

RECTOR AND WOMAN CHORISTER DEAD IN FIELD

New Jersey Clergyman and Gardener's Wife Shot

Was Not a Suicide, Say the Police—Couple Had Long Been Friendly—Watch and Money Were Taken from Minister's Pockets.

The bodies of Rev. Edward W. Hall, rector of the Protestant Episcopal Church of St. John the Evangelist at New Brunswick, N. J., and of Mrs. Eleanor Mills, a member of the church choir and wife of the church gardener, were found lying side by side under a tree in a field across the Raritan river from New Brunswick on last Sunday morning.

There were two bullet wounds in the back of the man's head and one in the woman's forehead. The location and course of the bullets showed plainly that it was a case of double murder rather than a suicide compact, but the identity of the murderer and motive remained a mystery.

The investigating authorities leaned to the jealousy theory. Scattered about the bodies were a watch, a pair of papers. Among these documents were two notes in a woman's handwriting which indicated that the choir singer was in love with the clergyman.

There remained the possibility that robbery was the motive, that the couple might have been surprised by hold-up men in an isolated part of the country. Dr. Hall, who was wealthy, had the reputation of carrying a large amount of money with him at all times, but his money and watch were missing when the bodies were discovered.

Missing Since Thursday. Dr. Hall and Mrs. Mills had been missing since Thursday evening. According to the authorities, the bodies were laid out carefully, as if they had been brought there in some vehicle and lifted out onto the ground. Many automobile tracks were found in a near-by lane. Over the minister's face his Panama hat had been placed as if to shield it over the woman's face, her brown silk scarf was pulled over her face. Their heads were close together at the foot of a tree and their feet pointed toward the lane.

Their clothing was arranged as if for burial, and everything was orderly except for the litter of papers on the ground. The lane is a little dirt road so little used and unimportant that it has no name. Were Widely Known. The principals in the tragedy were widely known. Dr. Hall was one of the most prominent clergymen in New Jersey. His congregation is the wealthiest and most fashionable in New Brunswick. He was forty-six years old, tall and weighed about 200 pounds. Going to New Brunswick about ten years ago to take the pulpit of St. John's church, he married within a short time Frances Stephens, a member of his congregation. Her parents are dead.

In contrast with the wealth and distinction of the Halls, the Mills family was in poor circumstances. Mrs. Mills was a slight and pretty woman of thirty-four. She had lived in New Brunswick all her life, and had been a member of Dr. Hall's congregation. Her husband, James Mills, tends to the lawn and furnace and does other odd jobs about the church. He says that Dr. Hall was a fine man, and his best friend.

Mrs. Mills was very active in church work, singing in the choir and helping the rector with his visits to cheer the sick and help the needy. They were often seen together, and some talk had arisen about them in the last three years, but it had always been scorned.

The Halls, who were childless, lived in a big colonial house. The Mills, with their two children—Charlotte, sixteen, and Dan, nine—occupied a small flat on the second floor of a ramshackle frame structure, near the church. Their home was little more than a shack, so primitive an affair, that they had to climb a rickety staircase on the outside of the building to reach the living quarters.

The clergyman and the woman went from these two homes about the same time on Thursday evening. In reconstructing the killing, as reconstructed by information they have, the authorities have begun chronologically with statements from Mills and Mrs. Hall as to the time and circumstances under which they last saw their wife and husband respectively. Mills told the police that his wife left him and the children at home about 7:15 o'clock.

Asks Him to Follow. "Where are you going?" he said he asked her. "Why don't you follow me and find out?" was her reply, given with a laugh. The gardener said he did not follow her. She often spoke that way, making fun of him when he tried to discover where she went at night. But, he said, her absence on those occasions had not worried him. He had thought she was performing her religious duties. If he had known she was with the rector, he would have thought it was all right, for she liked to help him.

Fifteen minutes after Mrs. Mills descended the wooden stairway of her humble abode, the clergyman left his home. Mrs. Hall told the police that he told her he was going to the church. Although he had a touring car and a sedan he took neither, but walked across the front lawn and disappeared down the street on foot. Like Mills, Mrs. Hall told the investigators that she did not worry over the absence of her husband until later on, when he failed to return.

The actual killing, as reconstructed by the authorities, was done not long after the couple met on Thursday evening, probably at some isolated spot. It is believed to have been the first one killed. The murderer is represented as following the couple until they stopped, then creeping up behind them. Dr. Hall was shot twice in the back of the head. One of the bullets went into his head behind the right ear and the other went into the left side of the neck.

After the clergyman had been shot it is supposed that the woman must have seen her own death approaching, then she probably died instantly. It was reported that she had been propped to death as there were marks on her neck, but it was later found that marks might merely be discolorations due

Misleading Statements Corrected By Engineer Of N. S. Hydro System

Mr. K. H. Smith Writes That There Need Not Have Been More Than Momentary Interruption in Service From St. Margaret's Bay to Halifax—Damage By Lightning Negligible Halifax Mail Declares.

In view of exaggerated and wholly misleading statements regarding some slight damage to one of the transmission line cables from St. Margaret's Bay to Halifax when lightning struck it on Saturday, the following letter from K. H. Smith, Chief Engineer of the Nova Scotia Power Commission, to C. O. Foss, Chief Engineer of the New Brunswick Electric Power Commission, will be read with interest by the citizens of St. John who fully realize how desperate the opponents of the Musquash hydro system have become.

In this connection, it is pointed out that whereas an accident to the St. Margaret's Bay line may put it temporarily out of commission, just as a steam system might be packed out of commission, there are two separate and distinct lines from Musquash. If, for instance, lightning were to strike one of the Musquash lines the other is there to carry the full load immediately. But Mr. Smith's letter shows how needless a steam standby is even under the Nova Scotia conditions:

THE NOVA SCOTIA POWER COMMISSION. Halifax, N. S., Sept. 18, 1922. Dear Mr. Foss: In response to your telephone inquiry concerning the interruption in electrical supply to the city of Halifax on Saturday evening last, I may state for your information, as well as that of any others interested, as follows:

A stroke of lightning severed one of the transmission line cables from St. Margaret's Bay to Halifax. This broken wire, which itself interrupted the service of one circuit, was a circuit consisting of three wires, fell on certain other cables, thus temporarily putting two circuits out of service. We always had one circuit available to carry all the load supplied at that time and within something over an hour a second circuit was cleared and ready for service.

At the first interruption in service, due to some confusion in the operating staff at both ends of the line, arrangements were made to place the steam plant at Halifax in operation. This having been done, no effort was made to put the transmission line immediately in service, since once the steam plant had been started it was considered that it might as well continue to operate until permanent repairs had been effected to the slight damage to the transmission line.

In so far as the physical condition of the cables concerned, there need not have been any more than momentary interruption in service to Halifax from St. Margaret's Bay and within less than two hours the line was in a position to supply the full capacity of the generating stations. The actual damage to the line and generating equipment was negligible, amounting to the severing of one wire only, which was quickly replaced, and the burning out of a few

coils in a ground resistance at the generating station. It may be noted that the operation of the St. Margaret's Bay transmission line under emergency conditions is of a similar line which is not connected to a steam generating station. This line is directly connected to the recent situation, which may as well be made of this steam station when convenient: as that it should continuously be idle. As a matter of fact, so long as the steam plant is available in any case it is desirable that it should be used from time to time. This was evident in the recent situation, when after it was decided to use the steam plant for reasons of convenience, it had been idle so long that considerable difficulty was experienced in placing it in service and initially it was able to supply only a limited service.

Yours very truly, K. H. SMITH, Chief Engineer. C. O. Foss, Esq., Chief Engineer, New Brunswick Electric Power Com., St. John, N. B.

The Halifax Mail publishes the following letter from K. H. Smith: "In view of rumors which have come to our attention as to serious damage and even loss of life in connection with the interruption of electrical service which occurred on Saturday evening last, I would be glad if you would give publicity to the following: "Notwithstanding the severity of the electrical storm, said to have been the worst ever, in this part of the province, the actual damage was negligible. Such damage as did occur has been completely and permanently repaired, and no interruption of service has been resumed. The interruption to service and the fact that this new development has operated for well over three months with no interruptions of more than momentary duration, makes this interruption the more noteworthy. In a similar development, interruptions are expected until weak points in the system have been discovered and eliminated and until the service is completely familiar with local operating conditions. We feel confident that should a similar situation occur again, the interruption to service would only be momentary."

The Mail adds: "The fact is that, as Mr. Smith says, the damage was negligible. Lightning struck the wire at tower No. 11 (from St. Margaret's Bay) about half way between the bay and the city, burning it off. No towers were damaged, and there was little or no damage to the plant. In view of the widespread damage reported in the New England states and other sections, it is considered fortunate in coming through with so little injury to the electrical services."

day and I told her that Mrs. Mills had not returned either. "I asked her who she thought of the bodies that were found around the bodies of Mr. Hall and my wife last Saturday. I also asked her what she thought of the whole thing. She was weeping bitterly and could hardly speak. She said: 'I worshipped Mr. Hall and trusted him absolutely. I still believe in him. He was a fine man, and I thought of him as a man who was never wrong. He could do nothing wrong. His only aim was to help other people. I would trust him more than I would myself.'"

Mills the day before had scouted the suggestion that the letters that were scattered about the bodies of the couple were written by his wife, but later he admitted that she frequently wrote letters to him. "She was fond of reading books of romance," he said. "She very often copied passages from these books that struck her fancy. She used to carry them in her brown satchel, and one day I demanded that she show them to me. They were harmless things, so I forgot about them. It was certain that the letters were mailed. They probably were in her satchel when she left on Thursday evening and jokingly told me that I could follow her if I wanted to find out where she was going."

Mills at this point insisted that he never had discussed with Mr. Hall the frequency with which Mrs. Mills was reported to be in his company. According to Mrs. Hall, before going to the church, she awakened her brother, William Stevens, who lives in the Hall home, and got him to accompany her on the search for her husband. She also said that her brother was with her when she returned home, but the witnesses who first told the authorities of seeing a woman entering the Hall home at 3 o'clock were mistaken.

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YOUR EYES ARE YOUR BREAD WINNERS DO NOT NEGLECT THEM

Your Eyes Are Your Bread Winners Do Not Neglect Them

D. BOYANER 111 Charlotte Street

a.m., said she was alone. One witness is William Phillips, watchman at the New Jersey Electric Power Commission, who lives in the rear of the Hall estate. Agnes Storey, organist in the church, also said that a servant in the Hall house told her that Mrs. Hall left at 2 o'clock in the morning, saying, "He must be dead!"

Mrs. Hall's statement to the authorities disclosed that her husband's church had been paying the bills incurred for an operation performed upon Mrs. Mills at the Middlesex Hospital in New Brunswick last winter and that when the clergyman left his home on last Thursday evening, he said that he was going to the church to attend to "the Mills bills." The operation was of such a serious nature that before undergoing it Mrs. Mills gave instructions for the disposal of her body in case she succumbed.

From what they learned, the authorities were convinced that Dr. Hall and Mrs. Mills had carried on an affair for a long time, and that jealousy was the motive for the double murder. The possibility of the robbery motive has been discarded, although it is considered at least possible that blackmail was at the bottom of it in the sense that the murders were committed when Dr. Hall was resisting somebody who had learned of his intimacy with the woman and was trying to make him pay for the suppression of the information. However, the absence of any signs of a struggle about the bodies, or the place where they were found, leads the authorities to believe that the man and woman were shot by somebody who had crept up from behind and shot them down in revenge for the theft of the love of one or the other.

Arrest Near? New Brunswick, N. J., Sept. 20.—The inquiry into the killing of the Rev. Mr. Hall and Mrs. Mills was centered today in investigating a theory that an abandoned farm house near the spot where the bodies were found might have been used by the slain pair as a trying place. Prosecuting officers were expected to check the arrest of one person on a short warrant charging suspicion of murder.

There is another side of the picture in the arrest of youths, who have lightly been charged with carrying out a criminal life—side of the picture that is familiar not only to policemen, but to attendants in courts and prisons. It is a side of the picture that is asked if there are any friends or relatives he would like to have notified of his predicament. There usually are. Sometimes it is a lawyer who calls at the station, but likely as not it is a gray-haired woman. Word has reached her and she is in a state of confusion. It is in trouble. If it is not a mother, father, sister or brother, it is an emissary bearing a message of hope and cheer.

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BAD COMPANY EARNS YOUITS TO CRIME

A Station House Moralizer Tells How They Often Drift Into Evil Ways.

The prisoner, a boyish, pleasant-faced chap, barely 20, did not appear to realize the seriousness of the situation in which he found himself. He answered the questions first at him by his interrogators in a frank, open manner. He had broken into the house, he told them, more as a lark than anything else, and he had only carried away a few small articles that had taken his fancy. Now that he had been caught, he was sorry, naturally, that he had taken this false step, and he promised them, smiling reassuringly, that he was cured of such foolish exploits, and that it would not happen again. He wanted something to eat and then as though his experience were only a bad dream, and that when he awoke, refreshed, bright clouds would again be in the horizon.

His demeanor was in striking contrast to that of a middle-aged prisoner, who, sitting opposite him, was nervous on a cigarette. The latter—the two were strangers and their cases had on connection—were a worried and shifty-looking man, who had had a black record and the future was not pleasant to contemplate. He had no appetite for food, but his shoulders craved to bow. The youth's frank and glibly recital appeared to bore him. Occasionally he glanced at his companion with an expression of contemptuous pity. When the flogging was led away, he looked relieved. Presently he likewise was escorted to the cell block where he was booked and then placed in a cell.

"You might characterize them as youth and experience," commented a detective on returning from the cells. It will probably go hard with Experience, who is really not deserving of sympathy. He is known as a Dutch houseman, the most desperate kind of burglar. He's done time for half a dozen different offenses and has been mixed up in as many hooding parties. He's the type of desperado who'd shoot you down without any compulsion if you happened to cross him he had the drop on you.

"As for Youth, he appears to be telling the truth. I've seen his kind before and he's a good fellow. He's got all right if he had not allowed himself to drift into bad company. Such lads, in a short time, become lazy and shiftless, and if his state continues very long they drift easily into a criminal life. I get used to seeing all sorts of sights, but I can't get quite used to seeing these lads go wrong. As a policeman, I have always found it a hard duty to lock up a boy who is just coming into full manhood with all the responsibilities of a citizen. I have boys of my own, and I have gone out of my way many times to warn boys to be careful of the company they keep. Some of them get into serious trouble profit by the lesson and thereafter pursue a straight path through life; others, unfortunately, fall back into evil ways and are sent away to prison, where they encounter older and more case-hardened criminals of the type of Experience—the older man who was here."

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HOME OF HAMILTON ITALIAN BLOWN UP

Hamilton, Ont. Sept. 20.—The home of Dienco Napoli, 32 Simcoe street west, was badly wrecked when a heavily charged time bomb, placed at the front door by members of a local Italian Black Legion, exploded here today.

The occupants of the house escaped injury, but the home and surrounding buildings were badly damaged. The second unsuccessful attempt of the gang to take the life of Napoli. When he exploded on Ferris street a bomb was hidden at his front door, but Napoli and his family escaped, although the house was damaged. Detective Harry Sayer, who is working on the case, became certain that the bomb was placed by the gang, and referred to the threatening letters which the owner of the place had received. Napoli himself the slightest doubt that he was the author of the deed, and is unable to furnish the detective with any important information bearing on the case.

Called to the scene immediately after the report, the police found only the remains of the shell and splinters of wood and glass, which were strewn about. Adjoining houses were damaged, windows being broken and curtains and blinds were torn down. Napoli, his wife and two brothers were in the place at the time.

Residents stated that the whole street appeared on fire when the bomb exploded. There was a noise of crashing glass and men, women and children rushed out into the street, crying for help.

At the home of C. Smith, 341 MacNab street, 16 windows were smashed, a window sash was torn from a neighbor's house and carried thirty feet in the air. A piece of wood went through a window at 35 Simcoe street, and landed on a bed where a mother was sleeping with two children. Miraculously, they escaped injury.

Inquiries were made by the police and no one appears to know when the bomb was placed at the home. Apparently, it was not hurled from a motor, as no one heard a machine. It is thought it was put there earlier in the evening and carefully timed. The police are satisfied that an experienced gang are responsible for the trouble.

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PLUNGES 5 STORIES, ONLY BREAKS WRIST

Fugitive Flees to Roof With 150-Pound Bag of Potatoes, Then Leaps Off.

New York, Sept. 20.—Leaping head first off a five-story roof to elude a pursuing produce dealer who wanted an explanation as to why he had carried away a 150-pound sack of potatoes on his back, Sam Couritz, 198 Ridge street, played into luck when a clothes line broke the force of his fall and he received only a fractured wrist and a bruise.

Good fortune followed him again when Harry Chainer of 104 Ridge street played into luck when a clothes line broke the force of his fall and he received only a fractured wrist and a bruise.

On the roof, Couritz dropped the 150-pound sack and ran to the adjoining roof at 134 Ridge street. When Chainer and Cohen reached the roof they were horrified to see the fugitive jump headlong toward the paved court yard below. The two men hastened to the edge expecting to see the lifeless body of Couritz.

Below, Couritz was exhibiting plenty of signs of life and the watchers found the explanation in a clothes line which was oscillating as if it had undergone a strain. Dr. Cleveland of Gouverneur Hospital examined Couritz and said the man had fractured his wrist.

When Detective Cohen asked Chainer if he wanted to make a complaint against Couritz he replied with emphasis: "I should say not! Any man who runs up five flights of stairs with 150 pounds of potatoes, jumps off the roof and escapes serious injury deserves credit. He's too lucky to trial and heavy, was taken to the hospital to have his wrist set."

LONDON'S SENSIBLE ATTIRE. San Francisco Buyer Says British Metro-polis is Proud of Creations.

The strides made by London as a feminine fashion centre during the last few years was evidenced at the Fashion Exhibition at Holland Hall Park, London, according to Miss Jane McMahon, a buyer from San Francisco.

"London is proud of its reputation as the originator of what might be called 'sensible attire,' which it has been steadily building for some time," said Miss McMahon, "and, while for many generations Paris reigned supreme as the creator of everything new in women's wear, now it is Paris that has looked to London for several new types of garment that have been evolved there, and are subsequently copied in the French capital."

"Many American buyers who formerly attended only the Paris fashion openings now also visit the salons in the West End of London to buy model gowns and other articles, and especially sports clothes. The workmanship of tailored things is much better in English attire, and buyers are more and more looking to England for this type, just as they go to Paris for the dressier costumes."

TO FIGHT MOSQUITO PEST. French Scientist Urges Raising of Bels in Pools.

Paris, Sept. 19.—Professor Raphael Dubois, a member of the Academy of Science, states that the best method of destroying mosquitoes is to raise eels in waters infested by the larvae of the insects. The eel, say Dubois, eats almost unlimited quantities which appear to be a special delicacy from his point of view, as the professor found after a long series of experiments, and also by no means despises a full grown mosquito—whenever he can catch one. The eel's voracity for this harmful larvae makes it specially suitable for purifying ponds of stagnant waters which insects use for the purpose of breeding.

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