

Walter L. Jones

(- 7 Dec 1904)

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Fatal Dose of Acid

Walter Jones, A Drummer, Commits Suicide

Declared He Had Been Robbed of His Employer's Money --

Coroner Gives Certificate

Walter Jones, fifty-eight years old, who was employed as a drummer for a wholesale tobacconist in this city, and lived at 105 2d street northeast, committed suicide this morning by taking a small quantity of carbolic acid. He had frequently said he would take his life, but his threat was never taken seriously, the matter being finally looked upon as a joke by his wife and children. It was stated at his home today that the deed was the result of his continued use of intoxicants.

He returned home under the influence of liquor yesterday and told members of his family that he had been robbed of \$54 in money not his own, and said he could not face his employer again. His wife told him it was nonsense for him to talk that way, and said she would make good the amount. The much disturbed man said he felt the hand of a man in his pocket and knew he was taking the money, but he did not have the strength to stop him. Between 5 and 6 o'clock in the evening he went to a drug store and purchased five cents' worth of carbolic acid.

"I want to use it as a wash," he told the clerk in the store. "It's all right," he added "as I have been in the habit of using it."

Jones, it is believed, intended to take the acid last night, but fell asleep and probably forgot about it until this morning, when he was awakened in time for breakfast. After getting up he repeated the remark he had made about being unable to face his employer, showing that the loss of the money worried him. Addressing his son Walter, who is employed in the navy yard, he said: "Walter, you had better stay home this morning, as your mother will need you."

Swallows the Poison

The boy thought his father was joking, and laughed, but the request for him to stay at home was repeated. The boy had not gone to work when his father took the fatal dose, for it was then only about 7:30 o'clock. Walking toward the door the depressed man swallowed the poison and then returned to the dining room, where his wife and two sons were eating breakfast.

"It will all be over in a few minutes," he remarked, throwing the empty bottle on the table. Then he lay down on the sofa.

"I believe father has taken the stuff," said the son, when he detected the odor of carbolic acid on his father's breath.

When it was realized that the husband and father was in a serious condition, physicians were sent for and a policeman summoned. The physicians, it is stated, thought he might recover, and the members of the family hoped for the best until he became unconscious. Jones refused to allow the doctors to treat him, and asked that he be permitted to die at home. He was hurried to the Casualty Hospital, however, but his condition was such that the physicians there declared there was no hope, and death claimed him about 10 o'clock.

Native of Maryland

The deceased was a native of Maryland, having been born near Croome, in Prince George's county. He came to this city many years ago and has worked as a drummer for several tobacco firms. Coroner

Nevitt investigated the case and gave the necessary death certificate. The body was removed this afternoon from the hospital. His funeral will probably take place tomorrow or Thursday. The pastor of Christ Church, navy yard, will officiate. The interment will be in Congressional cemetery.