

WEALTHY BROOKLYN MERCHANT A SUICIDE

**Joseph Mathers, 62, Shoots
Himself Following Proposal
to Dissolve His Firm.**

PHONES TO BROTHER-IN-LAW

**Fires Bullet Through Brain Soon
After Wife Leaves Home to
Visit in Manhattan.**

Worried over a proposal to dissolve the cotton goods firm of which he had been a member for many years, Joseph Mathers, 62 years old and a wealthy Brooklyn clubman, yesterday committed suicide by shooting himself in the right temple in the Chatelaine apartment hotel, Dean Street and Bedford Avenue. Before he sent the bullet through his head the merchant telephoned to his brother-in-law, Frederick J. Wells of 40 Heights Road, Ridgewood, N. J., requesting him to call at his apartment as soon as possible as he wanted to "discuss business of importance" with him.

Mr. Wells arrived soon after 3 o'clock, and found a note on the door which read: "Come in; door unlocked." Mr. Wells told Thomas Peters, Assistant District Attorney, a friend of the family, that when he entered the sitting room of the suite, he saw his brother-in-law apparently asleep in a chair.

As he started to arouse the merchant, he said, he noticed a pistol lying on Mathers's lap. Then he discovered that the merchant had shot himself. Mr. Wells then learned from the hotel management that Mrs. Caroline Mathers, wife of the merchant, had left the hotel about an hour before to visit friends in Manhattan. A neighboring physician, summoned by the hotel clerk, said the merchant's death had been instantaneous.

While awaiting the arrival of Mr. Peters Mr. Wells found a note on a table. Mr. Peters said it merely requested his brother-in-law to take charge of his business and personal affairs.

Mr. Mathers was a member of Mathers, Butler, Pfaffmann & Co., 100 Worth Street. Mr. Peters said neither Mrs. Mathers nor Mr. Wells was able to advance a motive for the suicide, except that within the last few days members of the firm had decided to liquidate the affairs of the company and dissolve partnership because of the business depression. Mr. Mathers was said to have repeatedly expressed regret over the decision, but never gave the slightest intimation that he intended to end his life.

Mr. Mathers was a member of the Lincoln Club in Brooklyn, and for many years was prominently identified with the cotton goods business in this city. The Chatelaine Hotel, in which he resided for many years, was in one of the most fashionable sections of Brooklyn, overlooking Grant Square and opposite the Brooklyn Union League Club.

Mrs. Mathers said that when she left her home her husband was in seemingly cheerful spirits, and discussed arrangements with her for a trip to their Summer home at Reading Ridge, Conn., on July 1 next.

Dr. Charles Wuest, Assistant Medical Examiner, after examining the body, said the merchant had shot himself in the abdomen before he sent the bullet through his head. The wound proved to be a superficial one, however.

Mr. Peters said Mrs. Mathers told him her husband some time ago obtained a permit to keep the pistol for protection against robbers.