

LABOURER'S SAD DEATH

Tragedy at Cement Factory

EVIDENCE AT RESUMED INQUEST

Jury's Verdict

DR. M. R. Clery, Coroner for East Limerick, resumed the inquest at Mungret to-day touching the death of Thomas O'Rourke (23), labourer, living at Kildimo, who met his death under sad circumstances on Thursday last while employed at the construction of the new cement factory. The inquest was first adjourned for the attendance of an Inspector of Factories, but evidence was given showing that a jack which the deceased and two other men were manipulating snapped. It precipitated O'Rourke and a man named Mulcahy to the ground, and the former was killed almost instantly. Mulcahy, who was injured, was removed to Limerick County Infirmary, where he is progressing favourably.

At the resumed inquest on Thomas O'Rourke, of Kildimo, who was killed while working at the factory of Cement, Ltd., Mungret, on Thursday last, a verdict that death was due to shock and contusion of the heart was returned by the Coroner's jury.

At the previous hearing, John Bridgman, Mungret, gave evidence to the effect that while operating a jack on a platform some ten feet from the ground with deceased and a man named Mulcahy, the instrument snapped, precipitating the deceased and Mulcahy to the ground. The jack fell across the deceased's chest.

The inquest was adjourned for the attendance of Mr. C. H. Shannon, Senior Factory Inspector, Department of Industry and Commerce.

At the resumed inquest to-day,

Mr. D. G. O'Donovan, solicitor, who represented the next-of-kin of the deceased, opened the proceedings with a cross-examination of Bridgman.

Mr. O'Donovan—How long were you working on that particular jack?—Three of four days; about two hours each day.

How long was the deceased working on that jack?—He worked with me on each occasion.

Did the foreman instruct you in the use of the jack before you first used it?—He did.

Did he approach you subsequently while you were working the jack, prior to the day of the accident?—No, but he was working a short distance away.

ENOUGH ROOM.

Was there enough room for you and the other two men to walk on that particular block?—There was.

In reply to further questions the witness said they were standing some three feet in from the edge of the platform while working the jack. They had no

previous experience of working machinery of that kind. The jack required that three men should work it together.

Mr. J. J. Sexton (representing Cement, Ltd.)—You have worked other jacks besides this particular one?—Yes.

For how long?—About two months.

Bridgman added that he was standing outside the deceased, near the edge of the platform, when the accident occurred.

FOREMAN'S EVIDENCE.

Patrick Ryan, foreman, stated he was in charge of the men working outside the kilns being installed at the factory. On the day of this occurrence ten men were engaged at this particular work. Four were working on the gear in the centre, while the other six were divided into two lots, each group working a jack. The purpose of these jacks was to revolve the kilns. He instructed the men, including the deceased, in the working of the jack some two months previously, and while they were working he stood in the centre parapet, where he had a general view of the operations. After the accident occurred he rushed to the spot, and saw Bridgman removing the jack from the deceased's chest.

This concluded the enquiry.

CORONER'S COMMENT.

Dr. M. R. Clery, Coroner, recalled that at the previous sitting Dr. Nora Wallis gave evidence to the effect that the deceased met his death through contusion of the heart. That evidence would have to be the basis of any verdict brought in by the jury, and it was quite apparent that the entire occurrence was accidental.

THE VERDICT.

After a consultation, the jury brought in a verdict that death was due to shock and contusion of the heart suddenly sustained by the breaking of a jack, which fell on the deceased.