroborated the evidence given by the previous witness.

The CORONER remarked that they had not succeeded in finding a witness who saw the actual start of the affair.

HERBERT EDWARD WRIGHT, manager to Mr. Arthur Wood, said he lived at Maybank, Medina-avenue, Newport. On the day in question he was returning from Chale, and drove down Castle-avenue. He heard a noise behind him and some shouting. He saw that deceased's horse had run away. He whipped up and tried to keep in front. Finding that impossible, he pulled in to the left as far as he could. The vehicles collided, however, and deceased was thrown out violently on his head.

DR. GEORGE RAYMOND, living at Carisbrooke, said he received a telephone message on the evening in question. He went down Castle-road, and saw deceased on the lawn of Ben More House, being looked after by several people. He was unconscious, and had a lacerated wound on the right

side of the scalp, a dislocated right shoulder, and an injury to his ear. Witness dressed his wounds, and reduced the dislocation. Deceased was sent in the ambulance to the I.W. County Hospital.

DR. JAMES ROBERTSON MITCHELL, house surgeon at the I.W. County Hospital, said deceased was brought in at about 9.45 p.m. on the day in question. On examining him, witness found a lacerated wound on the right side of the scalp, and the right ear torn. He was semi-conscious. Deceased also had an injury to the left shoulder. He remained in the Hospital, but died on Sunday morning. The cause of death was effusion of blood on the surface of the brain. He had been conscious for some time past, but had not given any explanation as to the cause of the accident. A post-mortem examination had been made that day, and he found a laceration on the left side of the brain, and effusion of blood also on the left side. That would be cause by an injury to the right side of the head.

The FOREMAN asked if, provided deceased made a statement to one of the nurses, that would have been communicated to him (witness).

WITNESS said it would not necessarily have been communicated to him. It was not the duty of the nurse, but he thought he would have been told in this case, as they were all wondering how deceased got hurt.

At the Coroner's suggestion, the witness inquired at the Hospital as to whether deceased made any statement, but on his return said that deceased had made none.

The CORONER briefly summed up the evidence, and said it seemed that the bit had been broken and patched up some time ago. They could safely say that deceased died as the result of an accident by the bit breaking.

The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death."

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