

THE WORRIES OF LIFE.

An enquiry was then held concerning the cause of the death of George Dodd, who was found in the West Park Lands about 11 o'clock on Thursday with a bullet wound in his head. Mr. R. H. Lathlean appeared for the widow of the deceased.

Albert Walter Jackson, living at Bowderson-the-Hill, identified the body as that of George Dodd, a furniture dealer, of Victoria-square. Witness had been in his employ for the last three years. Last saw him alive at about 10.30 on Thursday morning at deceased's shop. He then seemed all right and was in better spirits than he had been for some time past. He asked witness if a certain customer had been in the shop. On receiving a negative reply, deceased said, "I'll go there at once." He returned about 10 o'clock and later on he left the shop again and said he would be back in a few minutes, but never returned. Mr. Dodd apparently had been much upset for some time. Witness thought he was over-sensitive. One morning, when he seemed more worried than usual, the deceased said to him, "I wish, Jackson, I could drop down dead." As far as witness knew, the deceased's financial position was good. By Mr. Lathlean—During the last few weeks he had appeared to worry over his business even more than usual and to be very much depressed in spirits. He had sometimes seen him crying.

Joseph Laird, in the employ of Messrs. J. T. Flint & Son, recognised the revolver produced as the one he sold on Thursday morning to the deceased. He sold him a box of 50 cartridges also. In answer to an enquiry from witness, Mr. Dodd said that the revolver was not for himself. By a Juror—He appeared perfectly calm. He was smoking a pipe as he entered the shop.

Samuel Hanna, telegraph-lineman, said that on Thursday morning he heard a report as of a revolver shot at about 11 o'clock in the park, near West-terrace, about a hundred yards from the telegraph-yard. Went to the spot and found the deceased lying on the ground. There was no movement in the body except a slight twitching, and there was no one near him.

Sergeant Kelly gave evidence as to the finding of the body. A discharged revolver was clasped in the deceased's right hand. On searching him witness found a cheque-book, a promissory note for £21, a pocket-book containing over £4 in silver, and sundry papers, and other articles.

The jury returned a verdict that the deceased died from a pistol-shot by his own hand while of unsound mind.