

WOMAN DRIVEN BY SHAME TO SUICIDE

New York, March 20.—Shamed and humiliated by her arrest for smuggling jewels, Mrs. Blanche M. Carson, 50 years old and socially prominent in San Francisco, hanged herself today.

Last night she fled from the Hotel Wolcott, where she had been living since her arrival from Europe, last Monday. She registered at the Hotel Broztell, Fifth avenue and 27th street, and got a room on the eighth floor.

All night long she brooded over her disgrace and the loss of her jewels, worth \$20,000, which were confiscated by the government. Then she tied one end of a trunk strap to a radiator in her room, put the other about her neck, and jumped from the window of her room.

Occupants of the Knickerbocker apartments opposite saw her body, swaying from side to side, and notified the management of the Broztell hotel.

The body was recovered. It was still warm, but the smuggler was quite dead.

Mrs. Carson arrived on the steamer George Washington last Monday. When questioned by the customs officers, she declared that she had a few loose pearls, which she had purchased in India, and for which she had paid about \$800. She said that these pearls were all the dutiable articles she had with her.

The government experts examined the pearls. They laughed at the valuation of \$800, and de-

clared them to be worth about \$10,000. The pearls were sent to the appraiser. He valued them at \$7,500.

Mrs. Carson was called to the office of Surveyor Henry, and questioned. After a lengthy examination, she broke down and wept.

"I bought the pearls in India," she said. "I paid about \$8,000 for them. I did not want to pay duty on jewels so valuable. So I lied.

"I smuggled in other articles of jewelry, too. I had two diamond earrings hidden in my hat, and other diamonds in my clothes and in corners of trunks."

Surveyor Henry confiscated all the jewelry, while Mrs. Carson wept. Then she asked if she could go.

"You are under arrest," said Henry.

Mrs. Carson was taken before U. S. Commissioner Carpenter in Jersey City. He fixed her bail at \$2,000. She gave a letter of credit on a London banking firm for one thousand pounds (\$5,000), and was released.

She went directly to the Hotel Wolcott, and packed up her things, which she ordered taken to the Broztell. She followed her belongings, and sat up all night, thinking of her disgrace.

A search of her effects at the Broztell revealed \$1,240 in cash, and a sheaf of letters addressed to prominent residents of Pacific Coast cities. There also was a letter for the attorney who had helped her in the smuggling case, Harrison Osborn. It read: