

WOMAN RESPONSIBLE FOR FATAL RESULT IN HUCALACK CASE

Coroner's Jury Returns Verdict, Naming Russian's Wife as Slayer

STORY OF PERSECUTION

Chief Coroner Graham's jury yesterday found that Peter or John Hucalack came to his death on January 3, at 678 Danforth avenue, as a result of bullets fired from a gun in the hands of Pearl Levine or Pearl Hucalack. Because of the doubt as to which of the men, Levine or Hucalack, the woman is married, the jury described her under both names in the verdict. They also gave Hucalack both the Christian names by which he was known.

The woman accused of the shooting sat in the room throughout the entire inquest proceedings. She was interested, but apparently did not feel the seriousness of the crime with which she is charged. The evidence of the various witnesses told of continuous struggle and the turbulent domestic life of this young Russian woman, who, according to the testimony of the police officers, shot Hucalack twice as he lay in his bed. One bullet penetrated the heart and the other the brain. Having kept pressing the trigger of an automatic revolver aimed at Hucalack until it jammed, the young woman then ran to the telephone and informed the police of her crime. When the police arrived at the scene she handed them the revolver and told them she was afraid that he meant to kill her, her three children and Louis Levine, father of the children.

Story of Domestic Tragedy.

There was a mild sensation when counsel for Mrs. Levine, or Mrs. Hucalack, asked that Louis Levine be given protection of the court, as the defense contended that he was the husband of the woman. The Coroner promised protection. Levine said he lived at 1162 Danforth avenue, and had known the woman since she was nine years of age, and her name then was Pearl Schurkowitz. He said he had married her in Vilna, Russia, the ceremony being performed by a Rabbi. He said he had no documents to prove the marriage. He had brought her to Canada as his wife with two children, and a third child was born in Canada. He said he married her about 14 years ago, when she was 17 years of age.

He had first heard about Hucalack two years ago. He had made a trip to the Morality Department with Hucalack and the young woman. At that time Hucalack had threatened Levine. However, for the sake of the children, Levine said he had made a home in Hamilton for his wife. He had also provided the place at 678 Danforth avenue. He left there just before Christmas because his wife told him that Hucalack was coming back and he had better "watch himself." He had gone to his sister's place. His main thought, he declared, was to give his children a home.

Threats From Hucalack.

He declared that his wife had told him that Hucalack had told her that if she did not go back to him he would kill her and the children. He also told of his wife being in St. Michael's Hospital, and he thought it might be necessary to send her to an asylum, but a doctor had stated that a rest would make her well again. At St. Michael's Hospital he had been threatened by Hucalack to stay away from the woman.

Coroner Graham, in addressing the jury, said that he was much impressed with the story told by Levine. It was apparent that the woman had been persecuted, but there was no evidence that she had actually suffered any harm from Hucalack before the occasion of the murder.

To the police on the day of the tragedy the woman said she was the wife of Hucalack, having married him in Montreal. Whether this was an actual marriage or a mere ceremony has not yet been proved. The police said that the woman seemed anxious to tell everything about herself down to the most minute details. She said she had had tried to shoot Hucalack a third time, but the gun stopped. In firing the revolver she hurt one of her fingers. She also told the police that while in Buffalo Hucalack had wanted her to lead an immoral life.

The jury was out about 20 minutes arriving at its verdict.