

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1920

QUIZ REPORTER ABOUT CLARA SMITH

Released After Being Questioned for An Hour

Sentiment is Against Her Arrest—Basketful of Letters Received by County Attorney in Shooting Case.

San Antonio, Tex., Dec. 9. — P. M. Aoss, a local newspaper man who sent out despatches from here saying that he had conversed with Clara Smith, sought in connection with the fatal shooting of Jake L. Hamon, of Ardmore, Okla., was taken into custody by police, questioned for an hour and released.

He was detained at the request of Russell B. Brown, county attorney of Ardmore, who asked that his story be investigated and that he be held as a material witness if necessary.

Ross was quizzed closely as to his statements that he had met the woman after her motor car had broken down near San Antonio, that he had repaired the break and that she had given him a statement. He claimed he had known her for years.

Capt. James Duncan, of the police department, stated that he was inclined to doubt the story of Ross.

He, according to the police, refused to tell the whereabouts of the young woman, asserting he would go to jail first.

Officials said that he declared he became acquainted with Miss Smith while working on a newspaper in Oklahoma. Later, they said, he denied knowing her. After questioning Ross, police officials said they were inclined to abandon the search for Miss Smith here.

The story told by Ross of his interview with Miss Smith, according to police, followed somewhat her statements to E. W. Sullivan, of Dallas, the chauffeur, who drove her from Dallas to Cisco.

Ross, who is an employee of the San Antonio News, said he had heard in a hotel lobby last Saturday that Miss Smith was in San Antonio and through acquaintance during his previous employment in Oklahoma, recognized her. While a companion fired two flat tires on Miss Smith's automobile, Ross said he took her to a nearby farm house and there, he said, she told him she had killed Hamon.

According to Ross, she declared she was willing to face any just judge or any jury of women.

Sentiment Against Her Arrest.

While hundreds of points are being watched in the search for Clara Smith Hamon, there is a pronounced sentiment growing not to arrest and prosecute her for the killing of Jake L. Hamon.

Based on the sentiment heard at almost every turn in Ardmore, and no small part of the State of Oklahoma at large, desires that there be no prosecution. No small number declare that the case should be forgotten and the hunt for the woman stopped.

This feeling does not appear to spring entirely from sympathy, but seems to be based more on a doctrine which finds expression in the oft-repeated statement "Jake is dead now, forget it."

One public official expressed what appears to be the sentiment of the majority of the residents of Ardmore, Okla., when he said:

"Nobody wants to find Clara Smith Hamon except the county attorney."

Evidence of this sentiment is revealed in the number of unsigned letters sent to Russell Brown, county attorney, condemning him for pressing the hunt for the woman.

In many of the unsigned missives the county attorney has been called a coward and names of a less delicate tenor. "I guess the letters I have received would fill a large waste basket," commented Brown, "but I am doing my duty as I see it."

With the search becoming more extensive every hour, there were innumerable reports that Clara Smith Hamon is right here in Ardmore. If she is across the Mexican line, as some believe, there is doubt as to what means can be resorted to in getting extradition.

All the time the search is going forward in Ardmore, or most of it at least, wonders why Clara Smith Hamon does not "come on in."

"Jake said he shot himself, didn't he?" Ardmore is heard to ask time and again.

From newspapers at Cisco, Texas, comes the report that the woman asked three questions of the hotel clerk there. The first was regarding a room, the second was relative to train schedules and the third was for the location of the nearest cafe. A few seconds later she left the hotel. She did not register. She was not seen afterward.

Suicide is being advanced as a theory to account for her disappearance. Her condition of nervous exhaustion when she entered Cisco, with the fact that her trail apparently vanished there, is advanced to support this theory. Another theory is that she was slain and robbed. She was said to have between \$10,000 and \$15,000.

She did not use the railroad ticket purchased by Sallis at the Cisco depot. The ticket stub, saved by the agent, gave its number. That ticket has not been reported by any train auditor.

A Washington despatch to the Chicago Tribune quotes J. F. Watts, general manager of the American Detective Agency, as saying that he was employed by Clara Smith Hamon to determine if he was intimate with another woman. Watts said that Clara Smith Hamon was with Jake Hamon at a Washington hotel a couple of years ago. She went away, and employed Watts to watch Hamon.

"She told me Hamon was sending her out of town and she felt sure he was going to meet another woman," Watts is quoted as saying.

"Her suspicions were correct for the same night she left town, Hamon met another woman and they visited one of the local theatres. After the performance they returned to Hamon's room at the hotel. We prepared for Clara Smith Hamon what would be considered absolute divorce evidence in any state in the Union."

EDITORS SENTENCED

Belfast, Dec. 8.—Directors Martin Fitzgerald and Hamilton Edwards of the Freeman's Journal of Dublin, who were found guilty on Monday of "spreading a false report intended to cause disaffection," were today sentenced to six months' imprisonment and fined 500 pounds sterling each.

Do You Count the Cost of Your Tea?

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The duty on tea coming into Canada from British possessions is 7c. per pound, and 10c. per pound from other countries.

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IMPERIAL JEWELS OFFERED FOR SALE IN DUTCH HOTELS

Traffic Has Been Continuous Ever Since Armistice Was Declared.

The Hague, Dec. 9.—For those acquainted with the backstairs methods of the sale of smuggled pearls and jewels, the news of wholesale smuggling of Imperial Jewels from Germany has come as no surprise.

Ever since the armistice there has been continuous traffic of this kind. Americans who appear to have a good bank balance are approached surreptitiously by hotel porters offering fabulous bargains. Diamond tiaras and ropes of pearls are thus hawked about by hotel porters, who were mostly engaged during the war in espionage on hotel guests. Secret meetings are arranged in isolated villas at Scheveningen. Beach the main stipulation being that the original owners remain unknown.

The expected death of the ex-Kaiser has brought to the front intensely interesting stories of her sacrifices, financial and otherwise, immediately following the revolution in Germany. Many of her jewels were disposed of secretly by the ex-Kaiser's faithful privy councillor, Kogge, who made numerous trips to Scheveningen, finally selling the jewels to an American who, however, was unaware of their origin. Not only prominent Germans, but also German diplomats travelling in Holland, are said to have engaged in this traffic.

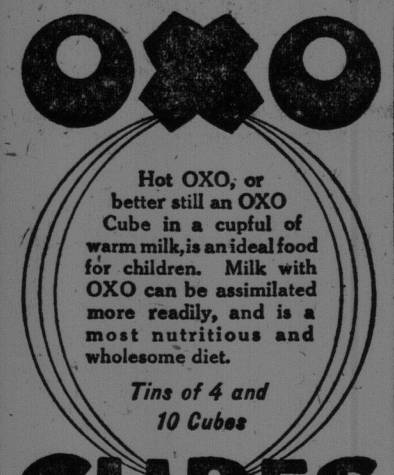
Her Kogge, who formerly managed the Kaiser's sixty-two castles, has rendered invaluable service to the Hohenzollerns ever since the revolution and himself told to the correspondent how he went to Berlin Castle in a taxi after the revolution and salvaged the Imperial family treasure there. Marthes guarding the castle first attempted to stop him, but, on recognizing Kogge, allowed him to enter, thinking he only wanted business papers. Kogge finally drove off in the taxi with trunks filled with jewels, decorations of the ex-Kaiser and many securities, the whole being so full he was obliged to sit on the roof on top of the luggage. A few shots

were fired at the councillor as he drove off, but no more serious attempt to stop him was made.

Prince Eitel Friedrich some times travels incognito, third class, and has been known to arrive at Doorn laden with a knapsack.

Herr Erberberger, who is on good terms with the ex-Kaiser, spent a few days at Amerongen with him during the time he was Finance Minister.

Herr Krauser, formerly Prince August Wilhelm's private secretary, who now has a position in the German Ministry of Finance, spent from November, 1918 to April, 1920 at Amerongen. He was said to be arranging the ex-Kaiser's new house, but in reality he was busy with the former War Lord's "inveves. All the ex-Kaiser's money is said to have been in von Gonthard's name.



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DESCHANEL WILL STAND FOR SENATE

Ex-President Announced as Candidate at Next Election in France.

Paris, December 8.—Ex-President Deschanel will be a candidate for election to the French Senate as one of the representatives of the Department of Eure et Loire. This rumor has been current for some days, but now it has been confirmed by M. Deschanel himself. With the consent of his doctors and on the advice of his friends he has consented to re-enter political life. His doctors make only one condition, that he shall not take part in the election campaign. They demand that for some weeks more he remain quietly in a sanatorium at Malmaison, after which they declare he will be completely restored to health and able to take up his senatorial duties.

Even the doctors declare that the Ex-President has made a wonderful recovery. All signs of the nervous crisis, from which he suffered last summer, they say, have disappeared, and he is again a well man, although care will be needed for some weeks more to prevent any overstrain.

During the months at the sanatorium M. Deschanel has gained in weight and has every appearance of bodily robustness. In intellectual power he has never suffered and is now allowed to resume his studies and reading. If, as is almost certain, he is elected, there will be two ex-Presidents—Poincare and himself—in the Senate, an event which has never before occurred.

MRS. HARDING ENTERTAINED AT TEA BY MRS. WILSON

For the first time within the memory of the oldest attaché of the White House in Washington, a first lady of the land entertained Monday a next first lady of the land.

Mrs. Florence Kling Harding, wife of the President-elect, was the guest of Mrs. Edith Bolling Wilson, wife of the President, at an informal tea for two at the executive mansion late Monday afternoon. Mrs. Wilson met her guest in the front hall and escorted her to the Blue room, where tea was served.

After Mrs. Wilson and Mrs. Harding had chatted awhile, they walked about the White House through the Green and Red rooms and the state dining room over which Mrs. Harding will be called upon to preside after next March 4.

Harding did not meet the President, who had retired to his study on the upper floor to read, nor was she shown over the White House kitchen.

Mrs. Harding prepared to depart after spending an hour with her hostess and had progressed as far as the front doorway when Mrs. Wilson suddenly recollecting details of the White House household organization which she had forgotten to impart, invited her back and they withdrew again to the Blue room, where they talked for another 30 minutes.

Upon leaving the White House, Mrs. Harding remarked that she had had "a very pleasant visit indeed."

Mrs. Wilson's invitation to have tea at the White House was received by Mrs. Harding in the forenoon and she immediately accepted. After leaving the Capitol and before going to the executive mansion she called on a number of friends.

BATTLE WITH A MOOSE.

(Frederick Gleason.)

George Hinton, of Donktown, one of the best known hunters' guides on the Miramichi, had a remarkable experience with an infuriated bull moose on the wonderful presence of mind, Mr. Hinton closing day of the hunting season, news of the thrilling incident being received here only today.

Mr. Hinton, it appears, had shot a very large bull moose, a veritable monarch of the forest, and, believing it was about dead, turned away to look at six other moose a short distance away when suddenly the huge animal, wounded and

helpless as he believed, sprang to its feet and charged the lone hunter.

The infuriated bull tried every way to lash him with his horns, at the same time kicking at him with both his forward and hind feet. However, with the wonderful presence of mind, Mr. Hinton grabbed the antlers and thereby held himself so close to the animal's head that it could not gore him with its horns nor kick him with its feet. In that position Mr. Hinton was rushed through the thicket until the woods became so thick that the moose, because of the great size of its antlers, could penetrate no further. Then, freeing its assailant, who was

very too pleased to part company with it, the animal turned and fled, leaving Mr. Hinton much bruised and with two ribs broken, but able to make his camp that night, thankful for his miraculous escape from death.

The medical health officers of the province met Hon. Dr. W. F. Roberts, minister of public health, and Dr. G. G. Meister, chief medical health officer for the province, in an all-day conference in the government rooms, Prince William street, yesterday. Matters relating to the work of the department were considered.

—Seventy Year Plate—

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