

# Limerick Tragedy

## Fatal Fall Through Window

### Inquest Details

The tragic death of Stephen Coffey (47), a native of Newport, county Tipperary, who was killed when he fell from a window in his lodgings in Catherine street, Limerick, was investigated by Mr J S McNeice, city coroner, at Barrington's Hospital, on Monday.

Evidence of identification was given by a brother of deceased, who said deceased was employed in the Irish Wire Products Factory, Limerick, as a labourer. He was unmarried, and as far as witness was aware he suffered from no physical disability and had no worries.

Miss Mary Bourke, 6 Catherine street, Limerick, said deceased was one of a number of boarders staying in her house. At about ten o'clock on Saturday night she was in the kitchen when she heard the crash of glass. She went to Mr Coffey's room and found he was not in bed. The window was broken.

Supt Meehan—What did you do then?

Witness—I went down to the yard and saw deceased lying there on his face. I turned him over and spoke to him. He did not answer and then I sent for a priest and a doctor. Witness added that Coffey had been staying with her for the past two years and he was always quite normal and good humoured.

James Maber also gave evidence and said he saw deceased on the night in question and he was not drunk.

Sergeant Kerwan stated he saw the room occupied by deceased situated at the top of a four storied house. The window was 40 feet from the ground and there was a break in the left lower corner about three feet by two feet.

Supt Meehan—Was there any protection?

Witness—There was no ledge and the woodwork of the window was decayed. The deceased's right boot was under the bed as if he had removed it while sitting on the bed. The left boot was about three feet from the window.

Dr S McDonagh, house surgeon, Barrington's Hospital, gave evidence that the deceased was dead on admission. There were many fractures on the head and numerous abrasions. There was a compound fracture on the left thigh bone, and death in his opinion was due to shock and haemorrhage following multiple injuries to the head.

This concluded the evidence.

The Coroner said that the occurrence appeared to be a pure accident. Deceased must have fallen against the window, and therefore he would return a verdict that death was due to shock and haemorrhage following injuries to the skull, occasioned by an accidental fall out of a window. He expressed deep sympathy with the relatives of the deceased, to which Supt Meehan on behalf of the Garda authorities joined.