

HOU TRIES TO BOLT FROM GERMAN JAIL

Dog Betrays ex-Washington Professor Serving Life Sentence for Killing Mother-in-Law.

HAD WIRE LADDER READY

German-American Whose Self-Confessed Crime Drove Wife to Suicide Was Convicted in 1907.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

BERLIN, Jan. 7.—Karl Hau, the German-American lawyer, once professor in George Washington University, Washington, who is undergoing a life sentence at the Bruchsal Penitentiary for the murder of his mother-in-law at Baden-Baden in November, 1906, attempted, but without success, to escape last night.

Hau, together with a cellmate, contrived to conceal himself in the storeroom of the prison between 5 and 6 o'clock, when the convicts were taking their evening walk.

It was their intention to climb over the stone wall surrounding the penitentiary in the dead of night with the aid of a woven wire ladder which had already been put in place.

Neither of the men had been missed from his cell during the entire evening, and it was not until 3 o'clock in the morning, as the night watchman was making his rounds, that his dog, scenting traces of the convicts, led the watchman to the spot where the prisoners were crouching in the darkness behind some wickerwork. Hau and his companion are now doubly guarded.

Hau's trial attracted a great deal of attention in this country as well as in Germany, where on the day of the verdict, the jury had to be escorted from the courtroom by a corps of mounted police. Hau was born in Germany about twenty-eight years ago and comes of a distinguished family, his father being a member of the Reichstag and his mother a Baroness. At the age of 19

he married Lena Molitor, six years his senior, who brought him a dowry of \$50,000. A few months after their marriage Hau and his wife settled in Washington, D. C., where he took several degrees at the Washington University and later received an appointment to the chair of Roman law there, being admitted also to the bar of the District of Columbia and practicing his profession successfully. In 1906 Hau, his wife and their three-year-old daughter were in Europe at the villa of Frau Molitor in Baden-Baden. Hau had lost a great deal of money in an oil speculation in Turkey and his attempts to borrow from his mother-in-law were in vain. One morning he set out with his wife and daughter ostensibly for Washington, but at Frankfort sent his wife and little girl ahead on a plea of business there. Then, by means of a telephone message, he lured Frau Molitor to a lonely street in Baden-Baden, where he shot her in the back.

He was arrested in London, whither he had fled, and later extradited to Germany. Inquiry showed that his wife's dowry was gone and the woman, in June, 1907, committed suicide by jumping into a lake near Pfaeffikon, Canton of Zurich, Switzerland.

After the suicide, Hau made a full confession to the German police authorities, but at the trial his plea was insanity.

MOSES MAY AND WIFE DYING.

Banker and Mrs. May Unaware of Each Other's Serious Condition.

Moses May, one of Brooklyn's best-known citizens, was reported at his home, 265 Jefferson Avenue, last night, to be in a dying condition. A member of his family said he would probably not live twenty-four hours.

In another room in the house Mr. May's wife lies on her death bed. The family physician expressed the fear last night that she would not live more than three days.

Neither the dying wife nor husband knows of the serious condition of the other. Mr. May took to his bed a week ago with a complication of diseases. His wife, who had been ill for several years, was already bedridden. Each is attended by a nurse, and the same physician waits upon both.

Mr. May is 77 years old and has been connected with various financial institutions in Brooklyn, among them the Bushwick Savings Bank, of which he is President. He has been identified with many charities.