FATAL ACCIDENT ON THE G.W.R. AT SWINDON.

MAN KNOCKED DOWN DURING SHUTTLE OPERATIONS.

THE CORONER’S ENQUIRY.

Yesterday (Friday) afternoon Mr. A. J. Forrester, the Coroner for North Wilts, held an inquest in the Council Room of the G.W.R. Mechanic Institution, Swindon, touching the death of John Tucker, aged 60 years, of Coate, near Swindon, who was killed by an engine crane on the G.W.R. line at Swindon on Wednesday morning.

Mr. Frederick Booker was appointed foreman of the jury.

Mr. Gerald S. Snape, H.M. Inspector of Factories, of Charlton Chambers, Bristol, attended the inquiry.

Mr. Albert Lewis, Mr. Wm. Barrett, and Mr. Wm. Barrett were present representing the Loco. Department of the G.W.R.

Mr. W. S. Jones, from the office of Mr. A. E. Withy, was present representing the widow.

The first witness called was Edmond Ted Tucker, living at Upper Wanborough, Wiltshire, a labourer in the G.W.R. Works, said the deceased was his father, who was 60 years of age last Friday. The deceased was a labourer. When deceased left home for his work on Wednesday morning, he was in good health and spirits. Witness walked with his father to the works. Deceased did not suffer from deafness nor was he sight defective.

The next witness was George John Morris, living at 19, Gladstone Street, Swindon, an engine crane driver in the G.W.R. He said that on Wednesday, the 24th inst., he was shunting in the loco. yard. He was proceeding back on the down road next to the wall towards the weighbridge. He happened to glance across, and saw the deceased struck by a truck and fell. He immediately blew the brake whistle of his own engine and shouted. Witness then jumped off his engine and ran down to the crane and told those about that there was a man under the engine. He looked underneath and saw the man pinned down by the girders of the bogey of the engine. Witness asked the man to get underneath, and helped to extricate the man, who breathed his last as he was put on the stretcher.

The Coroner: Was it the steam crane that knocked the man down?

Witness: Yes.

Witness said he had seen the deceased cleaning other points that morning. It was the deceased’s general duty. Deceased was not new to the job.

In reply to Mr. Jones, witness said that he had been watchmen with the men attending to the points in connection with the traffic department. At the spot where the accident happened, there were generally a lot of men attending to the permanent way.

Henry Lewis, of Gorse Hill, a shunter in the employ of the G.W.R. Works, said he was engaged as a shunter in the loco. yard. About 12.30 on Wednesday morning he was talking to the deceased, and Tucker asked him to “turn the points over so that he could clean the other side.” Witness turned the points—hand points—over, and then turned round to couple on to the wagons on the road next to the wall. The next moment he heard a short and turning round, he saw that Tucker was under the steam crane engine. Driver had been watching with the men attending to the points in connection with the traffic department. At the spot where the accident happened, there were generally a lot of men attending to the permanent way.

Henry Roche, of Gorse Hill, a shunter in the employ of the G.W.R. Works, said he was engaged as a shunter in the loco. yard. About 12.30 on Wednesday morning he was talking to the deceased, and Tucker asked him to “turn the points over so that he could clean the other side.” Witness turned the points—hand points—over, and then turned round to couple on to the wagons on the road next to the wall. The next moment he heard a short and turning round, he saw that Tucker was under the steam crane engine. Driver