

## **William Albert Smootz** **(1874 - 15 Mar 1919)**

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*The Evening Star, March 15, 1919, p. 2*

### **Worry Over Income Tax Causes Man's Suicide**

#### **William A. Smootz, Railroad Engineer, Shoots Himself at Home on I Street. \**

Worry over the labor involved in figuring on his income tax and financial losses are said to be among the causes for William Albert Smootz, a railroad engineer employed in Potomac yard, ending his life with a pistol at his home, 606 I street southeast, this morning.

"I'll never live to pay my income tax another year," he remarked shortly before leaving his wife and going to a bedroom on the second floor and shooting himself through the head.

Mrs. Smootz told Detective Berman her husband threatened many times to end his life and also to kill her.

This morning Smootz paid his insurance dues, returned home and handed her the receipt, something he never had done before, and when his wife said she did not want it, she stated, he said it would do her good. A few minutes later he shot himself.

Mrs. Smootz said her husband had an income of something more than \$2,000 and she earned money taking boarders. Her husband, she further stated, was interested in the distribution of money from an estate near Fishers Hill, Shenandoah county, Va., where he formerly resided.