

# PLUNGED TO A WATERY DEATH

## Suicide of Aged Mrs. H. A. Smith on Account of Despondency.

Mrs. H. A. Smith, widow of Representative Smith, committed suicide last night by jumping into the river from the Morrison-street bridge. Despondency is given as the cause.

The body was recovered this morning and removed to J. P. Finley's undertaking rooms.

For 25 years Mrs. Smith had threatened to end her life. There has been much unhappiness on her part and some of her friends say that her mind must have become weakened. Her age, 64 years, no doubt contributed to this condition.

She left the home of her son, Benjamin F. Smith, 415 Prescott street, at 8 o'clock last evening, telling Mrs. Libbey and Miss Libbey, the only persons of the household at home, that she would return in an hour or two. On going a block away she met a little girl named Olmstead, and sent her for a wrap. Then she boarded a car and got off at the bridge.

The watchman spoke to her while she was apparently waiting for the draw to close, but he soon went to the other end and paid no further attention to her movements.

She climbed down the steps leading to the draw rest, laid her pocket-book, the

wrap and hat on a chair, and jumped into the river.

Nobody saw her, and it was not until 5 o'clock this morning, when her belongings were found on the draw rest, that it was suspected some one had committed suicide. Her pocket-book contained a note to the effect that she was about to end her life. Her name and address were given.

The police notified the son, who had searched for her in the night among her friends, thinking she might have arranged to spend the night away from home, forgetting to notify any one. But little attention had been paid to her threats of suicide, and her relatives did not think she was serious in her threats of self-destruction.

The body was found floating at the steel bridge early this morning. There have been no arrangements made for the funeral. She leaves three sons and one daughter: Benjamin F. Smith of this city, W. C. Smith of the Locks, Emery H. Smith, a musician, and Mrs. Dora F. Towle of Minneapolis.

Mrs. Smith had resided at her son's residence since her husband's death.

An inquest will be held this evening.

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