

# PRIEST CONFESSES

## OWNS UP TO THE BUTCHERY OF NEW YORK GIRL

# BODY IS FOUND IN RIVER

### Priest Had Been Married to Her Secretly, Performing the Ceremony Himself—Pillow Case Clue Led to His Arrest—Slayer Attempts Suicide When Arrested.

With the arrest in New York early Sunday of the Rev. Hans Schmidt, assistant rector of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic church, charged with the murder of Anna Aumuller, a domestic, the mystery surrounding the finding of parts of the dismembered body of a girl in the Hudson river was solved. Schmidt, according to the police reports, confessed, and at the time of his arrest attempted to commit suicide by cutting his throat with a safety razor blade.

Early Sunday, according to parishioners of the church, Schmidt said to the Rev. Father Huntmann, rector of St. Joseph's church, that he would hear no more confessions and when asked for his reason said: "I have something of importance to tell you." With his superior, Schmidt then retired to the study where the latter told all that had transpired in the Bradhurst avenue flat, where, according to his alleged confession, he murdered the girl. Father Huntmann conferred with his other assistants and it was agreed that the authorities should be notified. The police, however, were even then on Schmidt's trail, and his arrest followed shortly.

Schmidt was taken to the Tombs. The confession which the police say Schmidt signed follows:

"I met Anna Aumuller two years ago at the parish house at St. Boniface church. She was employed as a servant there. I was attracted by her beauty. I became infatuated with her. I loved her. I killed her because I loved her so much. She was so beautiful, so good, I could not let her live without me.

I had made up my mind that she and I could not live together. I was a priest and she was a girl. I could not let her go away from me. So I opened the door of the flat, I assassinated her. I hid the body in the kitchen. Then I drew the knife and the blood.

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She wanted me to marry her and I performed a marriage license. She trusted me. I am a priest and I dared to perform the marriage ceremony, so when she insisted upon a ceremony I married myself to her. There was no need of any other priest doing it. It was just as absolute as if I had called in another person with authority to perform the marriage ceremony. She was my wife."

In Schmidt's apartment, among other things, the police found a marriage license issued in New York last February and bearing the names of the priest and the murdered woman. According to Schmidt's confession, he went through a marriage ceremony with the girl. In this ceremony Schmidt was both priest and bridegroom; there were no witnesses.

A gaily colored pillow slip of unusual pattern led to Schmidt's apprehension. This pillow, stained with blood and soiled with the filth of the river, was wrapped around a portion of the torso. The detectives traced the pillow to its manufacturer; the manufacturer traced it to the dealer; the dealer traced it to Schmidt. And the police, tracing Schmidt and the girl, knew all about both of them hours before they arrested him. Schmidt was arrested by Inspector Faurot in charge of the detective bureau. The priest was dressed in full clerical garb when the detective entered his rooms in the parish house of his church in west One Hundred and Twenty-fifth street. The inspector produced a photograph of Miss Aumuller and asked Schmidt if he knew the girl.

The priest, after a moment of hesitation, inquired whether his visitors were police officers.

His actions indicated that he was expecting arrest. He then asked permission to change his clothes and it was when he left his clothes and it was when he left the room, Inspector Faurot declared, that he attempted to cut his throat with a safety razor blade.

Take the farmer and his cotton out of our business calculations and we would not have much left.

# ASHAMED OF MONSTER

## CATHOLIC CHURCH WANTS TO DISOWN A FIEND.

### It Hopes to Show the Self-Confessed Murderer of Anna Aumuller a Bogus Priest.

In the hope of branding as an impostor and bogus priest, Father Hans Schmidt, the self-confessed slayer of Anna Aumuller, a young woman he had betrayed and brutally murdered in New York, the Catholic Church authorities began Monday a sweeping investigation of Schmidt's record and his pretensions to ordination. The church can hardly be blamed for wanting to rid itself of such a cold-blooded murderer as Schmidt confesses himself to be.

"We hope, of course, to be able to prove that this unspeakable monster was an impostor and that he had been using forged papers," declared Monsignor Lavella, vicar-general of the arch diocese of New York. "That is something which we are trying to clear up now. He came to this diocese with credentials which were apparently in every way authentic and genuine, but we know practically nothing of him. His crime is too horrible to conceive. We can only hope that he may prove to have been a pseudo priest."

Schmidt has added little to his confession made on Sunday night in which he told the police that he killed his victim as she lay in bed, cut up her body in the bath tub of the apartment, where he had established her, wrapped it in five bundles and dropped the bundles in the Hudson river. To Rev. J. J. Evers, the chaplain of the Tombs, where Schmidt is confined, he is said to have made the following declaration:

"I was directed to kill her by St. Elizabeth who is my patron as a sacrifice, to be consummated as was the sacrifice of Abraham. In blood," Schmidt told the police he killed the young woman because he loved her but could not marry her because he was a priest of the Roman Catholic Church, which does not allow the priests to get married. But he had gone through with a marriage ceremony performed by himself with the young woman.

The police believe that Schmidt is a priest of the arch diocese of New York. Schmidt is said to have been a priest of the arch diocese of New York. Schmidt is said to have been a priest of the arch diocese of New York.

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# FELONS WORK ON ROADS

## ILLINOIS PUTS FORTY-FIVE ON THEIR HONOR.

### Joliet Prisoners Appreciate Their New Liberty and Pitch Into Work With Enthusiasm.

Forty-five picked prisoners from the state prison at Joliet, Ill., are working on the state road near Dixon and living in a camp on the bank of the Rock river. For five or six months they will enjoy all the liberties afforded working road gangs of free men. There is not a happier company of working men, perhaps, to be found in the whole country. To protect themselves and to insure that the road building experiment shall be a success, the group has named one of their number as judge to try all cases that may arise in the gang and another as a detective to report in case any member of the gang seeks to away.

The road gang is composed of murderers, forgers, "Black Hand" operators, hold-up men, pug-uglies, plain thieves, extraordinary thieves and burglars—all long term men. They are eager to "make good" so that the men under sentence for short terms may also have the benefit of life and work in the sunshine.

The group of convicts was taken from Joliet prison while it was still dark and, being under no special guard, some prisoners might easily have sneaked away. But every man has sworn that he will pursue and deal harshly with any convict who seeks to bring the prison into disrepute.

One at Camp Hope the men set up tents, prepared a kitchen, graded a main road through the camp and constructed a barbed wire fence. This precaution was taken more to keep hoodlums and ramblers out of the camp than to keep the men in. Hereafter admission to the camp will be by card only.

This week the men began work on state roads their first task being to dig a high bank. They regard the work as a sort of summer vacation and appear to be very enthusiastic in their efforts to make good as felons.

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# FIGHT FOR BIG OFFICE

## THURMOND OR WESTON WILL LAND THE JOB SOON.

### Report of Feeling Over the District Attorneyship Between the Senators is Exaggerated.

The Columbia Record says the contest for the district attorneyship of South Carolina has narrowed down to two persons and either Francis H. Thurmond of Columbia or J. William Thurmond of Edgefield will land the plum as the following letter from Senator Tillman to a prominent citizen of Columbia would indicate:

"Senator Smith and I have an understanding to this effect: He has endorsed Weston and I have endorsed Thurmond. Whichever of these two names the president sends to the Senate we will confirm, but we will confirm nobody else. Therefore, there is no possibility of a dark horse."

"B. R. Tillman."

When shown a copy of the above letter Monday morning, Senator Weston said the letter purporting to come from Senator Tillman was in accordance with the situation as he understands it at Washington, having stopped in the capital on his return from a meeting of the American Bar association at Montreal. He is of the opinion that there has been a great deal of exaggeration in regard to the tense feeling said to exist between Senators Smith and Thurmond over the matter and each senator is merely trying to do a service for a friend.

Mr. Weston said he called on Senator Tillman while in Washington and was received most cordially, while Mr. Thurmond called on Senator Smith and likewise received a most cordial reception. Mr. Weston is sure that neither senator has any personal feeling against the candidates themselves and are pushing their respective candidates purely through ties of friendship. Senator Tillman is supporting his friend and neighbor and Senator Smith is trying to do this job for one of his personal friends.

As the above letter would indicate there is no chance for a dark horse and the matter will soon be settled by the president naming his choice.

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# SOCIETY WOMAN HELD

## CHARGED WITH BLACKMAILING RICH OHIO HEIRESS

### Decoy Letter Resulted in Arrest of Ohio Town's Social Leader—Attorney Hints at Plot.

Mrs. Margaret A. Carter, wife of a retired tobacco manufacturer, of Elyria, O., and a well known society woman at that town, is under arrest, charged with blackmail, District Attorney Alburn, of Cleveland, calls the scheme the "wickedest and largest blackmailing plot ever heard of."

Not only is the woman charged with seeking, by threatening letters, to obtain \$3,000 from Miss Lillian Huntington, heiress, but Alburn says other epistles were sent to prominent and wealthy persons in Elyria, Cleveland and towns in northern Ohio. These letters, it is charged, revealed intimacy with the private affairs of the persons threatened.

Miss Huntington is not yet twenty and beautiful. She has inherited a large fortune from her grandfather, John Huntington, one of the old-time Standard Oil magnates, and a second fortune came to her through the will of her uncle, William Marsh Rice, who was killed in New York by his valet and Albert T. Patrick, a New York lawyer.

When only sixteen and a school girl at the fashionable Briarcliff school near New York, she was taken by her mother on a trip to Asheville, N. C., and there met Dwight Dawley, son of a wealthy furniture manufacturer of Wheeling, W. Va. They eloped and were married. But, with the consent of the young people's parents they separated and a divorce was secured after a year.

Recently there have been rumors that Miss Huntington was to marry a prominent young Cleveland clubman. It was on these rumors that the blackmailing letter came, signed "Miss Rose." The writer stated that the clubman had promised to marry her and that unless Miss Huntington sent him \$3,000 a scandal would follow. The young woman accepted her letter and postal authorities were set at work. A decoy letter resulted in the arrest of Mrs. Carter.

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# THE CURRENCY BILL

## MEASURE PASSES THE HOUSE BY A LARGE MAJORITY

# OTHER PARTIES SPLIT

### Twenty-four Republicans and Fourteen Progressives Vote With Democrats for Passage.—Bill as Sent to Senate Practically Unchanged From Original Draft.

The complete revision of American banking and currency methods proposed in the Democratic currency bill was started on its way to the statute books Thursday. By a vote of 286 to 84, the House of Representatives passed the bill in almost the same form as it originally was proposed. Twenty-four Republicans and fourteen Progressives voted for the bill. With this overwhelming House majority and the endorsement of President Wilson behind it, the measure was sent over to the Senate. There it was referred to the banking and currency committee, where hearings already are in progress. The committee may not be ready for several weeks.

The measure would eliminate the present American bank note system, under which banks issue currency against government bonds, and establish a currency issued by twelve Federal banks based on sound commercial paper, which the government assumes the responsibility of redeeming.

It would place "virtually" every phase of banking under the control of a federal reserve board of seven members, appointed by the President and a council of bankers which would have only advisory powers. The system would be administered through reserve banks in twelve geographical divisions of the country, each capitalized at about \$100,000,000 which capital must be held in the hands of the reserve banks.

Ten years of currency legislation in the House failed to alter the bill in any material particular, and it passed virtually as though it were a new measure. It is the most important measure of the session and will have a profound effect on the country.

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# APPOINT POSTMASTERS.

## President Sends in Several South Carolina Appointments.

Fourth-class postmasters were Thursday appointed in South Carolina as follows: Jas. V. Stillwell, at Aris Island, Beaufort county, a new office; Dallas A. Gardner, at Embree, Bamberg county, a new office; Carrie L. Sam, at Sandy Run, Calhoun county; Robert V. Wilkes, at Douglass, Fairfield county, to succeed J. Y. Wilkes, resigned; Lou Maree, at Bostic, Florence county, to succeed Lena Bellin, resigned; and Daniel L. Roof, at Barr, Lexington county, vice G. H. Roof, deceased.

# Leg Broken by Lightning.

Knocked down by lightning, which entered her home, Mrs. John D. Berger, of Bridgeport, Conn., suffered a broken leg without burn or other indication that she had been hit. A child in her arms was not hurt.

# Caught in Balloon.

Thirteen-year-old George Bernier, who was holding a guy rope to a balloon while it was being inflated, preparatory to an ascension at a local fair at Woodstock, Conn., Tuesday, was suddenly carried 500 feet in the air and then dropped to instant death in front of the grand stand, where five thousand people were assembled.

# Gets Good Job.

Wm. F. Young, formerly assistant postmaster at Spartanburg, was Monday appointed by Postmaster General Burleson as a clerk in the post-office department at Washington at a salary of \$1,800 per annum. The position was obtained for Mr. Young by Representative Joseph T. Johnson.

# Breaks Rib by Sneeze.

Bert Bardwell, forty years old, of Green Bay, Wis., sneezed harder than usual a few mornings ago and later felt a severe pain in his side. He consulted a physician, who found he had cracked a rib.

We congratulate Spartanburg on declaring against the "wide open" crowd in her municipal election. Mayor Floyd and his board will see to it that one of the coming big cities of the State will be run decently and in order.