

There was absence of external marks in the case of these alleged injuries, and no opportunity has been given to the officers of having an autopsy—a measure of protection which was specially called for in the case of this claim.

It is now needful to take up the way in which this claim was brought before the brotherhood, and endeavour to unravel its complications.

The claim begins with a letter from the plaintiff's solicitor to Cleveland, stating that Davis had died from an accident, and asking for blank forms of proof (16th December). The answer of 19th December was that the records shewed that the man had died from disease, as stated by the physician. The solicitor on the 7th January, 1911, writes "that the statement of the physician is not inconsistent, as the immediate cause of death was heart failure, brought about by an accident;" then a further request for forms. The defendant's answer on 10th January, 1911, informs the solicitor that business of this kind is done through the local secretary at St. Thomas, and that the papers received from Division 132 do not agree with the statement made as to the manner of death. A desire is expressed that if there is any positive evidence to bear out the solicitor's statement, it should be sent to head office.

I think that all the correspondence has been put in. Each side has made selections, and I draw from the letters, etc., according to dates, without being sure that there may not be an occasional hiatus.

Nothing of proof appears to have been sent by the solicitor to the head office; and, by direction of the head office investigation of the case was begun by the local secretary, Eli Cowles. He called upon the widow on the 20th January, 1911, and writes the result to Shay, the head secretary. He writes that she says the real cause of death was an injury Davis received while reversing his engine *some time ago*, but could not tell the exact date, which injured something near his heart. He did not put in any claim for indemnity when this happened, as he did not want any one to know about it; he thought the officials might require him to pass a physical examination before going to work. "This is the information I got from the widow, and to-day is the first I heard he was injured, although I knew he had been sick for some time."