



Coroner's Inquest Report

Minety

A son of Mr Newman

A terrific thunderstorm burst over Minety on Tuesday about 4.30, and raged for about three hours. Rain fell in torrents, while thunder crashed with extraordinary violence, with extremely vivid lightning. During a temporary lull, about 5.30, a son of Mr Newman, of Lower Sales Farm, Leigh, aged about 12, who had been with a load of milk to the railway station, started with a horse and trap to return home. The poor lad had, however, not got a hundred yards from the railway station entrance when he was struck dead by lightning, which also killed the horse on the spot. Strange to say, the trap, with the exception of a splinter in the seat, was not damaged. Much sympathy is felt for the bereaved parents, as it is only three weeks ago that another of their sons was drowned.

An inquest was held on Thursday. Evidence was given by Mr C A Potter, of Cricklade, and Mr F W Baker, of Oaksey. Mr Potter, who was only fifty yards behind the deceased, also driving a trap, said he did not see either the boy or horse fall, but on looking ahead saw the trap lying in the road, the horse on its side in the shafts. On driving to the spot he found the boy lying by the side of the wheels dead.

Mr Baker said the horse was groaning and kicking, but died soon after.

Dr Law deposed to finding the boy dead. The hair on the back of his head was singed, the scalp burnt, and also the right shoulder. Death was due to shock from lightning, which, it was possible, struck deceased on the top of the head, the current then running from the front of the trap into the horse.

A verdict of "Death through shock from being struck by lightning" was returned, and the jury passed a vote of condolence with the bereaved parents, who have had the sorrow of two inquests on two of their sons in the space of a fortnight.

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