

# HOW YOUNG BOY WAS DROWNED

## APPLICATION FOR ADJOURNMENT

An extraordinary story was unfolded at an inquest held in Barrington's Hospital to-day by Mr. J. S. McNeige, solr., Deputy Coroner, on Michael Logan, aged 3 years, Barrington's Mall, Limerick, who was drowned in the Shannon last evening.

Inspector Brassil, C.G., conducted the enquiry.

Matthew Connery, 2 Mt. Vincent Cottages, Rosbrien, stated he was a van driver. At 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon he was cycling along the Island Road. He met a girl wheeling a prambulator. He did not know the girl, but she appeared to be very excited. Witness asked her what was wrong, and she said "the little boy was drowned."

### ARTIFICIAL RESPIRATION.

Inspector—Did you see the boy in the pram?—Yes. I looked in the pram and saw the child lying on his back. He appeared to be dead.

Inspector—What did you do then?—I turned the child, and saw there was no life in him. I tried artificial respiration for a while, and then I took him under my arm to Mary Street Barracks.

Kitty Bourke, 8 Denmark Street, having been cautioned, elected to give evidence. She said she was a domestic servant employed by Mr. Wm. Logan, Barrington's Mall. At 3 o'clock yesterday she left Mr. Logan's house, having Michael, Joan, and William Logan in her custody. Joan was in the pram, and the two boys were walking. Witness took the children out the Island Bank.

Inspector—Did you meet anybody on the way out?—No.

Did you join company with anybody while you were there?—No, sir.

Continuing, the witness said when she arrived she took the baby out of the pram. William and Michael were playing around, and she had them in sight all the time.

Inspector—How did the accident occur?—The two children were a little away from me.

Did you see either of them approach the water?—No.

### MISSED THE CHILD.

When did you see the child, Michael, in the water first?—Michael went out of my sight. I missed him for a minute, and I next saw him in the water. I went down, and saw him on his face and hands.

Continuing, the witness said she cried for help, and a boy came to her assistance. She did not know the boy, and

never saw him before. The boy pulled the deceased out of the water, and gave the body to witness.

Inspector—Where did the boy go?—I did not see him again.

Would you know this boy if you saw him again?—I would.

Did he delay long after he had handed over the body to you?—About five minutes.

### WALKED AWAY.

Did he run away?—No; he walked up the bank.

Did he know the child was dead?—He did.

Continuing, the witness said men came along and rubbed the child's hands. She did not know any of the men, and none of them went with her to the hospital.

Coroner. This is peculiar. What did you do then?—I put the child in the pram, and rolled it in the bank.

Coroner—I think it is better to let this stand until further enquiries are made.

Inspector—Yes. I think it would be better not to complete this deposition at all.

### FATHER'S EVIDENCE.

Wm. Logan, father of the child, gave evidence of identification. Kitty Bourke was employed by him from yesterday only to take out the children. Michael, the deceased was one of the children, and was 2 years and 8 months. The child was a healthy young chap, and very strong.

Dr. S. McDonagh, Barrington's Hospital stated he examined the body of the deceased in Mary Street Barracks. Artificial respiration was carried out without success, and death, in his opinion, was due to asphyxia, caused by drowning.

Coroner—Could you give any idea how long the child was in the water?

Dr. McDonagh—I could not say. He appeared to have had a fair amount of water in the lungs and stomach.

### INQUEST ADJOURNED.

The Coroner adjourned the inquest to an indefinite date. Further investigations would have to be made.

Inspector Brassil said that the story of Kitty Bourke contradicted itself, and he thought that an adjournment was absolutely necessary.

### WITNESS COMMENDED.

The Coroner expressed deep sympathy with the father of the child, and said he would like to commend Matthew Connery for his very prompt action.

Inspector Brassil joined with the Coroner in expressing sympathy with the deceased's relatives, and endorsed his remarks regarding Connery.