

GILLETTE A PRISONER

Charged with Murder of Girl Drowned in Lake.

SAYS DEATH WAS ACCIDENTAL

Tells Vague and Conflicting Stories, and Authorities Expect a Confession that He Deliberately Killed Grace Brown, His Sweetheart—Girl's Condition Explains Motive for the Crime.

Special to The Washington Post.

Utica, N. Y., July 14.—Chester Gillette, of Cortland, N. Y., was arrested at Arrowhead, in the Adirondack Mountains, to-day and charged with the murder of Miss Grace Brown, daughter of Frank Brown, of Otselic, N. Y., whose body was found in Big Moose Lake on Thursday. Gillette is now in the Herkimer jail, where he arrived at 7:30 to-night.

Gillette has been fully identified as the man who accompanied Miss Brown upon the boat ride which ended in her death. He is charged with premeditated murder. He stoutly denies he killed the girl, but his stories are conflicting and vague and circumstances are arising hourly which the Herkimer County authorities say indicate his guilt in such a positive manner that they look for a complete and early confession.

Possible Motive for Murder.

The post-mortem examination was made to-day. While no official information was given out, it is known that the medical examination showed that the girl was alive when her body entered the water, although she may have been stunned; that the blows upon her face were caused by blows from a man's fist; and that the girl was in a delicate condition, which may have been the motive for taking her life, if she was murdered.

The grip and the camera, which Gillette had with him when he left Big Moose were found at the hotel where he was arrested. They were perfectly dry, and had not been touched by the water in any manner. If they were in the boat which was occupied by Gillette and Miss Brown, and there had been an accident, he at least saved them from harm by the water, while the girl sank.

Gillette had reached Eagle Bay in the night—that is, Wednesday night, after he went out on the lake with the girl. The next morning he crossed to Arrow Head Inlet on Fourth Lake, and had been waiting there ever since. On Thursday Gillette telephoned to some one in Cortland, his home, asking that some money be forwarded him at once to Eagle Bay. He had but a small amount of change on his person when he was arrested.

His Story of the Tragedy.

Of the tragedy on the lake the prisoner said this afternoon that he stood up in the boat to get his hat, and that the boat suddenly tipped over, throwing both of them into the water. Gillette says that he did not want to get too close to the girl for fear that she would throw her arms about him and drag him down. He shouted to her, he says, to hang on to the boat. The boat, he says, turned over again; she went down as it did so, and did not come up again.

The prisoner's clothing does not indicate that he had suffered a wetting in the lake, and the further fact that his suit case and camera have been found dry and undamaged is taken as a fairly positive refutation of his story about the boat having upset, nor does he explain why he tramped miles through the woods and sought to escape detection by traveling all night through unfrequented paths to the inlet.

Couple Much Together.

Mr. Brown says that for several months Chester Gillette has been paying his daughter attention. He is the son of wealthy parents, who live in Michigan, and a year ago he came from Seattle, Wash., to Cortland to the skirt factory of his uncles, the Gillette brothers, to learn the skirt business. He met Miss Brown in the workroom and was attracted to her immediately. She liked him, and they have been much together.

In a recent conversation with Gillette by telephone, Miss Brown was heard to accuse him of being false to her, and to demand that he keep some promise.