

City Drowning Fatality

Little Boy's Death

Sad Inquest Details.

A very sad drowning fatality took place at the bathing place named Sandy on the Island Bank on Monday evening, as the result of which a little boy named Thomas McNamara, aged 7½ years, son of a workman, of White Wine Lane, Broad street, met his death.

It is not known how the boy got into the water. The body was seen floating by a little girl who had attention called to it. Mr James McMahon, a resident of the Island Field, recovered the body from the river and artificial respiration was applied, but was unsuccessful.

The Inquest.

An inquest touching the circumstances of the death of the little boy was held by Mr J S McNisica, solo, Acting Coroner, and a jury at the board-room, Barrington's Hospital, this afternoon.

Supt J J Meehan and Sergt Curtin, Mary street, conducted the inquiry.

Thomas McNamara, dock labourer, White Wine Lane, said at 4.30 p m on Monday he left his home to go fishing when his son Thomas was at home in his usual state of health. About 6.45 p m he heard he had been drowned and identified his remains at the mortuary.

Winifred Connolly, 31 St Ita's street, Island Field, said she went down to the river and noticed a child in the water who seemed to be in difficulties. She made an attempt to grab him, but he went out of reach. Witnesses then went for help.

Dr O'Leary, House Surgeon, Barrington's Hospital, said deceased died from asphyxia following immersion in water.

John McNamara, 30 St Ita's street, said he spent the day on the Island Bank. There were a number of people bathing in the vicinity about 6.30, and he noticed a lot of commotion near Sandy. He ran towards the spot and Miss Connolly told him that a child had gone down. He dived for the child and felt something at the bottom of the river and located the body and brought it to the surface. The body was warm but the limbs were cold. Some people tried artificial respiration but the child died. The depth of the water was 15 feet. There was a very steep incline and it got gradually deeper. The body was 10 to 15 yards out. Two men named Moloney and Delahunty assisted him in artificial respiration.

The Coroner expressed deep sympathy with the relatives and commended Mr McMahon for his plucky action.

"It is a pity," said the Coroner, "that we are in such a backward way in Limerick for proper swimming accommodation for grown-ups and people in general. Children like the deceased could not be kept out of the water during the hot weather. Some of these places were absolute death traps and in Sandy alone quite a considerable number of drowning accidents had occurred. Certainly the public authorities here should at least provide swimming facilities and give children of the city, and especially of the congested areas, some safe place for swimming so that they could save one another when they got into difficulties."

Supt. Meehan joined in the expressions of sympathy on behalf of the Garda authorities.

A verdict that deceased met his death by asphyxia, following accidental drowning, was returned.