

## **NARCOTIC AGENT HELD ON CANADA'S CHARGES**

### **Warrant Obtained by British Consul in Texas Accuses Officer of Border Killing.**

HOUSTON, Texas, Feb. 16 (AP).—Fred H. Mertz, Federal narcotic agent, was arrested here last night on charges of murder, kidnapping and theft of an automobile preferred by the Canadian Government.

Judge J. C. Hutcheson Jr. of the Federal District Court released Mertz on his own recognizance after his arrest.

The warrant, which was sworn out before United States Commissioner Brantly Harris by Frederick William Paris, British Consul for Texas, alleges that Mertz killed Amedee Bilo-deau of Sherbrooke near the Canadian border in the district of St. Francis, in Ontario. It charges also that he kidnapped Robert Andrew Price of the same town and forcibly removed him from Canada. Another count charged that he stole an automobile owned by Mrs. Adelphine Begin of Sherbrooke.

The government agent said the charges were an outgrowth of his work in conjunction with Canadian authorities in 1925 in an attempt to prevent smuggling of narcotics across the border.

Three men, he said, suspected of being narcotic smugglers engaged the agents in a gun battle. One of the men fell, wounded fatally. Another escaped, and the third was arrested and placed in jail, Mertz said. An automobile containing a quantity of narcotics was seized, he added.

Mertz said Carro Bacarro, a special narcotic agent, was arrested in Baltimore Feb. 2 in connection with the same case.