

Sad City Tragedy

Bank Manager's Death

Evidence at Inquest

Mr J S McNeice, solicitor, Deputy Coroner, held an inquest at Barrington's Hospital, Limerick, on Wednesday afternoon, touching the death of Thomas F Tighe, Manager Ulster Bank, O'Connell street, Limerick, who was found in his car at the rear of the bank premises the previous night suffering from carbon monoxide poisoning.

Superintendent Dennehy conducted the inquiry.

Dr J G Tyson, House Surgeon, Barrington's Hospital, gave evidence of performing a post mortem and finding that death was caused by carbon monoxide gas poisoning.

Dr T Homan, Barrington's st, Limerick, said he was called to the Ulster Bank premises at midnight. He found the deceased lying outside the door of his garage, and he still showed signs of life. A priest was sent for, and deceased died while the priest was tending to him. Witnesses examined a car in the garage and found a rubber tube running from the exhaust into the car. There was a smell of gas from deceased.

In answer to the Coroner, Dr Homan said he attended Mr Tighe on April 2nd last, when he was complaining of mental depression and had a nervous breakdown some time previously. Subsequently Mr Tighe was under medical care in Dublin, until he returned to Limerick on the 1st inst. Witness again saw deceased on the 9th and 10th inst, when he still complained of depression and restlessness.

Alfred H Trevor, cashier in the Ulster Bank, Limerick, stated that deceased was in his office all day on Tuesday, and completed all his work. His affairs at the bank were in perfect order.

Witness gave evidence of identification, and said deceased was a married man and aged about 40 years. He came to Limerick from Athlery on April 1st, but as he had been ill previous to his transfer he did not take up duty until July 28th.

Mrs Julia Cochrane, a maid employed by Mrs Tighe, said she was employed by the family for about ten months. At about 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday evening she saw Mr Tighe in the house before she left. Witness returned at 8.15 and found the deceased had gone for a walk with his two dogs. Witness then went out again and returned before ten o'clock. She noticed the deceased's hat and coat in the hall. Mrs Tighe returned shortly after eleven and a search was made in the house for deceased. Witness then went out to the garage and found the door locked with the key in the inside. The window was then broken and an entrance was made. Mr Tighe was found in the front of the car and there was a strong smell of gas. Witness removed deceased with the aid of Mrs Tighe and help was sent for. The deceased was in bad health for several months past and was under medical care in Dublin.

Guard E Mangin gave evidence of being called to the Ulster Bank at midnight. He discovered a piping attached from the exhaust and running into the back window of the car. The engine of the car was not running, but it was warm.

The Coroner said that the only thing he could do was to bring in a verdict that the deceased died from carbon monoxide poisoning. There was no doubt that the deceased was suffering from nervous depression for some years, and that he attached the tubing to the car with an unguided mind. He wished to express deep sympathy for the bereaved widow on the sad occurrence.

Supt. Dennehy associated himself with the expression of sympathy.