

156. You, as Inspector of Police, and in charge of the station, would naturally be acquainted with all the circumstances connected with a case of that kind?—There was never a case at the station in the way of crime that I was not acquainted with.

157. Still, you do not recollect all the particulars in regard to this case?—No; I had more than dozens of cases.

158. Any dead children?—Any number of them.

159. Any exhumed by a constable?—If I could recollect I would tell you; I have no doubt you are right.

160. And, of course, you stated that if a body had been exhumed out of private grounds, and placed in the police morgue, it would be necessary to hold an inquest?—Yes; that is the usual course.

161. You had a report to the effect that this child was supposed to be the child of Amy Dyson?—Very likely.

162. If no inquest was held, would it not be detrimental to the prosecution of the case? By having an inquest it is possible to obtain a great amount of information?—Yes; it is a very good means of obtaining information.

163. Then, if there was no inquest, it would naturally be detrimental to the case of concealment of birth of a child, if the child was supposed to be the offshoot of a woman who died through the treatment she received?—That would be a matter for the Coroner. The case would be reported to him, and it would be for him to decide whether an inquest was necessary.

164. Dr. Symes, medical practitioner, used to attend members of the Force?—Yes.

165. Had you any conversation with him in reference to this child on the morning I brought it to the morgue?—I really cannot answer you. I had frequent conversations with Dr. Symes.

166. Did he state to you that morning that I had brought in a decomposed rabbit-skin?—I do not remember anything about a rabbit-skin.

167. Dr. Symes informed me that he had inspected this decomposed body of a child, and that he had come to the conclusion that I had unearthed a rabbit-skin?—That is a serious thing for the doctor, but I am not responsible for it.

168. What position did Constable Cullen hold under your jurisdiction?—At that time I think he was Court orderly.

169. Had he anything to do with cleaning out your private office in the morning?—I cannot recollect now.

170. Had he access to your office?—Unless he was cleaning it in the morning he would not have access. Captain Lanauze had charge of the office; but I should not have hesitated to leave any number of documents under the control of Constable Cullen, who was a highly respectable man, and one of the best constables in Christchurch. He had been in charge of the station at Phillipstown for a year, and is a very efficient man.

171. If he had access it would be possible for him to get hold of any document if he wanted it for any particular purpose?—It would all depend what stage an important case had arrived at, whether they would be under lock and key in the office.

WILLIAM THOMAS MASON was examined on oath.

172. *Mr. Neale.*] You are a sergeant-major of police at Wellington?—Yes.

173. You were stationed in Christchurch in 1883?—I was.

174. I was under your jurisdiction?—Yes.

175. Do you remember me being connected with a case—Boyd and others, concealment of the birth of a child?—I do.

176. You remember my exhuming the decomposed body of a child in the grounds of Mrs. Boyd's brothel in New Street?—Yes, I have a general remembrance of it.

177. Was there an inquest held on that decomposed body?—I cannot positively state from memory. I believe there was an inquest. There is only one reason that I can urge for an inquest not being held, and that is the doctor may have declared it was an immature child or a fetus. I believe, however, that an inquest was held, owing to the subsequent proceedings.

178. You cannot swear positively that it was held?—No.

179. Do you remember any witnesses being called, if there was an inquest?—I remember witnesses being called, and you submitting their statements.

180. At the inquest?—I cannot say about that. I remember you submitting statements in reference to the child; but whether there was an inquest or not I cannot say.

181. Virtually you had not much to do with the case right through?—All your reports and papers came through me, so I ought to be a little more acquainted with the details of the case than Inspector Pender.

182. Do you recollect how many witnesses were subpoenaed in this case for the Resident Magistrate's Court examination?—I cannot say.

183. If an inquest had been held on this decomposed body of a child, all witnesses at the inquest would have been subpoenaed for the Resident Magistrate's Court examination?—They would be the same.

184. If there was no inquest on the child there would be no subpoenas?—No. Witnesses would not then be necessary. That would account, then, for my remarking, that if it was a fetus there would be no necessity for an inquest.

185. Were you in the barrack-house when I brought in the decomposed body?—I remember being present when we brought the thing out of the ground. There were several there at the time.

186. Do you know this man, William Wood, I referred to; or George Wakefield?—Wakefield I know, but I do not remember him in connection with the case. Wood I cannot call to mind. I think there was such a man.