



# CORONERS INQUESTS



## William Loader 1914

The quiet of Ludgershall was disturbed on Wednesday by news of a shooting fatality concerning one of the best-known inhabitants of the village, Mr. William Loader, who was an agent of the Prudential Assurance Co. and had resided in the village for a considerable number of years.

The facts were inquired into at an inquest held at the police station, Ludgershall, on Thursday afternoon by Mr. F. H. Trethowan, Coroner for South Wilts.

The evidence showed that between 3.30 and 3.45 on Wednesday afternoon Mr. Loader was found behind the back door of his house, in a crouching position, with shocking injuries to his head, the face being blown away and every bone in the head shattered, his brain protruding in several places. The difficulty was to account for the occurrence.

All his finances were in order, he had a good agency, which he had held for 21 or 22 years, and he had no financial troubles. He had influenza recently, but that did not seem to affect him. Dr. J. E. Jones, who gave the medical evidence, said deceased was in the habit of shooting pigeons most evenings. He could give no opinion as to whether the injuries were self-inflicted (the deceased's neck, it should be stated, was resting on a double-barrelled gun).

The Coroner said there was the rather difficult question of deciding whether it was an accident or whether deceased shot himself. There seemed little reason why he should wish to commit suicide, but influenza had after effects and sometimes made people in a low state indeed. The jury retired and found that deceased was found dead from a shot self-inflicted at a time when he was not of a sound mind.

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