

Sad Occurrence

City Butcher's Death

Inquest Evidence

Michael Moloney, a butcher employed by Mr John Kelly, 4 Parnell street, Limerick, was discovered lying in a back kitchen of his employer's premises on Sunday morning with a deep wound in his head. A humane killer was lying beside the man, who died on Sunday evening in Barrington's Hospital. Deceased, who was 44 years of age and unmarried, had been 25 years in the employment of Mr Kelly.

Sitting without a jury, Mr J B McNoice, solicitor, Deputy Coroner, held an inquest touching on the circumstances of the death of the deceased.

Mary O'Brien, 8 Barfield Avenue, Garryowen, said she was employed by Mr John Kelly as housekeeper at 4 Parnell street. She worked there by day and went home at night. On Sunday last she arrived at Parnell street at 8.30 a.m. and some time later went to the back for some water. On coming back she saw the deceased lying on his side in the back kitchen. He was fully dressed and there was a pool of blood under his head. Witnesses called him saying "Mickie, Mickie, what happened you?" He replied, "I did it myself." Witnesses saw the humane killer beside him. Witnesses saw deceased at about 7.15 p.m. on Saturday evening when he went to his room after having his tea. Deceased was in Mr Kelly's employment for 25 years.

James Hayes, 23 Gerald Griffin street, said he heard what had occurred at about 9.45 a.m. on Sunday and on going into the house at 4 Parnell street he saw deceased lying on the floor. Witness was a friend of the deceased but no relation. He spoke to deceased, who was being treated by ambulance men. Witness asked him what happened and he replied: "I had a few pots, and it happened at about 3 o'clock." He said there was no worry on him. Witness had often heard deceased complain of his stomach, but not seriously.

Patrick Moloney, publican, 42 Catherine street, deceased's brother, said deceased called to his premises about 9 p.m. on Saturday. He left at 10.30 p.m. and had about three drinks in the meantime; he was in normal health when leaving with two other men; on the previous Sunday the Guards visited the house while his brother was there, but nobody blamed him for being the cause of the Guards coming; on Monday he was worried, but witness told him not to worry; that was the incident referred to in a note left by deceased which was addressed to his sister as follows:—

"Dear Mary, my loving sister—What I have in you is in the Post-Office. I have been driven to this ever what happened on Sunday. I am innocent. I never harmed anyone. I hope the lot will be found when I am gone. John Kelly, I am sorry to be putting this way."

Detective Sergeant J Murphy gave evidence of visiting 4 Parnell street on Sunday morning, where he found deceased lying on the floor with a humane killer beside him. He identified the remains.

Dr Francis Crowe said there was a wound in the deceased's head, and death was due to shock and hemorrhage.

John Kelly said that the deceased had worked with him for 25 years. Deceased, who did all the killing, kept the humane killer in the back kitchen. He had never known him to be abnormal.

The following verdict was returned:— "That deceased died from shock and loss of breath, caused by a punctured wound, which was self-inflicted whilst temporarily insane."

The Coroner tendered sympathy to Mr P Moloney, the other members of his family, and to Mr Kelly.

Supt. Collier, on behalf of the Garda, associated himself with the expressions of sympathy.