

CITY LORRY TRAGEDY

How Little Boy Was Killed

DRIVER IN NO WAY TO BLAME

Jury's Recommendation To C.I.E.

THE dangers which youngsters subject themselves to in their pranks of running after motor vehicles, was sadly emphasised by the evidence given at the inquest in Barrington's Hospital, yesterday, touching the circumstances of the death of Noel Lynch, 4½-years-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Lynch, 24, Catherine Street, Limerick.

The boy met his death instantaneously on Monday evening last, when he was knocked down by a C.I.E. lorry in Cecil Street.

Very deep sympathy, in which we join, is extended to the bereaved parents.

The inquest which was held by the Deputy City Coroner, Mr. J. S. McNeice, who sat with a jury, was conducted by Inspector T. Griffin, G.S.

Mr. D. G. O'Donovan, solicitor, appeared for the driver of the lorry and for C.I.E., while Mr. A. J. Blood-Smyth, solicitor, held a watching brief for Messrs. Matterson and Son, Ltd.

Dr. Keane, House Surgeon, Barrington's Hospital, gave evidence that the boy was dead on admission to the hospital.

HOW THE ACCIDENT OCCURRED.

Joseph McGarry, 3, O'Callaghan Avenue, Kileely, said that while walking down Cecil Street about 5.10 o'clock on Monday afternoon, he saw a lorry coming up from O'Connell Street side and going at between 5 and 6 m.p.h., and in the centre of the road. It was loaded with peas, and going towards Matterson's factory. He saw a number of small boys keeping pace with the lorry and pulling peas off it. He noticed one small boy in particular. This boy was too small to reach the peas, but he kept pace with the lorry. He was at the side of the lorry, between the wheels. The rear wheel of the lorry struck against the little boy's heels and pitched him into a prone position. The lorry continued on its way and did not stop until it reached Matterson's. A number of boys kept pace with the lorry all the time after the little boy got knocked down. There were stationary motor cars on either side of the road, but none on the road other than the lorry.

Christopher Lynch, father of the deceased, gave evidence of identification.

John Upton gave evidence that he was standing at the gate of Messrs. Wm. B. Fitt's yard and notified a lorry with peas coming up Cecil Street at 5 m.p.h. on the left centre of the road. He saw ten or twelve young children following the lorry and grabbing at the peas. He looked away for a minute and when he looked again he saw a young fellow stretched on the road with his face downwards. He saw the same child following the lorry immediately prior to the accident and the child was about the centre of the lorry with the children in front and behind. The lorry continued on without stopping.

CONDITION OF THE VEHICLE.

Sergeant P. Connolly, William Street, gave evidence that he visited the scene of the accident. Witness described the measurements of the lorry and the road and said that the lorry was semi-forward control. The general condition of the vehicle from the point of view of brakes, steering, tyres, etc., was serviceable and in good order generally. On examination he found no tracks or marks on the lorry indicating a collision with any person.

Answering the foreman of the jury, Mr. M. J. Gleeson, witness said that the peas hung over the lorry like a load of hay, and the lorry had a platform body with sides about four feet high.

Sergeant Gahan said that there were no cars parked at the scene. Witness spoke to the driver of the lorry and he was perfectly normal. On the following day he made a statement after caution. Witness examined the lorry but found no marks on it.

DRIVER OF THE LORRY EXAMINED.

At this stage, Mr. O'Donovan said he wished to call the driver of the lorry to give evidence.

Charles Cahill, 21, Upper Gerald Griffin Street, Limerick, the driver of the lorry in question, said that he was driving lorries and motor cars since 1921. For the past five years he had been engaged with C.I.E. as a lorry driver. On the date mentioned he was delivering peas from Co. Clare to Matterson's factory and he was travelling in second gear going up Cecil Street. The speed of the lorry was 5 m.p.h. Witness saw stationary cars parked at either side of the street and he was driving towards the centre of the road. At the time he saw some children playing in Cecil Street, and the children always come down the street to pull off the peas. He continued to drive on to Matterson's. He definitely did not feel any bump nor did anyone call on him to stop. He was first acquainted by a Mr. Fitzgerald, when he got to Matterson's factory, that he was involved in an accident and he immediately went to the scene.

SOUNDED THE HORN.

Inspector Griffin—Do you remember sounding your horn going through Cecil Street?—Yes, sir.

For what reason?—Because you have to as there are children there often coming out on the street.

Mr. O'Donovan—Had you any drink yesterday?—No.

You had no drink of any description prior to this accident?—No, sir.

Witness continuing, said that during his driving experience he never had been involved in any prosecution in connection with his driving.

Inspector—Did you see a number of children running in towards your lorry in Cecil Street?—I did, sir.

Were they plugging at the peas?—They were.

What side of the lorry were they at?—They were at both sides of the street, but the child who got knocked down was on the opposite side.

But you did not see him there?—No, sir.

Deputy-Coroner—You were only told that?—That's all.

Answering the foreman of the jury—Witness said it was his fifth run that day and he had experience of children running in and out of the street after the lorry laden with peas.

RECOMMENDATION TO C.I.E.

After a short retirement, Mr. M. J. Gleeson, foreman of the jury, said that their finding was in accordance with the medical evidence, and that the driver of the lorry was in no way to blame. But, the jury recommended that something should be done by C.I.E. not to have the peas trailing on the ground, and to have them brought in on built-up lorries so that the temptation would not be there for boys to reach for them.

Mr. Gleeson added that it was a great menace to drivers to see children running on to the street after the lorries. He would like to have the recommendation sent to C.I.E. as a tragedy of the same kind could otherwise happen again.

IN NO WAY TO BLAME.

Bringing in a verdict as set out in the finding of the jury, the Deputy-Coroner said he was glad that the driver was exonerated, as it was evident that he was in no way to blame. He conveyed sympathy to the bereaved parents on their tragic loss, and he also sympathised with the driver, as they all knew how Mr. Cahill felt in the matter.

Inspector Griffin, on behalf of himself and the Garda, also sympathised with the parents of the boy.

Mr. O'Donovan joined in the sympathy to the parents, and he also expressed the deep feelings of the driver in the matter. He assured the jury that their recommendation would be brought to the notice of C.I.E.

MORE TROOPS

U.S. Landings At Korea

TAEJON STILL HELD

IT was announced to-day from the war front that American forces have landed two more divisions in South Korea, including cavalry.

It is estimated that the total number of men landed was 30,000.

The men went ashore under the cover of fighter aircraft and the amphibious operation was eminently successful. It was stated that the operation was speedily carried out.

The personnel included 12 nurses and a group of army doctors, who set up a fully-fledged hospital on the beach-head.

General MacArthur, in his communique, stated that one of the divisions referred to in the amphibious landing had gone into action.

Though Communist shells continue to fall in Taejon the town has not been seized by them. It is reported that the Reds have been massing tanks and men in preparation for an assault on the city.

It was also stated that Superfortresses from the Eastern Command had destroyed an important bridge at Seoul.

FOUND DEAD AT HER HOME

WOMAN WHO LIVED ALONE

Shortly after 11 o'clock on Saturday night, Mrs. Eileen Burke, farmer, aged about 60 years, was found dead on the floor of her bedroom at her residence, "Riverdale," Ballinadrigeen, Charleville. The discovery was made by Sergt. Wm. Duggan, who was accompanied by Garda Corcoran, a daughter of the deceased, and some neighbours. She had been living alone for some time.

Mrs. Burke's daughter, who frequently came home on week-end visits, finding the premises locked up and being unable to gain admittance, informed some neighbours, who in turn notified the Guards. Sergt. Duggan gained entrance to the bedroom after mounting a ladder and found the deceased lying on the floor, blood on the body and also on the floor.

Dr. J. Magnet, M.O.H., who accompanied the Gardaí, examined the body and testified that death was due to natural causes. The deceased was apparently about to retire to bed when she had a haemorrhage, due to gastric ulcer. Death had taken place some days previously. She was last seen about on the previous Sunday.

The acting Coroner for the district, Mr. David Fleming, B.L., solr., did not deem an inquest necessary.

MONEY FOR STYLE

YOUNG GIRL'S LAPSE

When a young girl of 17, a domestic servant, was charged before Justice C. S. Kenny, B.L., at Newcastle West Court on Friday, 14th inst., with stealing £17 4s. 6d. from her employer, it was stated that her lapse was due to temptation to take the money for style.

Defendant admitted taking the money and buying various articles of clothing from various drapers in the town.

Evidence was given that she was of good character up to this and was the support of her family.

Making a plea for leniency, Mr. P. J. Cussen, solicitor, explained that the defendant was the sole support of her family, as her father was an invalid and unable to work. As a result she contributed all her earnings to her home and had no money for style, and was tempted to take the money.

The Justice said he believed the trouble was due to the fact that the girl had to hand up all of her earnings, which was wrong. She hadn't a half-penny for herself and now she finds herself in the dock.

However, in view of the extenuating circumstances, I will give the girl a chance and dismiss the charge under the Probation Act.

The Justice also made an order that the clothes should be returned to the defendant's employer as compensation for the money taken.

T SCENE

versus Tea

OF GARDA

threatening of a man with a hatchet Newcastle West Justice C. S. Kenny, 14th inst., when a man John Browne, Newcastle West, was assaulted on Newcastle West, drunk and disreputable. Defendant prosecuted, as represented by a solicitor.

DISPUTE

that time resided in-law, and the disreputable house owned by defendant, had taken over house, and having used to let the premises for the defendant into the house belongings, and removed some of the furniture in the house but defendant wanted to remove the furniture in the house which he witness asked the tenant take clothes for the

OF HATCHET

witness continued, and told me I was behind a small and as far as I took hold of the net. I took up a chest three of the hatchet. I and as I ran and belted the tea hatchet after me." continued, defendant after him and which he had Defendant had at the time. The house had been by and witness defendant was very by the two in-law and the

AND APOLOGY.

estimated that defendant apologise to the sergeant for what on this occasion he had a good father, who died

THE BAR

ICAN FINED

licensed trader, Newcastle West 14th inst., before charged with of the licensing last.

na prosecuted and

solr., defended. man, Tournafyllia, at on the Thursday defendant's premises' voices immediately admitted to was in charge, she said there premises. Howl kitchen at the witness found two with their backs Miss Stack said the kitchen with did not know of the men. She further knowledge by them with drink of the men lived traveller, but he two miles away.

CAR IN RIVER

DRIVER'S NARROW ESCAPE

FORESTRY LANDS

AREAS ACQUIRED IN CO.

DROMCOLLOGHER I.N.T.O.