

Sad Limerick Tragedy

Little Boy's Death From Drowning

Prospect Quarry a Death Trap

A verdict of "found drowned" was returned by Mr J B McNeils, Deputy City Coroner, at an inquest held at Barrington's Hospital on Monday into the circumstances surrounding the death of Seumas Daly, 5 years, whose dead body was recovered from Hall's Quarry, Prospect, on Sunday afternoon.

Michael Daly, 30, father of the child, said he had been missing from his home since 6.30 on Friday evening; he had been about the house prior to that time, and when he was missed witness went in search of him; witness had seven other children, and deceased was five years of age.

Dr Clohesy, House Surgeon, Barrington's Hospital, stated death was due to asphyxia following drowning.

Joseph Daly, Distillery Buildings, Thomondgate, stated that he participated in dragging operations for Seumas Daly on Sunday. The child was thought to have fallen into Hall's Quarry. With a man named Kevin Stackpoole he recovered the body with a drag. It was lying in about 6 feet of water under the cliff at the Prospect end of the quarry.

Inspector Falvey, s.s., who conducted the inquiry, said he did not propose to offer any further evidence.

The Coroner said the case was a sad one. A number of drownings of children had taken place in the quarry, and there seemed to be no protection of any kind around it. It was a most dangerous quarry and everybody knew that it was hard to keep children away from such places. It was hard to blame children, and the onus was on the owners of such places, when they were in a dangerous condition, to have them properly fenced. If the quarry in question was not looked after it was possible there would be other tragedies. He thought the owners should be compelled either by the proper authorities or the Garda to fence and close the quarry in order to safeguard children in future.

Mr Daly, father of the deceased, said he had known the quarry was a death trap for the past thirty years; the Corporation should have some facility with regard to fencing or closing it up.

The Coroner said if the Corporation had any power they should take immediate steps to make the place safe.

Inspector Falvey said that in addition to the place being dangerous it was used as a dumping ground and was a danger to the public health.

Sympathy was expressed with the bereaved parents and the Coroner complimented Messrs Daly and Stackpoole for their work in recovering the body.