

SAD FATALITY AT RYDE

Inquest

On Tuesday afternoon the Acting Coroner for the Island held an inquest at the Royal County Hospital touching the death of **Edward Lawrence TUFFNELL**, aged 42 years who died at the institution on Sunday evening as the result of self-inflicted injuries earlier the same day. Mr. F.C. WATTS was chosen foreman of the jury.

The Acting Coroner said he understood the widow was unable to be there, otherwise he thought she would have been the chief witness.

Chief Constable GREENSTREET said he saw Mrs. TUFFNELL on Monday evening. She was in a delicate state of health and when he had finished talking to her she fainted away. She was quite unable to be there.

Edward James WHEELER, builder, Monkton-Street, identified the body. Deceased he said was a clerk and had been in his employ for two or three years. He last saw him alive last Saturday night at his (witness's) house. He was in his usual state, a bit depressed. He had been depressed for the past two months. He had not been at work for that period but witness had been looking after him, taking him out for walks and so on. He suffered from delusions and arrangements were being made to get deceased into a home at Hearn Bay and witness received a letter about the matter the previous night.

Harry PILE, constable in the employ of the Joint Railway companies, residing at No. 3 Benett-Street, said he knew the deceased well as he lived next door. On Sunday morning at 12.25 he heard Mrs. TUFFNELL give a terrible scream at the bottom of her garden. He went out at once and she said to him "Oh Mr. PILE do come." He at once jumped over the wall and went into the house. On going upstairs he saw blood coming from under the door but found someone lying against it. With difficulty he got the door open and in doing so pushed the deceased away. He saw a gash in his throat and the blood stained razor lying by his side. He saw deceased was still alive and with the assistance of P.C. SWANN, who was there nearly as soon as he was, he rendered what help he could. Dr. MACKENZIE afterwards arrived and by his directions the deceased was removed to the Infirmary.

P.C. SWANN said he was on duty in St. John's-Road when he was told to go to Benett-Street. On arriving there he found the deceased lying in a pool of blood. By the appearance of the room he should say the deceased stood by the side of the bed and cut his throat and fell back against the door.

Dr. Ingleby MACKENZIE said the deceased had completely severed the windpipe and on both sides he had just missed the important blood vessels. On arriving at the hospital the house surgeon attended him. Witness regarded him as a hopeless case from the first. He had been attending the deceased since last October for nervous depression.

Mr. COOKE, house surgeon at the hospital, said there were two wounds in the throat, one being superficial and the other severed the windpipe. Deceased was in a collapsed condition and died at 6.10 p.m. from shock and exhaustion.

The Coroner in the summing up said he thought there was sufficient evidence that the deceased committed suicide by cutting his throat and that he was of an unsound mind at the time.

The jury returned a verdict accordingly.
