

SUPPOSED SUICIDE IN LIMERICK.

Mr Coroner DeCourcy held an inquest in the Grand Jury Room, City Courthouse, to-day, on the remains of Thomas Cannon, a window-cleaner, who was supposed to have committed suicide yesterday by jumping into the river from the battlement of the Sarsfield Bridge.

George Hannigan identified the remains as those of Thomas Cannon, and his occupation was that of a window-cleaner. He was unmarried and was about forty or forty-five years of age.

Robert Young examined by Sergeant Ginnelly deposed—“About a quarter past two o'clock yesterday I was crossing over Sarsfield Bridge; I saw a man on the outside of the battlement, and then he either jumped or fell off into the water; there was no person, except children; I saw no one do anything to him.

To the Coroner—He was carried under the bridge by the tide, and when I saw him on the water side, he sank in about three minutes from the time he fell in; he made no effort to swim or to save himself.

A Juror—Was there any effort made to save him? A policeman came shortly afterwards and brought a boat.

Constable Edward Gannon, examined by the Coroner, deposed—I was on duty at ten minutes past two yesterday, and my attention was attracted by a number of people shouting that there was a man in the water; I ran up; I did not see the man at the time, but I roared two or three times to parties at the Boat Club to lower a boat; I got no response, and I then ran as fast as I could in the direction of the Boat House just before that I ran to the other side of the bridge, and saw the body sinking; it was motionless; Mr Stack, a member of the Boat Club, took a small boat in the direction of where the body was, but could find no trace of it; he got the deceased's hat under the bridge, and gave it to me; I believe he was smoking before he threw himself in, as I got his pipe on the bridge, and it was quite warm at the time.

Sergeant Ginnelly stated that at half-past two yesterday he went in search of the body, but was told by experienced persons that there was no use in doing so until the tide was out; at half-past seven o'clock he renewed the search with Constable Gannon, and in three quarters of an hour found the body; there were no marks of violence, and there was nothing in the pockets.

A Juror asked was there any evidence as to the state of mind of deceased previous to the fatality?

Sergeant Ginnelly—No; there was no one in his company for some time before.

The witness Hannigan said the deceased's sister died a month ago in Hunt's lane, and since then the prisoner had no place of residence.

Sergeant Ginnelly said the poor man had no place of residence for some time past, and found it very hard to live. He had no family.

Mr Griffin thought they should find a verdict of “Found drowned.”

Mr O'Shea said it appeared from the evidence of one of the witnesses that the man fell off the parapet.

The Jury found that “The deceased committed suicide by drowning himself while in a state of temporary insanity.”

It would appear that at the time Constable Gannon called to persons on the Boat Club pier to go to the rescue of the drowning man there was no one belonging to the club present and no boat available. Mr Stack, a member of the club, was shortly after crossing the bridge and he immediately rushed down, got into a punt and rowed to where the deceased sank, but there was then no trace of the poor fellow.