

DOUBLE  
RE.

LIMERICK GENTLEMAN'S  
SAD DEATH.

Hard Pressed by Work.

Mr. I. Bradley, city coroner, held an inquest at the Victoria Courts, Birmingham, on November 8th, on the body of Mr. Henry Mortished (56), Inland Revenue officer, who died suddenly at his residence, 28, Charles-road, Small Heath, on the previous Wednesday.

Evidence was given by Alice Butlin, who had been in the employ of Mr. Mortished as a domestic servant for the last twelve years, that her master had complained of being hard pressed by work, in consequence of which he had not had sufficient sleep. On Wednesday morning he went round to his office in Coventry-road. Returning soon afterwards he said he felt ill, and complained of pains in the region of the heart. At his request witness gave him an emetic. His condition, however, became worse, and she went for a doctor.

Mr. Arthur Astin, Supervisor of Inland Revenue, stated that when Mr. Mortished came to the office on Wednesday morning he appeared to be bright and cheerful. Witness was subsequently informed by the previous witness that he was ill, and went round to the house. Mr. Mortished had told him that he had had to reduce his hours of sleep to four and-a-half a day and witness told him there was no necessity to work such long hours.

The Coroner—Would it be necessary for him to work up to 11.30 p.m.?

Witness—Yes, during the present pressure.

The Coroner—Is that a pressure which comes every year at this time?

Witness—No, it is simply due to the introduction of the Old Age Pension Act.

A Juror—Was it necessary for him to work until 11.30.

Witness—Yes.

The Juror—Why?

Witness—Because the Act comes into operation on January 1st.

The Juror—Could they not have employed other people to assist him?

Witness—No; there are no reserves on whom to draw. I am frequently sitting up until one o'clock in the morning, and am working every Sunday.

The Juror—This is hardly right considering the number of unemployed about.

The Coroner—This is hardly the kind of work for the unemployed to do.

Dr. Neal deposed to finding Mr. Mortished on the floor of his sitting-room. He was dead. He considered that he was seized with an attack of vomiting due to stomach disturbance, that he probably fainted and rolled on to the floor, and that the clothing being tight about his neck he was suffocated.

The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death."

[Deceased gentleman was a son of the late Mr. P. Mortished of this city, and the sympathy of very many old friends in Limerick is expressed with his relatives in their sorrow].



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