

Death From Drowning

Missing Limerick Lady

Inquest Verdict

Sitting with a jury at the Limerick Co. Courthouse on Saturday, Dr J P Cleary, Coroner, held an inquest into the circumstances attending the death of Mrs Margt. Keane, sub-Postmistress, Athlunkard st. Post Office, whose body was recovered from the Shannon on January 5th.

Inspector Griffin conducted the proceedings.

Patrick McInerney, Coonagh, gave evidence of discovering the body of the deceased on the river edge, near Coonagh, on January 5th. There was a wedding ring on the fourth finger of the right hand; the body had two overcoats—one brown and one blue.

Mrs Christina Byrne, Sir Harry's Mall, stated that while going to 8 o'clock Mass on December 5th, she met deceased walking towards Athlunkard Post Club. Witness saluted Mrs Keane, who said "Hallo, Chris." There did not appear to be anything wrong with deceased at the time. Witness knew that Mrs Keane had been in poor health for several months.

Michael Keane, husband, stated his wife was the mother of six children. She was in bad health since last May, and had been in a sanatorium for treatment. She returned home about ten days before her disappearance, and appeared to be worried about the children and the Post Office. On December 5th, she left the house and did not return.

Replying to the Coroner, the witness said his wife had never threatened to take her life, nor said she was tired of life.

The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence that death was due to asphyxia, adding that there was no evidence as to how deceased got into the water.

Dr J Tynan, house surgeon, Barrington's Hospital, stated that he had carried out a post mortem examination which revealed that death was due to asphyxia following immersion in water. There were no marks of violence on the body.

The Coroner said that this was a sad case, as deceased was the mother of six children.

Since sympathy was expressed with the bereaved family.