

Sad Drowning Fatality

The people of Singleton and the adjacent towns (says the *Sydney Catholic Press*) were much affected on Sunday, February 11, when it became known that Father James Kelly, assistant to Monsignor Meagher, V.G., had met his death by drowning in Glennie's Creek, while on his way to celebrate the 10 o'clock Mass at the little Church of SS. Mary and John in that locality.

Father Kelly left the presbytery at Singleton shortly after 7 o'clock, and, if all had gone well, he should have reached his destination shortly after 9. About a quarter past that hour he was seen by the railway gate-keeper at Dulwich, after which he was never seen alive again. It seems that the creek had considerably swollen during the night, owing to the late rains, and became uncrossable. This fact was known to the residents, and one of them sent a boy to warn the priest that the stream was dangerous, but Father Kelly would appear to have reached the creek earlier than the messenger, who, when he got to the spot, saw no signs of the priest or his trap. The parishioners who had gathered at the church did not know what to make of the non-appearance of Father Kelly, and after waiting some time past the appointed hour returned to their homes.

The first discovery that anything was wrong was made by a couple of fishermen, who came upon the horse and sulky on the opposite side of the crossing and about 300 yards lower down. At this point the stream winds very much, and when the horse and vehicle were found, the sulky was in a capsized position. The animal, which was still alive, had its forelegs on the bank, and its hind legs over the shafts of the vehicle. As there was no trace of the missing priest, it was only too painfully evident that a dreadful accident had befallen

him. Monsignor Meagher, who was communicated with, motored to the scene of the fatality, and remained until night-fall, when the search for the body was abandoned until the following morning, when the creek would be lower. Though the water was running strongly many people entered it, swimming and diving, in the hope of finding the remains. On Monday morning, about 8 o'clock, the body was recovered a hundred yards from where the horse was found.

The late Father Kelly was an Australian, and was 28 years of age. He studied for the priesthood at St. Patrick's Ecclesiastical College, Manly, and with his brother, Father John Kelly, now stationed at Dungog, was ordained in St. John's Cathedral, Maitland, on Sunday, December 8, 1910, by Bishop Dwyer.

About two years ago, or perhaps a little more, a swarm of bees made their home in the railway station at Onehunga. They entered through a tiny aperture under the troughing at the corner immediately over the verandah inside the station, and, descending, lodged finally between the studs and lining of the public waiting room. They were allowed to remain undisturbed until Mr. Westbrook, Government bee expert, visited the station and removed them. Six pounds of good honey was the reward received by the authorities for allowing the bees to remain for such a lengthy period.

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