

ECHO OF TRAGEDY

Fatal Accident
RecalledCHARGE OF BEING DRUNK
DISMISSED

Before Mr. D. P. Johnson, B.A., at Shanagolden Court on Wednesday.

Michael James O'Leary, Leahies, Foyne, was charged with driving a motor car while drunk on 2nd January, 1940. There were further charges of dangerous driving and driving without due consideration for the public.

Supt. T. Mulcahy prosecuted, and Mr. P. Liston (Messrs. P. T. Liston and Co., solicitors) defended.

The Superintendent explained that defendant had been remanded from a special Court on the first charge. The case arose out of a rather tragic accident near Foyne, as a result of which Mr. Purcell, who was out walking with his wife, lost his life.

COST OF HEARINGS.

In reply to the Justice, the Superintendent said the case had been before the higher Courts a number of times, and the summonses now before the Court had been adjourned from time to time.

Mr. Liston said the manslaughter charge against defendant was before two juries and there was a disagreement on each occasion. The Attorney General then directed that a new prosecutor be entered and in all the circumstances he (Mr. Liston) thought that the summonses now before the Court should be withdrawn. The hearings had cost his client £500 or £600 or £700.

The Superintendent said the Attorney General's direction applied only to the manslaughter charge which had been preferred against defendant. The charge of being drunk and the other two summonses had not been before any court.

Mr. Liston: But there was no evidence to prove that he was drunk while in charge of a car.

Superintendent I definitely don't agree on that point, and I would suggest that your Worship hear the summonses here to-day.

NO EVIDENCE SUBMISSION.

Mr. Liston said that the manslaughter case had been investigated from every angle, and he submitted that there had been no evidence of drunkenness against the defendant. In view of all the circumstances and the colossal expenses incurred by the State as well as the defendant it must have cost the State about £500 - he would suggest that the summonses before the court that day struck out.

The Superintendent said the manslaughter charge had gone out, but the summonses before them that day were never before any previous court. A man could be negligent in the driving of a car without being guilty of manslaughter. There would be eight witnesses in the case.

The Justice said that in view of the way the manslaughter case had been hammered out the other summonses might now be disposed of by a plea of guilty to one of the three charges. He suggested that Mr. Liston and the Superintendent consult on the point, and they both agreed to this course.

After consultation, Mr. Liston said defendant was prepared to plead guilty to the charge of driving in a manner dangerous to the public. The Superintendent, however, was not prepared to accept responsibility for withdrawing the charge of drunkenness while in charge of the car.

The Superintendent concurred, and said the plea of guilty on this charge would be accepted. The summons for dangerous driving could now proceed with the charge of drunkenness while in charge.

Justice I will hear evidence on that charge then.

EXAMINED BY DOCTOR.

The first witness called was Inspector W. Brazil, who stated he was in charge of the Newcastle West district in January, 1940. On 2nd January, as a result of a report, he went to Foyne Station, where he saw defendant. He came to the conclusion that the defendant was very much under the influence of drink. When asked if he had been involved in an accident defendant said yes, and that he had reported it. Witness then told defendant that he would be charged with being under the influence of drink while in charge of a motor car and explained his position. Defendant made no statement in reply. When told that he could have any doctor be wished to examine him defendant refused to have a doctor. About three-quarters of an hour later defendant was examined by Dr. Nolan, the Guards' doctor. Witness added that he had no doubt defendant was under the influence of drink.

Mr. Liston: That was only your opinion? That's right.

Answering the Justice, witness said the incident occurred about 5.30 p.m. and witness saw defendant about 6.15 p.m.

Guard Hanley said defendant came into the barracks about 5.40 and reported that he was after knocking down two tinkers on the road. He was very excited at the time and smelt heavily of drink. When asked where the accident occurred he said there was a caravan at Longwood and that two children ran across the road. Witness was of opinion that defendant was under the influence of drink.

Mr. Liston: But he said everything a man with his senses would do he drove back the car to the barracks and reported the accident?

NOT A GOOD EVENING.

Guard McDonagh said when he took over duty from the previous witness at 6.25 p.m. defendant was sitting in a chair. When witness remarked that it was a good evening defendant replied that it was not a good evening for him (defendant). He said that when going out the next morning he met two tinkers. He also said he blew the horn and applied his brakes, but the car swerved and the accident occurred. Witness concluded that defendant was under the influence of intoxicating liquor.

Sergeant Deasy said when he visited the scene of the accident there was no caravan or sign of tinkers on the road.

Dr. A. Nolan, Shanagolden, said she was called to the barracks to examine the defendant about 7.30 p.m. She came to the conclusion that while he had drink taken he was capable of driving a car at the time. On a previous occasion when he was in a more excited condition he had driven her in the car on a sick call.

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The Justice said there was no evidence in regard to the condition of the defendant at the particular time of the accident. It was quite

OBITUARY

MR. PATRICK SHANAHAN. Deep and widespread regret has been occasioned in St. Mary's Parish through the death of Mr. Patrick Shanahan, 49 Athlunkard Street, who passed away on Tuesday in Barrington's Hospital after a brief illness. His wife, the late Mrs. Mary Shanahan, pre-deceased him some five months ago. The late Mr. Shanahan was of a very quiet and gentle disposition and the deepest sympathy is extended to his sons and relatives in their bereavement.

The remains were removed from Barrington's Hospital on Wednesday evening to St. Mary's Church. The funeral, which took place yesterday to Mount St. Lawrence Cemetery, was followed by a large and representative gathering testifying to the esteem in which the deceased and his family are held.

The chief mourners were—Paddy, William and Michael (sons); John (brother); Joseph Lahiffe (brother-in-law); James and Michael Quilligan (uncles) and family; Joseph Shanahan (nephew); Denis and James Shanahan, John and Nellie Vaughan, Michael, Willie, Paddy and Thomas Vaughan, Augustine and Joseph O'Shaughnessy, James Gerard, Frank and Mary Gleeson, James and Willie Lahiffe, Mrs. Norma Fennell and family, Mrs. C. O'Donnovan and family, Stephen and Hannah Dinneen, Jack Gleeson, Mrs. J. Shanahan, James and Gerard O'Donnovan, etc. etc.

Mass cards—Beloved sons: John and Mary Shanahan; Stephen and Hannah; Bessie and Joe; John, Nellie and family; Mary Gleeson; Augustine O'Shaughnessy; Joe and Joan O'Shaughnessy; Lahiffe family; Mr. and Mrs. P. Griffin and family; Mrs. Dinneen and family; P. Dinneen; Mrs. M. E. Crowe and family; May Long, Bridie and family; Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Broderick; Eddie and Maisie Tracy; Jack and Nancy Sheehan; A. O'Dea, Ennis; Shannon R.F.C.; Millbrook Hockey Club; Shelbourne L.T.C.; W. W. and Huddle.

Telegrams—Mary and Jack Vaughan; Kit and Tom Quinn; Browne family; Galway; Paddy Conway; Joan.

The priests in attendance were—Rev. Father Moloney, P.P.; St. Patrick's; Rev. Father Costelloe, C.C.; St. Mary's; and Rev. Father Costelloe officiated at the graveside.

M. P. O'CONNOR, CORRIGG, FOYNES.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Patrick O'Connor, Corrigg, Foyne, which took place at his residence on Thursday, September 18th. Deceased was a well-known figure in Foyne, having spent a long life in the midst of neighbours with whom he was always the best of friends. He was a sterling character—ever ready to do a man's share. His death was not altogether unexpected as he had been laid up for some time. The funeral was a great tribute of respect to the deceased. On Thursday night the remains were brought to Foyne Church, where the Rosary was recited by Rev. Father Quinlan, C.C. At noon the following day the funeral took place to the family burial ground at Knockpatrick. The officiating clergy were Very Rev. Canon Red, P.P., V.F., and Rev. Father Quinlan, C.C.

The chief mourners were: Mrs. O'Connor (widow); James, Willie, Eddie, Thomas and Pete O'Connor (sons); Mrs. Kirwan (daughter); William Kirwan (son-in-law); Mrs. James O'Connor and Mrs. P. O'Connor (daughters-in-law); Michael and Mary O'Connor, Mary and Rita O'Connor, Pat and James Moloney, Michael and Frances Kirwan (grandchildren); John and James O'Connor (niephews); Mrs. O'Connor (sister-in-law); James Harte, Ballynahill; James Guineane, Ballynasid; Phil Donovan, Kilcoleman; Michael Gogane, Tintern; James Crisbin, Shanid, cousin; Mr. and Mrs. J. Hennessy, Mrs. Eileen O'Flaherty, Hanly family (Shruleawn); Hanly family (Ballynacraggan); Mrs. P. Cusack, Corrigg; Mrs. M. Cusack, Foyne; Dennis and James Meaney.

Mass cards—Mother and family; Kit, Bill and children; Jim, Lu and family; Queen and Paddy; Dodge, Jim and family; Mary and Rita; Michael Cusack and family; Pat and Bridie Cusack; John O'Connor, wife and family; Mick and Catherine Sheehan; the King family; D. Naughton and family; P. Jackson and family; John Walsh, senr. and family; Jack and Kathleen O'Connell; B. Danaher; M. A. Guerin; Willie and Hanna Guerin; C. Leahy; James Finucane and family; Nurse Alice O'Dowd; John and Nora Walsh; Johnny and Mrs. Jackson; Michael and Bridget O'Connor; John Madigan, wife and family; John and Margaret Enright; Jack Hughes and Paddy; E. E. Flaherty and family; the Hanly family; Patrick Stephenson; the Culhane family.

CIRCUIT JUDGE

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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

RESOLUTION

At the monthly general meeting of the members of the Limerick Chamber of Commerce the following resolution was proposed by the Vice-President, Mr. Morgan McNamee, and unanimously adopted:

The Chamber of Commerce, Limerick, has learned with regret that our city will be deprived of the learned and able counsel of Judge McElroy; in this judicial capacity and they take this opportunity of wishing him many years of health and happiness in his retirement.

A very courteous and kind reply was received from the Judge.

FATIGUE SCRAPS

possible that a man might have a certain amount of drink taken and be quite capable of driving a car and yet go completely to pieces after a collision. It was within the limits of reasonable probability that the defendant had become adversely affected by the shock of the accident and that it helped the liquor that was in him to incapacitate him or give him the appearance of being more affected than he actually was. In view of all the circumstances he would give the defendant the benefit of the doubt and dismiss the charge of being drunk while in charge of a car. On the charge of driving without due consideration for the public, to which he had pleaded guilty, he would fine defendant 20/- with 13/- expenses.

When the Superintendent asked that defendant's driving licence be suspended the Justice said he would not like to do so, as he thought the defendant had had quite enough. It was common knowledge that the hearing of the manslaughter charge had been very costly and that the expenses ran into something like four figures.

FATIGUE SCRAPS

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Guard Hanley said defendant came into the barracks about 5.40 and reported that he was after knocking down two tinkers on the road.

He was very excited at the time and smelt heavily of drink.

When asked where the accident occurred he said there was a caravan at Longwood and that two children ran across the road.

Witness was of opinion that defendant was under the influence of drink.

Sergeant Deasy said when he visited the scene of the accident there was no caravan or sign of tinkers on the road.

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