

DREDGING THE LAKE.

SCHAFFNER'S FRIENDS MAINTAINING THE THEORY OF SUICIDE.

One Link Added to the Chain of Circumstances Leading to the River—Plenty of Cash Found in the Bank's Vaults—Claims He Was in Racine—He Was Said to Be Looking for Summer Lodgings—First Demand on the Chicago Subtreasury for Gold.

All the developments in the disappearance of Banker Herman Schaffner lend stronger color to the theory of suicide which is held by his friends. These insist that when the dragging of the lake at the foot of Diversey street is completed that Schaffner's body will be found and not till then. Inspector Ross and his officers are a unit in advocating the suicide theory. Thus far but little has been heard which would lead to the belief that Schaffner is living. John A. Strong insists that he saw him Friday afternoon on Washington street at 5 o'clock. Strong says that he was returning from the World's Fair and met Schaffner near Dearborn, going slowly toward Clark street. Strong did not speak to him nor attach any importance to the incident until the following day when he learned that the bank had failed. He says:

"Mr. Schaffner was walking along in a leisurely way and appeared in no way agitated. He was dressed in black, wore no overcoat, and wore a black Derby hat. There was no possibility of my being mistaken. I have known Herman Schaffner for too many years."

James Rosenthal thinks Mr. Strong was simply mistaken, as it is not probable only one man should have noticed Mr. Schaffner within a block of his business house at a time when all his friends were looking for him. Oscar Friedman denies the story that he went to Central Police Station and reported that a Mr. Wilson had seen Mr. Schaffner on Milwaukee avenue. He does not know any man by the name of Wilson who ever claimed to have seen the missing man.

From the bank to the river at the foot of Diversey street, and even out upon the waters, the trail of the missing man is perfect. As to the condition that Mr. Schaffner was in when he left his bank Friday afternoon every employé agrees.

After Schaffner left his home he was seen by John Andrus, the boat man, and his son Peter. He was seen going in the direction of their boat-house by Charles Holter of No. 697 Racine avenue.

To have reached Andrus' boat-house, from which Holter claims to have seen Schaffner rowing in a boat, the missing banker must have taken a car. This missing link was supplied yesterday by Charles W. McClelland, an electrical light worker who lives at No. 18 Lincoln place. McClelland knew Schaffner well. He had put in the incandescent light plant in Schaffner's bank and had seen him every day for a fortnight. He was on a Wells street car and when at Illinois and Wells streets, when the train slowed up, he claims Schaffner got on the rear car.

Holter says the man he saw appeared nervous and excited. He paced about the pier while waiting for the boat. His rowing was poor, one oar being used and then the other. The man appeared to have been in a boat before, however.

Schaffner was not a good oarsman, although he had been in boats often, and had a trick of paddling his way along as Holter described. It was on this information that the police engaged James McMillen and Frank L. Hall, dredgers and divers, No. 3 Illinois street, to drag the lake. Sweeps covering an area of 500 yards were made but no additional evidence was found. The work of dredging the lake will be resumed this morning.

Mr. Becker of the firm of Herman Schaffner & Co. was at the bank all day yesterday. The money vaults were opened and disclosed \$50,000 in cash. A statement of the bank's condition will not be ready for two or three days yet, but there is absolutely nothing developed to indicate that it is anything but an honest failure.

The Martin Emerich Outfitting company has brought suit in the Superior Court against the banking firm of Herman Schaffner & Co. for \$12,000. The suit is brought to recover \$9,200 deposited in the bank before it failed. The question of the validity of the assignment will be made prominent in the suit.

Judge Scales yesterday issued a citation against the members of the banking firm of Herman Schaffner & Co., insolvent, at the instance of Barney Manzheimer. An affidavit was presented to the court by the petitioner stating that he is a creditor of Schaffner & Co. to the extent of \$125, and therefore desired their appearance in court to submit to an examination concerning their business. The citation was made returnable at 10 o'clock this morning.

The Sheriff of New York yesterday received two attachments against Schaffner & Becker, brokers and bankers of Chicago, who assigned Friday last, in favor of the following creditors: Benjamin Levy & Co., \$12,000; Lewis Ettinger, \$1,572. A Deputy Sheriff served copies of the attachment on the American Exchange National Bank, where the defendants are supposed to have an account.

RACINE, Wis., June 5.—[Special.]—It is claimed Herman Schaffner, the missing Chicago banker, was in this city last Saturday afternoon. At 2 o'clock a man called at the residence of Mrs. Beswick on Main street and inquired for board for himself and family for the summer. In his remarks it was noticed that he talked rather disconnectedly. Mrs. Beswick asked him his name and business. He said that his name was Herman Schaffner of Chicago and that he was in the employ of the government. He departed without having made any arrangements, and said he would call again. Mrs. Beswick mentioned the circumstance to others in the house, who thought that perhaps it might be the missing banker. A newspaper picture was shown to Mrs. Beswick, and she said that it resembled the man who made inquiries for board. Where he went after leaving the Beswick residence is not known. A hackman noticed the same man take a train to Milwaukee that evening, and said he acted queerly at the depot.