

SAD SUICIDE AT RYDE
YOUNG PAINTER'S BODY FOUND ON THE SHORE.

A sad tragedy was brought to light on Tuesday by the discovery of the body of **Stanley Robert DAY**, aged 31, on the sands to the west of Ryde Pier. The deceased, who lived in lodgings at 9 Church-lane, was a painter, who, after leaving his work on Monday, was apparently not seen again. Deep sympathy will be felt with his widowed mother, who is afflicted with blindness, in her great grief.

An inquest on the body was conducted by the Acting Deputy Coroner (W.H.P.F. THIRKELL, Esq.) in the United Methodist School on Thursday. P.S. PALMER represented the police.

Arthur George DAY, tailor, of 36 Daniel-street, brother of the deceased, deposed that he last saw the deceased in High-street at about 6 o'clock on the previous Saturday. He met him by accident and they stood talking for 20 minutes. The deceased appeared in a normal state and made no complaints. He had not been a great deal in his brother's company during the past year, but remembered that on their father's death in April he appeared very strange in his manner, and at times very depressed. On one occasion a relative sent a doctor to him, but he refused to see him.

James William OAKHAM, jobbing builder, of 27 Station-street, said he was carrying out alterations at a shop in Union-street and deceased had been in his employ since December. He had frequently been employed by him for years and was a good workman and of a quiet disposition. He was working with witness when his father died, and seemed greatly upset at his mother, who was blind, being bereaved. On the previous Friday deceased told him he had to go to the Police-station to make a statement, and left work earlier than usual for the purpose. So far as witness knew deceased had no worries, and he appeared in his usual health. Witness last saw him at work on Monday. At 4.50 when he left off work he went in the direction of his lodgings in Church-lane. Deceased did not arrive for work the next morning.

Edmund William TROUGHTON, builder and decorator of Windermere, Binstead, stated that he had known deceased since he was a child and on and off in later years had employed him. He was a good workman, but very quiet and morbid. Before his father's death witness had known him do many strange things while working for him, and on account of his unreliability he discharged him. He would be given a job to do and would then go off on another which was no concern of his and completely forget that he had done such a thing next day. Last November, at deceased's request, he gave him work and was subsequently told by the other workmen that deceased would not speak for hours and seemed strange in his manner. Sometimes he would sit down and laugh to himself.

Maurice PRENDERVILLE, of 26 Well-street, Ryde, said he was walking on the shore from Binstead towards Ryde at about 4 p.m. on Tuesday, when, on reaching the steps leading from the foreshore to Pelham Fields, he saw a body lying by the side of the sea wall, and reported the matter.

P.C. THATCHER told the Coroner that on Friday evening deceased called at the Police-station and said he wished to apologise for what he said at the Redan public-house. Witness asked what it was about as the police knew nothing of it. Asked his name and address, he gave them, and then left the station without saying what it was all about. Witness concluded that he was strange in his manner. In response to a telephone call on Tuesday he went to a spot about 400 yards west of Ryde Pier where he saw the body of a man whom he recognised as the caller at the Police-station. The body was fully clothed with the exception of a hat, and had been dead for some hours. He found 1s. 2d. and three insurance cards on the body. Witness interviewed the deceased's elderly landlady, who said she had noticed nothing strange in his manner lately except that he was very quiet on Friday and Saturday. When he did not come to her house on Monday evening she concluded that he had gone to his mother's house in Daniel-street. Witness made inquiries at the Redan public-house, but the licensee knew nothing of anything having happened there.

The Coroner said there was sufficient evidence to show that deceased's mind was unbalanced, and he returned a verdict of "Suicide whilst temporarily of unsound mind."
