

Engine Driver's Death

Sequel to Collision With Cyclist Near Limerick.

The death took place on Tuesday of Mr Arthur O'Leary, an engine driver in the employment of the Great Southern Railways, Limerick, following injuries when he was involved in a collision with a cyclist early on Monday morning. Deceased, who was a man of middle age, was unmarried, and resided with his sister at Hatchbar, about two miles from the city. He was on his way to his work at the loco department when the collision took place, and was removed to the County infirmary where death supervened. He was an extremely popular figure, and the greatest sympathy is felt for his relatives in their poignant bereavement.

The Inquest

An inquest was held at the County Infirmary, Limerick, by Mr J H McNeill, esq, Deputy Coroner, and a jury.

Supt Deaneby conducted the inquiry.

Dr M Feely gave evidence of examining the deceased on Monday when he appeared to be suffering from concussion. He died on Tuesday morning and death was due to fracture of the skull and intracranial haemorrhage.

John Noonan, Ballysheedy Kist, after being cautioned, stated he was a member of the L.S.R. and was on duty on Sunday night from 12 midnight to 3 a.m. on Monday. Witness was cycling home after duty and there was a strong wind against him. He could only see about twenty yards in front of him. He swerved to the left but struck the man with the right handle bar of the bicycle. The man fell on his face and witness fell on top of him. Witness then picked him up and discovered he was breathing heavily. He went to the nearby house of Michael Fogarty and the deceased was subsequently removed there. He was seen by Dr Feely and later in the morning was taken to hospital. Witness added he did everything possible to avoid the collision.

Michael Hayes, 10 Cathedral Place, said he was a locomotive fireman and deceased was an engine driver. He saw deceased at about 7 o'clock on Sunday evening. He never knew deceased to drink to excess and on the night in question he was quite capable.

Evidence of identification was given by Octavious O'Leary, brother of deceased.

A verdict in accordance with the doctor's evidence was returned, the cyclist being exonerated.

The coroner, foreman of the jury and Supt Deaneby, as well as the cyclist involved, expressed sympathy with the relatives of the deceased.

The Coroner expressed the opinion that the County Council should put the footpath near the scene of the accident into a proper state of repair to ensure that it could be used with greater safety by pedestrians.