

Two Workmen Killed

REGRETTABLE FATALITY AT LOCAL WORKS.

Two workmen were killed and another also rather badly injured as the result of an accident at a local works on Monday morning. The victims were a labourer named Horace John Wm. Crump, of 90, Ash-road, Luton, a married man with several children, and a 17½-year-old youth named Herbert Andrews, belonging to Cold Harbour, Harpenden. The other employee injured was a young fellow named Harry Rowe, of Luton-road, Toddington.

The inquest on the two deceased workmen was opened by the Deputy County Coroner, Mr. G. J. M. Whyley, at the Luton Court-house on Wednesday afternoon, with Mr. Harry White as foreman of the jury, the Coroner explaining that an accident occurred at the works about half-past eleven on Monday, with the result that three men were injured and taken to the Bute Hospital. On arrival there Andrews was found to be dead, and Crump died just before half-past five the same afternoon. The third man, Rowe, was not likely to recover from his injuries for at least a week or ten days, and in view of that and also the fact that notice of the inquiry had to be given to the Home Office, the Coroner said he did not propose at that stage to say anything in regard to the actual circumstances, as it would be necessary for the proceedings to be adjourned. A fortnight's adjournment was suggested by Mr. Whyley for preference, because he hoped by that time the injured man would be out of danger and out of hospital, so that they could hear his evidence.

Mr. Arnold G. Hassard, the manager of the works, took the opportunity of expressing to the widow of Crump and all the relatives of both the deceased—of whom there were several in attendance—the sincere sympathy of the directors of the firm and himself in the loss occasioned by this sad accident. They all very deeply regretted that such accidents happened, but they must also remember that it was war time, and we at home saw but one side of war. That particular phase necessarily involved a certain amount of danger, and, although the Home Office made regulations which insured that every precaution possible was taken, accidents would sometimes happen, and in this case it was a very sad accident. It was not one of those terrifying affairs we sometimes read of, but unfortunately it was very violent and disastrous, as far as the men were concerned. The two men who were close to received such injuries that they could not possibly survive, but he was very glad to be able to say that he believed the third man, Rowe, was doing well. Although he was badly injured there was reason to think that his injuries would not have any serious effect when he got over them, and there was just that satisfaction that there might have been three killed and there were only two.

After the bodies had been viewed at the Hospital only evidence of identification was taken before the adjournment of the inquiry to Jan. 24th. Crump was identified by his widow, Mrs. Ada Elizabeth Crump, of 90, Ash-road, who said she saw her husband just before he died at 5.25 on Monday afternoon. Andrews was spoken to by his sister, Miss Olive Andrews, of Cold Harbour, Harpenden, who said she saw her brother alive at the works about eleven o'clock on Monday morning, and later saw him after he had succumbed to his injuries at the hospital.