

rumoured through the city that he had made some remarks with regard to the state of the turnkeys on the night of the suicide.

Coroner HALLOWELL remarked, that if Dr. Riddell had anything to state, he would be happy to take it, provided the jury desired it.

Dr. RIDDEL said he had nothing to say that could throw any light on the question before the jury; and, at all events, from the position he occupied as associate coroner, he thought his evidence would not be admissible. He had taken legal advice on the matter, and was informed that he need not give evidence.

Some of the jury opposed the taking of the doctor's evidence; the majority, however, insisted that it should be taken, in order that the rumours that were in circulation might be cleared up.

Dr. RIDDEL repeated, that as associate coroner, he did not think he should give evidence in the case.

Dr. HALLOWELL said that Dr. Riddell was not associated with him, and he would take his evidence if the jury desired it.

The jury expressed a wish that Dr. Riddell should be examined.

Dr. RIDDEL—I know nothing about the case; but if the jury desire it, I will answer whatever questions they choose to ask me. The jury did desire it, and Dr. Riddell was accordingly sworn.

Dr. HALLOWELL—Now we will hear what you have to say.

Dr. RIDDEL—Before I proceed, I must say that I do not think that the Coroner has treated me fairly in stating that I am not associate coroner, when he asked me to take a seat by his side and assist him. And I ask him did he not do so?

Dr. HALLOWELL—I will not answer any questions of that kind.

Dr. RIDDEL—Then you should not state what you know to be untrue.

Dr. HALLOWELL (rising and addressing the policeman)—Remove this person; remove him. I will not take his evidence.

SEVERAL OF THE JURY—You must; you must; he is sworn.

The policeman moved around, and approached Dr. Riddell.

Dr. HALLOWELL—? will not be insulted in my own court.

Dr. RIDDEL—I did not wish to insult you. You know you asked me to assist you.

Dr. HALLOWELL—You have insulted me. Remove him (to policeman).

POLICEMAN—Doctor, will you please accompany me.

Dr. RIDDEL—I did not wish to insult you; I merely wished to place myself right before the jury.

Dr. HALLOWELL—Well, you have insulted me, and you must apologise to the court.

Dr. RIDDEL—I do not think I said anything improper; but if I did, I am sorry for it.

Dr. HALLOWELL—Very well; I accept your apology, and I suppose the jury are also satisfied with it. I will now hear what you have got to say in the matter.

As Dr. Riddell was leaving the court, the turnkey threatened him with violence, and called him a lunatic. The doctor appealed to the sheriff for protection, and that gentleman informed him that he should have it.

Next day the inquest was resumed, but not without further reference to the squabbles of the coroners. We gather the following also from the report of the *Globe*:

Coroner HALLOWELL, in opening the court, said, that before proceeding with the evidence he felt it his duty, from what had occurred the preceding day, to make a few remarks. In justice to

the sheriff, the governor of the gaol, the public, and himself, he must refer to the inquest, and define his position there. On Tuesday morning, about two o'clock, the sheriff called at his (the coroner's) residence, and informed him that William Greenwood had committed suicide, and that he wished him to hold an inquest on the body. He accordingly went at once to No. 1 Police Station, and told Sergeant-Major McDowell that he had been requested by the sheriff to hold an inquest on the body of Greenwood. [The coroner here, in order to show that the sheriff had power so to direct him, read from the Consolidated Statutes a clause of an act bearing upon the matter.] The coroner then went on to say that while he was in the Station, writing out his warrant, Coroner Riddell came in, when Coroner Hallowell said, "Doctor, I am afraid you are too late." Dr. Riddell made some remark, and, looking over Dr. Hallowell's shoulder, and seeing that his warrant was not complete, handed in his own, saying that he did not think he was too late yet. Some words then took place between them, when, as Dr. Hallowell states, Dr. Riddell said that he felt very anxious to hold the inquest, and would even give the fees to Dr. Hallowell if that gentleman would allow him to hold it. Dr. Hallowell said that he was highly indignant at such a proposal, and felt fully confident that he had the law on his side, and would hold the inquest.

A JUROR—We have come here to inquire touching the death of William Greenwood, and I do not think we have any right to listen to the facts of coroners' quarrels.

SEVERAL JURORS—Go on, go on, Mr. Coroner; we will hear you.

A JUROR—The coroner has had his conduct in this case shown up in a fearful light, and it is only right that he should be allowed to explain himself.

The coroner stated that it was for that reason that he wished to explain himself. The warrant of Dr. Riddell said that he wanted twenty-four men of the police force to act as jurors in the case. It was a mistake, of course, but such a glaring one that it could not be received, and the warrant was accordingly passed over. During Tuesday he had met Dr. Riddell at the gaol, and that gentleman acted very properly and friendly, and Dr. Hallowell said to him that he would like him to assist him at the inquest. Those were the facts of the case, so far as he was concerned.

The inquiry was then proceeded with.

It now remains for us to ask, how long is this state of things to continue? Surely nothing more disgraceful could well occur; and when we know that such things often and often occur, it is time that something should be done to prevent a repetition of them. But what is the remedy? Some say, abolish the fees appertaining to the office, and leave the office to those who are not so needy or so sordid as to desire to make money out of it. Others say, let there be some coroners, but instead of allowing them to receive fees, let them be paid by salary. Others say, abolish all existing commissions, and let there be one or two subsidiary coroners appointed for each city, town and village in the Province.

There is something to be said in support of each of these views. Greed is at the bottom of the mischief of which we complain. If we cannot abate the nuisance, we may at all events do something to regulate it.