

### **Former Tradesman's Suicide. DEPRESSION FOLLOWS RETIREMENT.**

How a former well-known tradesman of Ryde became depressed after retiring from his business was told to the Deputy-Coroner (Francis A. Joyce, Esq.) at Ryde on Saturday, when he inquired into the death of Alfred Bernard CHEEK, aged 57, of The Hollies, Play Street-lane. Deceased, a member of a much-respected local family, was formerly in business as a fruiterer and greengrocer at 111 High-street.

The widow, Mrs. Hilda CHEEK, said her husband retired from business two years ago, and since then had constantly been attended by a doctor for nervous trouble which started soon afterwards. She thought it was due to the cessation of a very busy life.

Mrs. Mabel DENTON, deceased's sister-in-law, said she had resided at The Hollies since September 1939. On August 1st she went to the lounge to rest, deceased being in the dining-room opposite. Every few minutes she looked into his room to see what he was doing and whether he was comfortable. At about 3.30 she looked in again and found that he was missing. She immediately searched the house and found that his daughter's bedroom was locked. She called to him, but received no answer. Deceased's wife had only just gone up the lane and witness fetched Mr. HANSFORD, who later told her deceased had gassed himself.

Ernest Walter HANSFORD, a retired furnisher, of 19 Lind-street, said he was at Perivale when called by the previous witness. He placed a ladder against the bed-room window and could see someone lying on the floor partly covered with an eiderdown. On going into the house he found a key which fitted the locked door, and on entering saw deceased lying near a gas tap, his head covered with an eiderdown. Witness turned off the gas, opened the window and, having obtained assistance, carried deceased to a landing.-- The Coroner: You appear to have acted with great promptitude.-- Mr. HANSFORD: I only did my duty.

P.C. COOK said he and P.S. TURNBULL carried on artificial respiration until the doctor arrived and pronounced life extinct.

Dr. KENNEDY said death was due to carbon monoxide poisoning. He knew deceased had been mentally affected for some time.

The Coroner returned a verdict that deceased committed suicide, being in a depressed state of mind at the time. He expressed sympathy with the widow and relatives.

The late Mr. CHEEK had been in business as a fruiterer in High-street for over 30 years. He was a member of an old Island agricultural family, the youngest son of the late Mr. Robert CHEEK, of Pell Farm, which he worked with his brother after his father's death. He was a member of Ryde Dairyman's Association and a vice-president of Haylands Horticultural Society.

The Rev. E. S. WILLIAMSON officiated at the funeral service in the Newport-street Methodist Church on Monday. The hymn "Jesu, Lover of my soul," was sung. The mourners were Messrs. Robert CHEEK (brother), A. PRIOR and J. SPARSHOTT (nephews), and R. WICKETT and W. JOLLIFFE (cousins). Among others present were Messrs. W. COOK, H. B. HILL, R. GREAVES, J. SAUNDERS, G. and W. RUSSELL, B. NORRIS, R. A. WALMSLEY, (representing the directors of Messrs. Fred TRIM Ltd., Newport), and J. D. JONES, , Mr. and Mrs. S. SHEATH, of Stroud, Mr. and Mrs. E. CRABB, Mrs. B. NORRIS, and the Misses AYLES and H. MARTIN (employees). The 29 floral tokens included those from Haylands Horticultural Society, Messrs. Fred TRIM Ltd., and the Ryde Dairyman's Association.

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