



SOUTH WILTSHIRE CORONER'S INQUESTS



Baverstock

Edmund WEST 31st March, 1911

The sad circumstances attending the death of Edmund West, an assistant dairyman in the employ of Mr J. H. Macey, of Baverstock, were enquired into by the Coroner for South Wilts (Mr W. J. Trethowan) on Thursday week.

Eva West said that her husband was 25 years of age. About a month ago he met with an accident and for two or three days afterwards complained of his head. On Sunday morning, March 19th, and on the following day he made further complaints. He went to bed at about 8.15 on Tuesday evening because his head was bad, but did not sleep much during the night. On Wednesday morning she called him at half-past four and asked him if his head was better, and he replied "Yes". He got up and went downstairs. Witness followed about half-past six. She heard someone knock at the door and thought it was her husband, but it subsequently turned out to have been Hart, who came to see why her husband was in bed. She went on with her work, in the course of which she discovered one of the kitchen chairs and a candlestick were missing. On going to the woodhouse she found her husband hanging from a beam, and sent for assistance.

George Ingram, dairyman in the employ of Mr Macey, stated that he went to work on Tuesday morning at 4.45, and expected that deceased would have been there. He went to his house and whistled for him, but, receiving no answer, went on with his milking. About seven o'clock Mrs West came out of her woodhouse shouting, and witness proceeded there and found that the deceased was hanging from a beam. He had a piece of clothes line round his neck, and his hands were on his knees, with his feet touching the ground. There was a chair nearby. Deceased was dead and quite cold. He cut the body down, placed it on the ground and sent for the police.

James Harry Macey, farmer, of Baverstock, said the deceased had been in his employ as assistant dairyman for the past six months, but was under notice to leave his service on March 20th. Deceased informed him on Thursday that he had got another situation. On February 20th he was knocked by a bull on the head, and for two or three days afterwards complained of his head aching. Later on, however, he seemed to be as well as before the accident. He thought there were circumstances which might have caused the deceased to

be a bit worried but he never told him he was worried or gave him any idea that he intended to commit suicide.

Charles Robert Straton, medical practitioner, of Wilton, said he saw the deceased on February 20th or 26th, after he had been tossed by a young bull. He had a wound on his head which was bleeding, and great contusion of the left thigh, which was much swollen. He complained of great pain in his head for two or three days, and then got better rapidly. Witness called to see him on March 7th, and found him in the yard, witness told him he was out too soon, but he said he felt perfectly well, and meant to begin work on the following day. He advised him not to go to work, as he might have trouble with his head afterwards, but he said he should resume work. He saw the body on Wednesday, and, in his opinion, death arose from strangulation, and from the evidence he should say death took place about five o'clock.

A verdict was returned to the effect that the deceased died from strangulation by hanging himself whilst of unsound mind. The jury expressed their sympathy with the widow and gave their fees to her.

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