

THREE OF HIS WIVES DIED IN THEIR BATHS

**George Joseph Smith Charged
in London with Murder—
Got Money from Each.**

NO TROUBLE WITH CORONERS

**Verdict Always "Accidental Death"
—Smith Finally Arrested for
Using a False Name.**

LONDON, March 23.—George Joseph Smith was charged by Public Prosecutor Bodkin in the Bow Street Police Court today with murdering three of his wives, the crime in each case being committed shortly after he had married the woman.

Each of these women was found dead in her bath. Consequently the case has come to be known as the "Erides in Baths" case.

Smith has described himself as a man of independent means. According to the evidence of Scotland Yard, which has been inquiring into the deaths of these women, Smith made use of various fictitious names in his matrimonial ventures. The women he married were found dead a few days after the ceremonies. Verdicts of accidental death were returned, but now some of the bodies have been exhumed, with the result that the charges of murder have been preferred.

The Public Prosecutor gave the names of the three women and the dates of the alleged murders as Beatrice Mundy, July, 1912; Alice Burnham, December, 1913, and Margaret Lofty, December, 1914.

Smith, according to the police, was born in London, the son of an insurance agent, and is 45 years of age. He was married, according to the evidence given at the preliminary hearing today, under the name of John Lloyd, to Margaret Elizabeth Lofty at a registry office at Bath in December, 1914. The couple came to London the same day, and the next morning the bride was found dead in her bath, her husband calling in a doctor, who reported the matter, as a result of which an inquest

was held. The jury brought in a verdict of accidental death.

In February, information having reached the police that Lloyd was not the husband's name, he was arrested and identified, the police say, as George Joseph Smith, who in November, 1913, had married at Portsmouth Miss Alice Burnham, who a month later also had been found dead in her bath. In this case, too, a Coroner's Jury brought in a verdict of accidental death.

The police also have had the body of another woman exhumed. This woman, who also died in her bath shortly after her marriage, at Herne Bay, was married to a man who gave the name of Henry Williams, and who is believed by the police to be George Joseph Smith.

Prosecutor Bodkin said the accused had been married five times in all. His first wife was Caroline Beatrice Thornhill, whom he married in 1898, and who was now on her way to London from Canada.

"The prisoner will now be charged with the murder of three of these five women," Mr. Bodkin continued. "The case is remarkable for the greed for wealth which was the dominant motive in the taking of these three lives. We shall show that at the death of two of them £2,800 (\$14,000,) was obtained, and that the prisoner when arrested was in a fair way to obtain £700 (\$3,500) more." The Public Prosecutor related how Smith had ardently courted each woman and had obtained from each a will making him the sole legatee.

"In the death of these three women precisely similar circumstances existed," Mr. Bodkin went on. "Each was found in her bath; each died of drowning, and each was first discovered by the prisoner."

The prosecutor said he considered it remarkable that the prisoner had been able to face the Coroner's Juries untrapped after each death, and that he should only at the last have been brought to court on a technicality regarding the use of a false name in an application for a marriage license.

Three Companies of 7th Reviewed.

A review and battalion drill of Companies F, E, and A of the Seventh Regiment, N. G. N. Y., was held last night at the Seventh Regiment-Armory, Park Avenue and Sixty-sixth Street. Former First Lieut. Thomas C. Wiswall of Company F reviewed the battalion. All the reviewing party were veterans of the Seventh Regiment, the majority of them having served ten years or more. A dance followed the review.