

TRADE MURDER CHARGE GANGS

Calumny "Most Brutal," Says Counsel Mentioned

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LIMERICKMAN INDICTED

"This murder will probably rank as one of the most cruel, most savage and most brutal ever committed in this country," said Mr. R. J. McLoughlin, S.C., opening the prosecution's case in the Central Criminal Court in Dublin before Mr. Justice Haugh this morning, in the charge of the wilful murder of Thomas Fahey, publican, 39 Mungret Street, Limerick, against James Kennedy, Sexton Street North, Limerick, the 22 years old ex-corporal of the Army Construction Corps.

A plea of not guilty was entered.

The accused was represented by Mr. J. Healy, S.C., and Mr. O. Keane, B.L. (instructed by Mr. M. B. O'Malley, solr.).

Mr. O'Loughlin told the jury that on Tuesday night, June 17th last, Thomas Fahey, the 72 years old, unfortunate victim, was dreadfully and fatally savaged in his own shop. Apparently he carried on a mixed trade at Mungret Street, selling groceries and other household necessities as well as liquor. On the night of the murder he had no assistant with him in the premises. The crime was discovered after 10 o'clock by a Mrs. O'Neill, who knocked at the door. Getting no answer, she tried her own key and found it opened the hall door. She entered and saw the body of Fahey lying on the ground.

Counsel went on to say that evidence would be given that Fahey was killed by savage blows about the face and head, and the prosecution suggested that the weapons used were a stove lid, a sauce bottle and a paint tin, which were all found at the scene of the crime. As well as the wounds inflicted by these instruments, evidence would also be forthcoming to prove that there had been strangulation. Possibly, said Counsel, terrible blows were rained on the dead man as he lay on the ground, being held there by the throat. There were at least twenty-four separate blows struck on the head and face alone.

The case is proceeding and is expected to last until Friday evening. There are forty-two witnesses for the prosecution.

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