

# ADMITS KILLING GIRL THEN ENDS HIS LIFE

**Helmuth Schmitt Lets Iron Bed  
Crush His Skull in Cell  
of Michigan Jail.**

## MATRIMONIAL 'AD' HIS LURE

**Slayer Confessed Burning Body of  
Augusta Steinbach, Whom He  
Decoyed from Here.**

*Special to The New York Times.*

DETROIT, Mich., April 23.—Helmuth Schmitt committed suicide in his cell at the Highland Park jail this afternoon, shortly after he had confessed that he burned the body of Augusta Steinbach of New York, whom he lured to his Royal Oak home through a matrimonial advertisement in a New York newspaper.

Kneeling upon the floor of the cell, Schmitt brought down a heavy iron bed, suspended from the wall, upon his head, the edge of the ironwork smashing his skull. Sergeant Filmore heard the sound of the blow from his desk in the jail, and, rushing into the cell block, found Schmitt lying upon the cell floor. Filmore called Prosecutor Gillespie and Dr. Crowe, but Schmitt already was dead.

All through a long examination today in which he confessed that he had cut up and burned the body of Miss Steinbach, Schmitt pleaded with the officials for time. His story that the woman took poison when he refused to leave home with her was shattered by the officers, who succeeded in bringing out many conflicting points which made them confident that Schmitt had killed the girl. Schmitt finally put his arms

on Prosecutor Gillespie's shoulders and promised to make a formal confession to a stenographer, in which he intimated there would be still further disclosures if the officers would let him have luncheon. He was accordingly taken back to his cell, and was left kneeling upon the floor, apparently in prayer.

### Confession by Schmitt.

Schmitt's confession was made before Prosecutor Gillespie and Sheriff Cross of Oakland County, Chief Seymour of Highland Park, and deputies and detectives. He said that he took the girl to his home in Royal Oak when his wife and daughter, now held in the Pontiac jail, were away. He declared he made love to her, and that she wanted him to run away with her. When he refused to leave his family, he asserted, she went into another room and took poison. Officers tripped him on whether the girl repulsed him. Once he said she fought with him; at other times he said she did not.

"She wanted me to leave my wife," said Schmitt. "She was crazy. When I refused, she went into the side room and took poison."

Miss Steinbach died within fifteen minutes, according to Schmitt, who said he hid the body under the porch where the stained clothes were found. The body was there for several days, he said, until his wife again left the house, when he cut it up and burned it.

Schmitt's confession also included the fact that he got his first housekeeper through a want advertisement in the Staats-Zeitung of New York. This woman disappeared about the time Schmitt moved from 418 Glendale Avenue, Highland Park, to the Royal Oak bungalow, according to the officials.

### Girl Was Servant Here.

It was learned yesterday at New York Police Headquarters that Augusta Steinbach, who was murdered by Herman Schmitt, an engineer, living in Royal Oak, Mich., worked as a housemaid in the home of Edward Heidelberg, at 38 West Fifty-fourth Street, in this city, until her departure for Detroit on Feb. 2, 1917, to meet Herman Neugebauer, who is supposed to be Herman Schmitt, with the intention of marrying him. It was said at Mr. Heidelberg's home yesterday that Miss Steinbach had been employed there for several months. She left the house of Mr. Heidelberg on Feb. 2, 1917.