

**SUICIDE OF A RYDE TAILOR.
Body Slashed with a Razor.
DAUGHTER'S MELANCHOLY DISCOVERY**

The Inquest.

On Friday morning the Acting Deputy Coroner (Mr. A. JOYCE) held an inquest in the High Street Methodist Schoolroom. Mr. H. P. PALMER represented the family and Inspector H. ROGERS was present.

Lorna Mildred PAGE, of 38 High Street, a daughter of the deceased said that she acted as housekeeper to her father. On December 15th her father went for a short walk and on returning said he was very tired. He had stayed at home for the last two days and had been depressed and strange in his manner. He used to whisper in a peculiar sort of voice. On Saturday evening witness went out at 6.15 and left her father sitting in the house. She returned at eight o'clock and the deceased then came down into the dining room where he stopped until 10.15. He had his supper and witness then said it was time he went to bed. He seemed reluctant to get into bed and wanted her to go out of the room. She turned out the gas fire and he got into bed. She locked the door and left him at a time between 10.30 and 10.45 p.m. She asked him not to lock the door in case he became ill in the night but he said "Go to your room, can't I have a little privacy." At about 12 o'clock she heard him coughing normally and went to bed. On Sunday morning she went along to his room and found a bath of blood outside the door. Deceased was in bed with his head hanging over the side. She raised his head on the pillow and saw that his throat had been cut. He was removed to the County Hospital. Deceased had been attended for heart trouble. He had never said he would take his life although he had been very depressed. He had once said that when a man reached 70 he should take his life.

Dr. Frank Robert Barnard Howard KENNEDY, said that he practised in Ryde and district. At about 10.30 on Sunday morning he received a communication and as a result he proceeded to the house. He found deceased suffering from wounds in the throat, two of a superficial character and one of a severe nature. The wounds were caused by a sharp though not extremely sharp, instrument. There were several slashes on both legs between the knee and the ankle and on his chest. The injuries would have caused severe loss of blood.

Mabel Joan COOK, a house-surgeon at the County Hospital, said that the deceased was admitted to the hospital at 11.30 a.m. on Sunday with throat wounds and wounds on the legs and breast that appeared to have been inflicted by a razor. She saw him on arrival and he had difficulty in breathing owing to the throat wound. They stitched his throat wounds but his condition became worse and he lost consciousness. He did not regain consciousness and passed away on Tuesday.

In reply to a question put by the Coroner Dr. KENNEDY said that the deceased uttered nothing coherent except "yes" and "no."

The Coroner said the evidence was extremely clear and very sad. He returned a verdict of suicide, deceased acting on impulse while of temporarily unsound mind. He expressed sympathy with the family.

Mr. S. PAGE, son of the deceased, expressed his thanks to Dr. KENNEDY and the neighbours who had come to their assistance.
