

# LIMERICK JUNCTION RAILWAY FATALITY.

## SIGNALMAN'S SHOCKING DEATH.

Coroner. Morrissey held an inquest at three o'clock on Wednesday evening into the cause of the death of Thomas Culbert, signalman, 58, married, whose mutilated remains were found the previous night on the up line a short distance at the Dublin side of Limerick Junction station. The remains were laid in the people waitingroom.

The railway company was represented by Mr. Melliar, district superintendent, Limerick; Mr. Carson, of the railway police department. Mr. W. Prewan, solicitor, Tipperary, appeared for the next-of-kin, and Sergeant Hanbridge represented the police.

Wm. Culbert, brother of deceased, identified the remains. Deceased was a signalman at Grange level crossing signal box. Deceased was about 58 years of age, and married.

Wm. Moloney, farmer's son, residing near Limerick Junction, stated he found the body about a quarter past nine below the level crossing at Kyle, on the Dublin side. He found the remains between the rails on the up line. Witness did not know deceased until he lighted a match and recognized him. He noticed blood on deceased's face and missed his right hand. Witness removed the body to the side slope and reported the matter to a railway employe, and afterwards to Sergeant Hanbridge at Limerick Junction platform.

Timothy Tuohy, signman at North Cabin Limerick Junction, stated that the 5.10 p.m. passenger train from Cork passed the cabin at a quarter to eight. That was the only train passing that evening between six and ten p.m.

Michael Slattery, stationmaster, Limerick Junction, stated deceased was on duty on Tuesday from 7 a.m. until 4 p.m. The place where he was killed would be on his way home. The sleepers were greasy that evening at ten o'clock. Deceased was employed in the cabin as signalman for about seventeen years.

Mrs. M. Brennan, examined, stated deceased was in her publichouse at Kyle between five and six in the evening. John Carew was with him. Deceased was served with two pints of stout, but only half-finished the second drink. He was perfectly sober when he left her place between six and seven o'clock.

John Carew, who was the next witness, stated he was in the publichouse with deceased. He was at Grange crossing after four o'clock. He had two lamps, and put them up at two signals down the line. They came on then to Newtown, and witness asked him to have a drink. Deceased agreed, and they had one pint of stout each at Brennan's publichouse. Deceased then treated witness and drank half the second pint. They left at about a quarter past six and chatted together, after which deceased walked on the permanent way towards the Junction, and witness went back towards Grange. The sleepers were very greasy and it would take a quarter of an hour more that night to walk the distance to the Junction than it would on an ordinary night. That was due to the frost. Deceased was carrying an umbrella and coat. Deceased was perfectly sober when he left witness.

Dr. C. E. Ryan, V.R.C.S., stated he examined deceased and found death had been caused by being run over by a train. The right arm was reduced to pulp and cut off from the body. There was a large wound on the right side of the skull, which was extensively fractured. Death must have been instantaneous.

Joseph Lindsay, driver of the 5.10 p.m. passenger train from Cork, said he noticed nothing unusual on his way to Thurloe, and did not notice anything happening to the engine. That morning, when he heard a death had occurred, witness noticed something white on one of the bogie pins of the engine. It appeared to be brain matter. The night was dark and witness saw nobody on the line after leaving Limerick Junction at 7.48 p.m.

Sergeant Hanbridge stated the matter was reported to him by Wm. Moloney at 9.30 p.m. That was the only way deceased had of going or coming from his work. The sleepers were very greasy at the time.

A Juror (Mr. Cross) said it was very hard to expect men to travel four miles along the line at all hours of the day and night when going on or off duty. Houses should be put for them where they had to work.

Mr. Prewan—He was living in one of the company's houses at Limerick Junction, and he had no other way to go to work except along the line.

A Juror—He had to travel over that road for seventeen years. He was twenty-seven years in the company's service. He was a steady, respectable man who reared an industrious and a large family. I think credit is also due to young Moloney for the way in which he acted.

Mr. Melliar—If he was a single man we could have provided for him near the cabin.

The jury returned a verdict of accidental death, in accordance with the doctor's evidence, and added a rider recommending the widow and family to the kind consideration of the company, and also stating that the company should provide local housing accommodation for their employes at Grange, so as to render such long and dangerous journeys to the Junction unnecessary.

## MORTALITY RETURNS.

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