

BARNEY, THE MILLIONAIRE, VICTIM OF HIS OWN FOLLY

Started and Ended Career With Enormous Wealth and Died by His Own Hand—Why?

Belonged to New York's Most Exclusive Set, and Family Was Prominent in the "Smart Set"—Some Say Tragic End Was Caused by Remorse Over Financial Downfall, and Others That He Was Threatened With Divorce Proceedings—Dictated Will While Dying in Wife's Arms.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
New York, Nov. 18.—The story of Charles Barney is a lurid enough for any reader of highly-fictional. All the elements for the sensational novel, or drama, of so-called "high life" are there—the millions with all that they can give—great affairs and big enterprises—the family—society—financial—passions—the villain and the woman. They are all in the story, and they all contribute to the fact that Barney is dead, and dead because he wanted to be dead.

If any one of these constituent facts had been lacking, perhaps Barney would not have killed himself. But it was the conjunction of circumstances, the knotting of the tangled threads, that caused this man to end his life with a bullet, when he was still not old, still healthy, and still could have had \$3,000,000 with which to face the world, if he had closed every obligation.

Barney was big and handsome. He had always been rich. His father left a fortune of several millions. He followed the usual course, went to college, got married and went in to "finance." He married a sister of William C. Whitney. He became the father of two sons and two daughters. He became a member of most of New York's best clubs. Besides his business interests he cultivated the artistic side of life, to some extent. He was much interested in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, in the theatre, and in the opera.

Belonged to Exclusive Set.

He belonged to the connoisseur set of the very rich. On his business side he was autocratic, yet popular. He was known as one of the most important of the Wall Street bankers, yet had a reputation for helping others. He was popular with many, disliked by some, and extremely distrusted by a few. Some of his gigantic operations in real estate—and they were gigantic—are said to have come pretty close to the line between honesty and dishonesty.

But Barney was successful. "Everything came his way," as one of his old time friends said today. His family grew and prospered. The Barney box at the opera was among the first described. The Barney "functions" were sought after in "society." The Barney girls flitted on the crest of the social wave, and married happily. The Barney financial enterprises waxed fat, although some of the old fogies shook their heads at the extravagance.

A year ago his estate was carefully and conservatively appraised at \$8,000,000. Even today, after the cataclysm and with the great shrinkage in values, it would realize nearly \$3,000,000 at forced sale. With all the talk, there was no criminal prosecution pending against him, nor, as a matter of fact, had he brought himself within the pale of the criminal law. Why, then, did Barney shoot himself?

Endorsed Millions for Morse.

Among those who know much about the matter is Chas. W. Morse, who until recently owned, among other things, the steamboats that came from Boston and tied up at St. John. A. Foster Higgins, who succeeded Barney as president of the Knickerbocker Trust Company, gave public voice to this view today. Mr. Higgins, in the course of a most remarkable interview, said today:

"On the examination of papers we find that Mr. Barney endorsed for that man Morse to the extent of millions. The man Morse induced Mr. Barney to enter into a number of schemes. Paper of Morse endorsed by Mr. Barney can be found in several places."

"Morse bought a block of Knickerbocker Trust Company stock, thinking he could get into the directorate of the company. He was ambitious to become president, and Mr. Barney was willing that he should be elected to the board."

"As I understand it, Mr. Barney told that man Morse that he had no objection to him, but that the other directors regarded Morse as a dangerous man. In later days Morse pursued Mr. Barney like a malignant enemy."

"I know that Mr. Barney was seriously troubled over the entanglements of that man Morse and Higgins. Although he was not a God-fearing man, he was a loyal man. The Knickerbocker Trust Company owns nearly all the stock of the Western Ice Company."

The present financial crisis, although due to general conditions, was precipitated directly here by the suspension of the Knickerbocker Trust Company. That suspension was the action of Chas. W. Morse, although Morse and Barney were supposed to be close and fast friends, and identified in many instances.

A Woman in the Case.

Then there is the woman. She is the wife of a man who is very well known in New York and has held a high public position. It went on for years, and was common gossip in "the set." Occasionally one of "the social publications" printed an obscure paragraph about it. Only ten days ago the reference made was very marked, with the assertion that Mrs. Barney, now that her daughters were married and settled, had determined to bring suit for divorce. This the family attorneys today strenuously deny in her behalf. It is declared that Mr. Barney had been lavishly generous. It is further more declared that in the hour of his financial distress he found a rival, where he least expected it.

It was in his wife's arms that Barney died. For nearly two hours before the end came his lawyers were busy in the room drawing up a will. Barney dictated the document a little at a time and signed it before he died. The contents of that will should be interesting. It had previously been said that he did not regain consciousness, but his attorneys this afternoon told the story of the dying man's will.

Morse Mourns Barney.

While President Higgins was holding up C. A. Morse as the villain of the piece, that gentleman was seen at his home, and this is the account given:

"The head of the Ice Trust looked like a man who had not slept all night. His

eyes were red and his face was lined with new wrinkles. In a voice that came very near to the breaking point more than once he said: 'Charles Barney's death may be laid at the feet of his late fellow directors in the Knickerbocker Trust Company, who betrayed him. It was a broken heart that killed my friend. The bullet in his body was merely the incidental cause.'"

"Charles Barney made the Knickerbocker Trust. He built it up from a comparatively small \$1,000,000 concern to a great institution with deposits of \$700,000. Every man on the board became a director at his invitation. After those very men had forced his resignation he became listless and wall-lashed himself to all that passed about him. I saw him often, but try as I could, I could not arouse him to even a show of interest in anything."

"No man could have felt more lonely or more bitterly the position into which he was thrust by his betrayers. For I tell you Charles Barney followed the cleanest kind of business methods, all his life he was a scrupulously honest man. If ever one lived, and absolutely fair in all his dealings with everyone."

"It has been suggested," said the reporter, "that Mr. Barney was directly under your influence and that many of his recent heavy losses might be attributed to the fact that he took your advice."

"As a matter of fact," said Mr. Morse, "it was generally the other way. I relied greatly upon Mr. Barney's judgment. In our really dark, which were uniformly successful, I usually deferred to him and was guided by his advice."

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The interview given by Mr. Higgins, the well known merchant and financier, successor to Mr. Barney as president of the Knickerbocker Trust Company, referred to the above as most extraordinary. Among other things President Higgins said: "Mr. Barney was not a God-fearing man. He could not live happily because his life was not moral. He lived a lie to his wife and children."

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RADCLIFFE HAS HANGED 200 MEN

Public Executioner at Hopewell Cape, Speaks of Himself and His Position

VIEW OF HIMSELF IN PUBLIC EYE

Says Only Fools and Ignorant People Cast Reflections—Looks at Work of His Office as Requiring Expert Knowledge—Once Intended for the Church But "Was No Hypocrite" and Gave It Up.

Radcliffe, the public executioner, after carrying out the sentence of the law on Thomas F. Collins at Hopewell Cape yesterday, left Saturday for the west, where he is to act at another execution. While at Hopewell Cape, Radcliffe was induced to talk about himself and his position, though he would not answer some direct questions bearing on the matter. He showed no disinclination to talk, however, when not an object of morbid curiosity.

The public executioner is a man about 52 years of age and of medium height, thick set and from the great muscular development of his arms, chest and legs probably taller than he looks. In weight, by his own statement, he would turn the scale at 220 pounds, dressed in a dark, tweed suit and cap, with a turn down collar, he might be taken for his appearance for an ordinary man of business. A fund of anecdote in his command and he is fond of a joke. His face is ruddy in color and he possesses a pair of restless brown eyes. A well kept brown mustache and a few white hairs in the temples, he speaks very rapidly with a pronounced English accent and he rarely stops to give an explanation of anything. He walks with a swinging gait reminiscent of his sailor's life in younger days.

Was to Have Been Clergyman.

Of English birth and parentage, Radcliffe said he came to Canada some twenty-five years ago. Speaking of his youth, he mentioned that he was at first destined to enter the church. "I was no hypocrite," went on his explanation, "and I gave it up." Then some years of his life were spent as a sailor, and the army also claimed him for a while. He has much to tell of his adventures in his earlier career was spent in China and Japan. And here it may be noted that he is an adept in the art of jiu-jitsu.

While possessing a fairly memory for dates and figures, Radcliffe said since his appointment to his present position, he has successfully conducted more than 200 executions. He kept no count, he protested, and could not tell the exact number. His estimate was that the executioner is believed to have been in 1883, when the notorious J. R. Burchell was hanged at Woodstock (Ont.). Radcliffe recalled the occasion when standing at some of Collins' rather crude crayon work, remarking that Burchell was a much better artist. He added in the plan was arranged for the directors to reimburse their stock.

"Mr. Barney said to me: 'I am down and out. I am sorry the company is in such a hole. I have done all I could for it. Now I am unable to put up a dollar.'"

"Is it possible," I asked, "that you are in as deeply as that?"

"Yes," he replied. "I am in pretty deep."

"Mr. Barney went on to tell me how much he had lost for the Knickerbocker Trust Company, and how proud he had been of the institution. However, I will say that had Mr. Barney lived I do not believe he could have helped to any extent."

"All we can hope to raise by the reorganization is \$2,400,000. What the company needs is a strong financial man at the head, who can bring to the position support and confidence. The Morgan interests have not as yet made any overtures to assist us."

"If I had known the situation and the condition of things all around it, I would never have accepted the presidency of the Knickerbocker Trust Company."

One of the big enterprises projected in New York in the last few years was the James Henry Smith, who died on his wedding tour in Japan, was once Stanford University, and was another; Chas. T. Barney was the third.

NORTH SHORE BRANCH LINES INSPECTED

Local Government Commission Likely to Complete Work This Week.

T. M. Burns, M. P. P., of Bathurst, who with Gilmour Brown, C. E., was appointed on a commission by the local government to inspect the branch railways of the province, arrived in the city on Saturday after visiting the lines in the northern and eastern parts of New Brunswick.

The inspection will be completed this week. In conversation with a reporter last evening, Mr. Burns said the commission has inspected the International road, on which thirty-two miles of rails were already laid, and the roadbed completed for a further twelve miles. Other railways gone over were the Carleton & Gulf Shore, the Kent Railway, the New Brunswick & P. E. Island railway from Sackville to Cape Tormentine, and the Salisbury & Harvey road.

Mr. Burns said he was surprised to find how, in all sections, traffic had increased during the last few years. Several of the railways were paying and efforts to improve the roadbed and bridges were much in evidence. On the Salisbury & Harvey branch, as an example, a fine steel bridge below Salisbury had been built and the track was being renewed with sixty-pound rails.

The commission will continue the inspection this week. The Hampton & St. Martins branch will be gone over today, to be followed by trips over the Beersville road, the Elgin & Havelock, and the York and Stanley branch of the Canada Eastern. It is expected the work will be finished by Saturday next. Miss Pauline White, stenographer, accompanies the commissioners.

Men are plenty now.

Radcliffe cut will be less.

Saturday's Frederick Gleason says: In the Gleason yesterday reference was made to the lumber cut for the St. John river this season and the total amount was placed at 80,000,000 feet. This season very little more than 100,000,000 feet—and that believed to be a very generous estimate—was cut in the St. John River Log Driving Company this season. The statements issued from the eastern provinces to the effect that lumbering operations would not proceed this winter.

Predicts High Lumber Prices Next Year.

Friday's Montreal Star says: "Financial conditions are responsible for the lumber situation in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, the relation of the banks to the business and the price of supplies. It is a direct cause of lack of operations." Mr. George Scott, a member of the Laurentian Lumber Company, told the business men that the price of supplies was the cause of the lack of operations. The price of supplies was the cause of the lack of operations. The price of supplies was the cause of the lack of operations.

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MADE LUMBER CUT MAY BE HEAVY

Estimate Now That 700,000,000 Feet of Spruce Will Be the Output

LESS ON RESTIGOUCHE

Operators Plan to Take Out Only 60,000,000 This Season—Quebec Lumbermen Predict High Prices For All Dimensions Next Year.

(Associated Press.)

Bangor, Me., Nov. 18.—There will be 700,000,000 feet of spruce logs cut in Maine this winter according to a general estimate. On the St. John, the output will be 200,000,000 feet of the Penobscot and nearly two-thirds of that river. The remainder will be cut on the waters of the Kennebec, Androscoggin and the streams tributary to the three above named rivers.

On the west branch the cut will amount to about 110,000,000 feet. Of this amount about 90,000,000 feet will go to the Great Northern Paper Company.

On the St. John, the operation is to be a large one this season. The St. John Lumber Company will cut 45,000,000 feet; W. H. Cunliffe Sons will cut 15,000,000; Stetson, Cutler & Co., 6,000,000; Neil McLean, 4,000,000; and Andre Cushing & Co., 12,000,000.

With the exception of the cut of the St. John Lumber Company, most of the cut on the St. John goes to the Canadian market. The Ashland Manufacturing Company will cut about 15,000,000, the Aroostook River. It will take nearly 11,000 men to cut the three or four hundred million feet of logs which will be cut in this section of the state.

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CHAMBERLAIN PAYS IN SECOND THOUSAND

Money Handed Over Saturday Completes Cash Contribution Agreed On

Audit of Municipality Accounts and School Board Books Likely to Be Made; David Willet Probably Will Be City Teller; Permanent Auditor Not Settled On.

On Saturday the chamberlain paid over to the city \$1,000, which, with the \$1,000 received by the city previously, completes the amount of his cash contribution towards the deficiency discovered in the books of the department. The transfer of his life policies and house property was made ten days ago.

It is understood that the work of auditing this year's accounts will not be completed for another week or more. No further irregularities which will result in increasing the sum already involved have been discovered.

There is said to be a strong feeling among members of the treasury board that the audit should not stop short at the chamberlain's department but that the accounts of the municipality and school trustees should also be thoroughly overhauled. This suggestion is not put forward with the idea that any irregularities exist but to investigate the system of bookkeeping with a view to possible improvement.

Since the announcement that a teller and permanent auditor were to be appointed to the chamberlain's office, numerous applications have been received at city hall and the aldermen have been subject, it is said, to a constant canvas from the would-be applicants.

It is generally believed that David Willet, who is now senior in the office, will be given the position of teller. The position of permanent auditor still remains open. The responsibilities of the office will be considerably increased if a proposal that under the new system the auditor should sign all checks, as well as the teller and the mayor, is adopted.

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