

# MAY BE IN THE LAKE.

## POLICE INCLINE TO THAT THEORY FOR HERMAN SCHAFFNER.

**Charles Holter Tells Capt. Shea That He Saw the Person Who Took the Boat and Jumped into the Water Off Lake View Shore Friday, and That the Baker's Picture Is of That Man—Mrs. Schaffner in Terrible Suspense—Financial Affairs of the Bank.**

Herman Schaffner is the man who jumped into the lake off the Lake View shore Friday night, if the story told by Charles Holter, No. 691 Racine avenue, told to Capt. Shea yesterday morning at detective headquarters, is to be credited. Holter declared that he was almost positive that the man who hired the boat at Diversey avenue was the missing banker. He declared that he recognized Mr. Schaffner's picture in the papers. Peculiar circumstances surrounding the case made him almost absolutely certain of his statement. When shown Mr. Schaffner's photograph the young man said that the man whom he saw hire the boat was somewhat older in appearance but that the features were identical. This may be due to the fact that the picture in possession of the police was taken some time ago.

According to Holter's story the man seemed to be wandering aimlessly about. Finally he hired the boat. When he got into it he seemed to handle the oars like a novice.

During the afternoon Capt. Shea sent for the two young sons of the missing banker. First, Walter, who is 14 years of age, was taken into the Captain's office. Two hats were placed side by side, one of them being that found in the boat.

"Did you ever see your father wear either of these hats?" asked Capt. Shea.

"Yes, I think I have," the boy replied. "This one looks much like his," and he pointed to the hat taken from the boat. "Of course," he continued, "I might be mistaken, but I don't think I am."

The other son, who is 16 years of age, could not positively identify the hat and was inclined to believe his father had never worn it. He conceded also that he might be mistaken. Others who were acquainted with the banker thought they were certain in their identification of the hat.

Capt. Shea bases his theory that Mr. Schaffner is in the lake on these circumstances and also on the fact that up to the present time no one has been reported missing with the exception of the banker. Mr. Schaffner has been missing since Friday, the night the unknown man hired the boat in Lake View.

### A Reward Offered.

Mr. Schaffner's friends last night decided to offer a reward for any information that may lead to his discovery. The following letter explains itself:

To the Chicago Press—Gentlemen: Will you please state through the medium of your several papers that the friends of Mr. Herman Schaffner offer \$500 reward for any reliable information leading to his discovery if living, or the recovery of his body if dead? Yours truly,

JACOB NEWMAN,  
Chamber of Commerce Building.

Attorney Jacob Newman, who knew Mr. Schaffner intimately, said last night that he considered Holter's story plausible.

"He told it in a straightforward way," he said, "and did not contradict himself on an exceedingly rigid examination. I was at the Central Station today when Capt. Shea was questioning him, and it appears much as if the man who rented the boat Friday was Mr. Schaffner. Holter told me that he was standing near him when he asked the price of a boat by the hour, and he was greatly impressed by the man's actions. They were those of one demented, he thought. And when we showed him Mr. Schaffner's photograph he identified it beyond any doubt. I am inclined to believe him."

At Mr. Schaffner's residence on Wabash avenue yesterday afternoon there was a card over the bell asking visitors not to ring. A young man, who said he was a friend of the family simply, came to the door. He was visibly affected, and his red eyes and swollen eyelids indicated that he had been on watch for a long time. He answered questions asked him in a husky voice, almost choked with emotion, and frequently had to stop to wipe the tears from his eyes.

"The sum and substance of it," he said, "is that Mr. Schaffner must have lost his reason between 1 and 1:30 p. m. Friday. There is no other way to account for it. If it had not been for that nothing would have happened to the bank."

"You have absolutely no news or trace of him?"

"None whatever."

"How about the hat supposed to be Mr. Schaffner's that was found in that boat?"

"That is being looked into fully, but I do not see how it was possible for him to get to that boat landing."

"How is Mrs. Schaffner?"

"She is in a terrible state of prostration and unless something is done to end this wretched suspense one way or the other it will kill her."

"How is Mr. Becker?"

"He is completely prostrated, too, and nearly as badly off as Mrs. Schaffner. His grief and anxiety are terrible to witness, and we have to keep both of them entirely secluded and watch them constantly. It is a horrible thing, all this uncertainty and suspense."

Gilbert B. Shaw, President of the American Trust and Savings Bank, the assignee of Mr. Schaffner's bank, said last night:

"From all that I have been able to learn in the examination I have so far made it was as fair and honest a failure as I ever knew. I think myself that Mr. Schaffner went away with a broken heart because he could not meet his obligations. There has been no conference of bankers today, as far as I know, and there is nothing for them to take care of. The lower part of the safe was found on examination to be locked and no one but Mr. Becker had the combination. We consequently were unable to tell what securities were inside, and Mr. Becker has been so far unable to be present. I went down to see Mr. Becker today and found him so prostrated that he could tell me little. I asked him about the street railroad stocks they were reported to have on hand. He said all the street railroad stocks they had had been disposed of as far as he knew."

### Levy Mayer Talks.

Levy Mayer of counsel for the assignee said he had just finished a conference with three bankers on the Schaffner matter.

"These bankers hold 8,600 shares of street railway stock, which was pledged to them to secure loans. They can sell it, if they wish, under the collateral clause, and the conference was to determine the advisability of holding it or throwing it on the market. Of course the security is ample for the loans made and none of the banks of the city, I may say, are out \$1 on the Schaffner failure, being amply secured, but the question with them is simply on the advisability of throwing these shares on the market. They certainly have not decided as yet to market their stock."

"As far as we have gone we have found the failure to be perfectly honorable. We thought for awhile Saturday afternoon that something had been discovered that was at least questionable. People were telephoning and telegraphing us from all over the city and country to return them their notes, some in large amounts, which had been sent to Mr. Schaffner in the ordinary course of business to dispose of. We could not find them anywhere and feared for awhile that they might have been hypothecated and not reported. However, we finally found a large pocketbook in which every note, as far as we know from the inquiries made, was placed in alphabetical order."

"The Deibel failure of 1890 has also come into the Schaffner case," Mr. Mayer continued. "There was about \$100,000 owing Schaffner by Deibel which Schaffner secured. We contested his right to it in court. The final decision by Judge Collins was that he would tie up the money in the receiver's hands, but direct him to deposit it in Schaffner's bank. This was done and this money was carried by Schaffner as an asset. The decision of the Appellate Court denies Schaffner's right to the money, so that there is another \$100,000 to be accounted for, though presumably it may be reckoned now among the deposits, which are about \$750,000."

"When will you have a more accurate statement of affairs?"

"Probably Monday night. We should know by then."