

Mr. Barnes

of Albany

By
C. P. CONNOLLY



CHARLES E. HUGHES was Governor of New York. The race-track bill was to come to a decisive vote the next morning. No one knew just where William Barnes, Jr., the Albany boss, stood. Senator Grattan of Albany County had told his friends he would support the bill; he could not afford, he said, to place himself under suspicion of being a grafter; he had promised his family he would vote for the bill; any other course would be political suicide. Late that night the door bell of the house next to the Albany residence of Barnes rang softly. The master of the house himself opened the door. He recognized the tall figure of Senator McCarran, the Democratic boss of Brooklyn. "Hello, Billy," McCarran whispered, as he faced the street and glanced hurriedly up and down for possible spies. "I think you've made a mistake, Senator," said McCarran's unexpected host. "You want the house next door."

The next morning Senator Grattan got word to vote against Hughes and the race-track bill. He told his friends he had begged Barnes to spare him the humiliation, but that Barnes was deaf to his entreaties.

SUCCEEDS "BOSS" PLATT

AFTER he left college, Barnes acquired the Albany "Evening Journal," formerly owned by his grandfather, Thurlow Weed. Like his grandfather, he began ostensibly as a reformer, and, like him, has ended in an alliance with the worst and lowest elements of Albany. He defeated D-Cady Herrick, the local Democratic boss, by a nonpartisan pretense of "honest elections and the elevating of politics." After the election, one of Barnes's reform supporters said to him: "The gambling element and the dive keepers were against us. We will put them out of business." "Oh, no, we won't," answered Barnes; "we'll make them be with us."

Barnes is the successor of Thomas C. Platt as the Republican boss of New York State. He controls the city of Albany through a regiment of officeholders, national, State, county, and city, and through a partnership with a sort of political Camorra, perhaps the worst band of dive keepers of any city of its size in the country. Albany is a fence for the worst criminals of New York City. Barnes is the most successful combination of university graduate and strong-arm politician in public life. He is one of the few men of his birth, rearing, and education who have conformed successfully to the lowest level of politics. He is head and shoulders in ability over the men he rules. He is dominant and tyrannical—fertile in ideas and brutal in his execution of them. He has quarreled with practically every Republican Governor of New York of his time, notably with Hughes, Odell, and Black. At a festive gathering in Albany, during his fight with Governor Odell, Barnes in a speech parodied Tennyson's lines:

*Governors may come, and Governors may go,
But Barnes goes on forever.*

SQUANDERING PUBLIC MONEY

BARNES was heard to say years ago that he had \$250,000 invested in the Republican party of Albany. The city of Albany has paid that debt of the Republican party to Barnes, with loan-shark interest. In addition, it has invested at least a million dollars in Barnes, with but glimmering prospects of ever realizing ten cents on the dollar. The debt of Albany has increased forty-six per cent in the last seven years, and is still increasing. The city has not increased in population during these seven years, and no public work of any magnitude has been done. The total debt of the city is at present about four millions of dollars. The city has on deposit in favored banks, in which the Mayor and other city officials are directors, large amounts, on which the city receives two and three per cent interest, while it pays on its own bonds four per cent interest. The bank balances of the city in these favored banks average close to a million dollars. One illustration will suffice to account for the large indebtedness of the city. A few years ago the city officials paid \$7,000 for a piece of property, and immediately leased it to the Albany Yacht Club for fifty years for the nominal rental of one dollar a year.

There is a brick street pavement, built at the expense of the taxpayers of Albany, from the heart of the city out to the country club and to Barnes's country bungalow. Two hundred and twenty-five feet of this pavement extends beyond the city limits. For two miles, on the north side of this paved avenue, there are seven

dwelling houses, and on the south side there are fourteen dwelling houses and an ice house. Forty thousand dollars of bonds were authorized by the city council for this Boulevard de Triomphe, dedicated to the convenience of Barnes and his friends. The boulevard might have been paved with some other substance than brick but for the fact that one of Barnes's henchmen is a stockholder in a brick plant, and Barnes, being a Harvard graduate and a classical scholar, follows the Roman custom of dividing the small spoils among his camp followers. "When the leader has taken from the spoils what he wants," reads the report of the Special Committee of the New York Senate, appointed to investigate the city and county of Albany, "the residue is parceled out, by a kind of rude natural justice, among his subordinates, from the highest to the lowest, in varying amounts, as the leader, with or without the advice of his associates, designates."

The State law required a petition for an improvement of the kind this brick pavement was, to be signed by persons owning not less than one-third of the number of feet on both sides of the road. It was useless to try to get the consent of these property owners; so the bonds were voted by the city council without them. These bonds were bought at public sale by the National Copper Bank of New York City. The attorneys of the bank discovered the flaw, and the bank refused to take the bonds.

Thereupon, the City Comptroller, contrary to law privately sold part of these and other like bonds to the Albany Police Pension Fund, of which fund he was the treasurer; and what was left he sold to Charles H. Gaus, the State Comptroller, who was Barnes's Mayor of Albany at the time the bonds were voted, for the State Canal Debt Sinking Fund.

A JUICY PARTNERSHIP

JAMES B. McEWEN is the present Mayor of Albany. He is the president and, with the members of his family, controls one-half the stock of the McEwen Coal Company. Practically all the coal used by the county of Albany is purchased from this company. In addition, the company receives ten cents a ton royalty on all coal sold by all other coal dealers in Albany which passes through the McEwen Company coal pockets. The Mayor is also a stockholder and director of the Helderberg Cement Company, which furnishes the cement to the contractors who do city work. He is also a stockholder and director of the Municipal Gas Company, which supplies the city with gas and electricity. Former Commissioner of Public Safety Edward B. Cantine, lately resigned, was also a director of this company. McCarran, the Brooklyn Democratic boss, was a stockholder in this concern. Mayor McEwen is a member of the City Board of Contract and Supply, the other members of which board are appointed by him. This board makes the contract with the Municipal Gas Company.

As a stockholder in the gas company, the Mayor does not give himself any short bargains. The city pays six cents per kilowatt hour for 15,000 or more kilowatt hours per month; the individual consumer pays three cents per kilowatt hour for 15,000 or more kilowatt hours per month. Certain manufacturers buy direct from the Hudson River Electric Company (which furnishes the power to the Municipal Gas Company) for three-quarters of a cent per kilowatt hour. The gas company pays the Hudson River Electric Company for the current used in the arc lights of the city \$12.50. The gas company charges the city \$82.22. The same light costs the private consumer \$35. At the end of the fiscal year 1910, the Municipal Gas Company had a surplus of two and a half millions of dollars, while paying ten per cent dividends on a capitalization of two millions.

The Mayor is also vice president of the B. Payn's Sons Tobacco Company, which furnishes the tobacco to the Almshouse, whose inmates, if one were to judge by the amount and cost of sales, are the most inveterate con-

sumers of high-priced tobacco. This tobacco company also enjoys a monopoly of the trade of the Tenderloin. The Republican leader of the Second Ward of Albany has a monopoly of all the beer sold in the Tenderloin district. It was disclosed last winter before the investigating committee of the New York Senate that another one of Barnes's ward leaders, who was also a county jailer, not only rented brothels in the Tenderloin district, but that there was for this district, all under the control of the Barnes ring, an official procurer, an official furniture dealer, an official plumber, an official carpenter, an official painter, and even an official scrubwoman, and that there was a private entrance from one of the city fire houses into an adjoining brothel. The Tenderloin furnishes hundreds of illegal votes at each election.

THE ALBANY LINCOLN LEAGUE

THIS district in Albany is one of the vilest in the country. It covers acres in the heart of the city. At one time it aroused the wrath of the clergymen of Albany.

There are factories in the district employing hundreds of young girls. One minister, whose congregation was made up of poor people, said that constant complaints came to his ears from the mothers of these girls, who were not only compelled to witness scenes of revelry, but who, on their way to and from work, were accosted and lured to these resorts. Answering the complaints of the clergymen, Barnes, at a Republican dinner, said he did not believe in interfering with "innocent pleasures."

Even the courts are among Barnes's political assets. Governor Hughes appointed a Supreme Court judge in Albany to fill an unexpired term. The judge was independent. Barnes refused him a nomination to succeed himself, and nominated and elected in his place the attorney of the New York Central Railroad. There is but one foe to criminals in Albany. He is the Police Judge, John J. Brady, a Democrat whom even Barnes cannot defeat; and, as if to clip his power, there is a State law by which the criminal in Albany, alone of all State criminals, can say to the judge of the Police Court: "I will not let you try me. I prefer Barnes's man Frost"—and over to Frost's Recorder's Court the criminal goes and is turned loose. Frost is a law partner and relative of Luther Warner, former chairman of the Republican County Committee of Albany County, at present Collector of the Port of Albany, and secretary of the Albany Lincoln League, which was organized by Barnes when the Corrupt Practices Act was passed. William P. Hoyland, County Treasurer and Republican leader of the Fourth Ward, is president of this league. The members have never attended a meeting; so far as any one can learn, there has never been a meeting of the league. It is composed of clerks, policemen, firemen, and other city employees and officials. The dues are three per cent of the annual salary of each member. Under the law, these employees could not contribute to the Republican County Committee. Barnes used the name of Lincoln to legalize these contributions.

BARNES'S JURY SYSTEM

THE Barnes organization does not stop at the judges on the one hand or the Tenderloin on the other. It runs through the entire system. The jury system in Albany County is as much a part of the Barnes organization as the Lincoln League or the County Committee.

The jurors in Albany County, grand and petit, are selected by high-up members of the ring. The jurors themselves are made up of Republican officeholders and ex-officeholders, and of men who vote the organization ticket but who pose as Democrats. Of the 150 grand jurors residing in Albany in 1911, 122 were enrolled voters; 100 of these were Republicans, and 22 Democrats. Out of 25,859 votes in Albany there was a difference of 750 votes between the Democratic and Republican parties at the last Presidential election. Of the 17 grand jurors from Cohoes, 12 were public officeholders and ex-officeholders.

Of the 171 trial jurors, 57 were officeholders, ex-officeholders, or relatives of officeholders. The names of these jurors are handed in by the ward leaders. No one is indicted whom the ring does not want indicted; and when indictments are returned, they are held over the heads of men and dismissed upon compliance with

the demands of the ring. George Addington, the present County Judge of Albany County, was, prior to his election as judge, the District Attorney of Albany County. On December 19, 1907, just before retiring as District Attorney, he dismissed, without explanation, 465 indictments against alleged offenders. There are now pending in Albany County upward of 850 indictments. Six hundred and sixty-one of these were found prior to the election of the present District Attorney. The law requires these indictments to be filed in the office of the clerk of the county, while the bonds for the appearance of defendants are required to be filed in the office of the clerk of the court. But the District Attorney has a different rule. All indictments and bonds are filed in his office. He explains that this has been the custom in Albany County. Besides, he says, the indictments are not safe in the County Clerk's office. When asked particularly about the pigeonholing of these indictments, the District Attorney said that it was a good way to control a defendant. The votes of the 850 individuals now under indictment in Albany are sufficient to turn any election in Albany one way or another.

JUDICIAL METHODS IN ALBANY

BLACKMAILING by indictment has been a common thing in Albany. A certain woman who kept a disorderly house was indicted for abduction. She had been paying for protection for her house. The indictment was pigeonholed, but the woman ordered to leave town. Timothy Kerwin, a prominent member of Barnes's ring, who was introduced to the woman by a sergeant of the Albany police, and who had collected the protection money from the woman, admitted that the pigeonholing of the indictment was brought about through his friendship with George Addington, now county judge, then District Attorney. The woman was induced to deed to Kerwin valuable real estate, on the pretense that the property would be looked after during the enforced absence of the woman. She did not get the property back. Kerwin claimed that the woman owed him some money. Kerwin had endorsed the note of Addington for \$500, and Addington did not dismiss this indictment with the other 465 when he went out of office.

One or two instances of how criminals are protected under the Barnes system may be cited. One "Honkus" Burns runs a disorderly dance hall in Albany. It is a fence for criminals and their loot from other parts of the State. He was running his place without a State ex-

cise license. The State Excise Commissioner sent his men to close up the place. While they were confiscating the liquors, Burns walked in. At his signal the doors were locked and the lights suddenly extinguished. Liquor bottles began to fly. The excise men made for an open window. One of them was under the care of a doctor later. One hour after the place was raided it was running full blast.

Burns was charged with resisting an officer. Recorder Frost turned him loose on the ground that the excise agent had not personally gotten the order to confiscate the goods, but had sent a lawyer to get it.

ROBBING THE STATE

BURNS had a partner named "Barney" Reilly. A colored horse trader turned up in Albany. The Tenderloin gang learned that he carried several thousand dollars on his person. Reilly and another man visited the horse traders' camp on Manning Boulevard, outside the city, late one night. The neighborhood was aroused by cries of "murder." Mounted police rode up. They caught Reilly and his pal running away. They had the negro's blood and his money on them. The identification by the negro was positive. Burns was acquitted. His pull with the ring saved him. Instances like this are not uncommon in Albany.

But the criminal side of life is not the only graft that exists with the sanction of Barnes's ring. Catherine Grimes, a very old lady, died in a cheap lodging house in Albany. Although she was apparently a pauper, the house belonged to her. She left no relatives. It was discovered that she had deposited in Albany banks at the time of her death sixteen thousand dollars. Owen J. Malone, an undertaker and a prominent member of Barnes's ring, took possession of the body and the house. He got appointed administrator of the estate. The contents of the house were inventoried at \$21.10. Mrs. Grimes's personal effects were listed by the administrator as "one lot of old clothing (junk) of the value of ten cents, and underwear and two towels in bureau drawer, of the value of five cents." Malone put in a bill of \$1,381.56 for funeral expenses. He charged \$850 for a "solid mahogany casket, lined with satin, honey-combed, and silk pillow, and oxidized extension handles, with engraved plate," and \$250 for a "burglar-proof metallic grave vault." He dressed the corpse in a black silk dress, for which he charged \$90. A doctor, William S. Bristol, another Republican and a "friend"

of Malone's, presented a bill for \$1,066 for six years' services, although another physician, who had been paid for his services during the lifetime of his patient, testified that he had attended Mrs. Grimes during the same period. A tenant of Mrs. Grimes presented a bill for an even \$1,000, although she had paid her monthly rental to Mrs. Grimes regularly without deduction. The tenant testified for the doctor and the doctor testified for the tenant. Malone paid George Addington, now Barnes's county judge, for legal services, \$750. He paid John J. McCall, another lawyer and prominent member of Barnes's ring, \$5,700 for some other legal services. He paid another lawyer and member of the same ring \$250 for looking after the interests of "unknown infants." A Deputy Attorney General, who appeared on behalf of the State, was allowed, contrary to law, \$2,200 for his services, although drawing a salary from the State at the same time. This Deputy Attorney General made no objection to the bills. If he had, he would not have received his \$2,200. And Barnes's judge allowed these claims. He did reduce the bill of the tenant of Mrs. Grimes \$500, though why, unless she was a woman and did not have any political influence, or unless there was not enough to go round among the lawyers, does not appear.

One or two instances out of dozens of direct political graft may be cited. Thomas J. Cowell and George Cowell, stationers, furnish the stationery supplies to the city of Albany. One of their graft methods is to render bills for stationery for the individual aldermen, which are audited and paid by the city. No stationery is furnished. Instead, the amount of the bill is distributed in cash to each alderman, share and share alike.

MUNICIPAL GRAFT

THE law requires that all work done and supplies furnished to cities of the second class, in amounts over \$250, shall be awarded, after public bidding, to the lowest bidder. This might exclude some of the ring, who are usually not cheap. Work and materials were, therefore, ordered, aggregating thousands of dollars annually, by dividing up the work and material in job lots, the bills presented all being under \$250. These orders for the same kind of work or materials are all given to the same persons. If the city bought \$20,000 worth of horse feed, it bought the feed in lots less than \$250, on orders given to the same firm. Five thousand dollars' worth of pig lead was bought in twenty lots of \$250 each. Under this arrangement, there is no limit

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His Wife: "It seems to me, dear, that the drawing is just a trifle exaggerated — er — that is — of course — unless it's meant to be funny"



It isn't the Price

—that, for more than 52 years, has made "Bull" Durham the best-selling tobacco.

There are plenty of smokes that cost much less. And plenty that cost just the same. Some tobaccos cost more—much more.

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It's mild—it has a deep, rich, mellowness of flavor—a peculiar, delicious fragrance that is all its own. And it's pure—as pure as the sunshine and dew and air which grow it.

If you've never tried, it's worth finding out if all of these men are mistaken. Find out to-day at the first smoke-place you come to.

W. A. Rouse Co.
Wholesale and Retail
Durham Tobacco Co.



The Leering Beast of Gold

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On the fifth day he suddenly turned his head, and in a hushed voice entreated:

"Did—you find him?"

"You'd better sleep now, Phil, old fellow."

"Ludcro? Ludcro?" he insisted fiercely.

Marty wavered, darting a helpless glance toward the door. "We—followed tracks in the sand, Phil—tracks like—like a crawling man would leave. They ran round and round the temple and over to the tunnel. We—"

"Out with it!—the worst!"

"He lay just inside," Marty strove to comply. "His body was almost naked, his knees were padded with rags, one shin was broken, and— Oh, please now, Phil! Quick, doctor! Médico! médico!"

A figure darkened the doorway. "Por Dios! Qué es esto?"

"He says he'll see—in spite of us," panted Marty.

Out of the confusion of tongues arose a confusion of wits worse confounded. Appeals, protests—the struggling patient was deaf to all.

Now the little Paytan doctor must have perceived that nothing less than visual shock would serve to allay the crisis. He presently nodded to Marty, and each took an arm.

Between the two Krad staggered over the sand heap, while the four excited portadores canopied him from the hot sky. Gently they lowered him in.

The form of Ludcro lay upon a couch of heaped-up sand. Krad pushed away the supporting hands. A great sob tore his throat. Down into the opening peered the portadores, swarthy-visaged, teeth glistering.

The face was covered by a square of wet gauze. Morbidly fascinated, Krad put forth a trembling hand. He drew the cloth away.

The blue eyes came open.

"Philip!"

"H. Rand!"

With a joyful cry Krad sank to his knees into the Englishman's arms. Marty and the Peruvians were a crowd; they accordingly dispersed.

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the amount that may be charged for work or material, except the conscience of the ring.

Payments amounting to \$9,934.78 were made to the Hunter Heating Company for taking down and putting up steam pipes at the water-pumping station. This amount was paid in twenty-five different installments. Of these installments, eighteen were over \$240 and under \$250 (one was \$249.24, within 76 cents of the limit). All of the items but four were paid within the same year. Warrants succeeded one another in numerical order. For instance, M. Kantowitz was paid vouchers Nos. 1338, 1339, and 1340, for repairing skylight and roof of Public Bath No. 1, in the respective sums of \$244.54, \$249.26, and \$249.10, all on the same day. And thus the course of graft in Albany runs: through the Tenderloin; in and about gambling houses; in streets, alleys, and sewers; over skylights and roofs, even to the tips of the lightning rods; in and out of the banks and trust companies; into mangers and horse stalls; to the pumping stations of the water system; into the fire houses, and up into the flagstaffs (repairs of one flagstaff cost \$430.64, in three separate installments); out to the doorstep of Barnes's bungalow; down into the furnaces of the schoolhouses; and into the paint on the public buildings. (Vouchers numbered from 6100 to 6108, inclusive, were all issued on the same day, and all under \$250 each, for renovating the headquarters of the Board of Education in the City Hall. They amounted to \$1,038.67.)

WHAT PUBLIC OFFICE IS FOR

COURT attendants were paid for their presence at two, three, and four courts at one and the same time. Within one period of nineteen days, one court attendant was paid \$3 a day for forty-two days as an attendant upon four different courts. He was an ubiquitous official, for the record shows that while he was attending court in Cohoes and drawing a salary, he was also attending court in Albany and drawing another salary. At the same time he was receiving \$1,500 a year as an under-sheriff. Some of these court attendants drew pay for serving on Sundays, Thanksgiving, and the Fourth of July. There were not enough regular court days to go around among the ring. This graft became so succulent that some one got the Legislature to allow ten extra deputy sheriffs for Albany County.

The sheriff gets twenty cents a mile for taking one prisoner to the penitentiary; thirty-five cents a mile for two prisoners; forty cents a mile for three prisoners; and twelve cents a mile each for four or more prisoners. The law further provides that "all the convicts who shall be sentenced to imprisonment in the same State prison, at one session of a criminal court, shall be transported at the same time, unless the court shall expressly direct otherwise." But between political friends in Albany, the law, like the Constitution, is a what-not. Anyone who wanted to make a trip to Dannemora Prison was made a guard. These excursions of the sheriff's friends, which gave them a pleasure trip and the

sheriff a stipend, were quite frequent. On November 6, 1909, for instance, seven prisoners and seven friends of the sheriff made this trip, and the sheriff collected the twenty cents a mile for each prisoner instead of the twelve cents a mile provided by law; and the sheriff claims that the judge in each instance "expressly directed" him to transport the prisoners separately. It is pretty safe to say that these prisoners were not more dangerous to the community than the grafters who were looking after them. For four years the sheriff received over \$2,000 for transporting convicts to prison. This amount is large, considering the number of criminals whose indictments are annually dismissed on motion of the District Attorney. When the sheriff was asked by the Senate investigating committee if his method of transporting convicts was not rather expensive to the State, he replied: "That's what you get the office for."

FARNES'S PRINTING GRAFT

ON July 15, 1908, bonds of the city of Albany to the amount of \$300,000 were issued and sold. Of this amount \$250,000 were deposited in the Union Trust Company of Albany, of which trust company both Mayor McEwen and Corporation Counsel Andrews of Albany are directors, and \$50,000 were deposited in the Commercial Bank of Albany. The bonds bore interest at the rate of four per cent. The Union Trust Company paid the city three per cent interest, and the Commercial Bank paid two per cent interest. On October 11, 1911, there was a balance on hand of this fund amounting to \$181,026.71. During these years the city was making the Union Trust Company a loan of the money and receiving three per cent interest, while it was paying four per cent. The city also had on deposit in the Union Trust Company a large amount of money, which, contrary to law, was unsecured by the deposit of negotiable securities.

Of the three large printing establishments in Albany, Mr. Barnes owns a majority of the stock of one, has a fourth interest in another (a present to him, as it is alleged, for his political "pull"), and receives a tribute from the third equal to the royalty popular authors receive from their "best sellers." The "Argus" is a Democratic paper. It is published by the Argus Company. This company does the printing work for the Common Council of Albany, and pays the Albany "Evening Journal" (Barnes's company) twenty-five per cent of what it receives for work awarded without public bidding, and fifteen per cent of what it receives for work awarded by public bidding. An employee of the Argus Company reluctantly testified that "Mr. Barnes dictated where the printing goes, and that the 'Argus' gives up to the 'Journal' in order to obtain the printing." The Argus Company does not, of course, do the work at a loss; on the contrary, it is paid handsomely. In other cities of the State certain tax lists are required to be printed six times; in Albany they are required to be printed twelve times. The Argus Company prints one hundred copies

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of the proceedings of the City Council; then it keeps its type standing, puts at the top the name of the Journal Company, and allows Barnes to sell to the city whenever it wants extra copies. The city officials order these extra copies *ad libitum*. Outside competition has no chance. For the year 1910 the taxpayers of Albany paid \$8,800 for printing the proceedings of the City Council. Forty pages were consumed in the description of an engine, at a cost of \$400. It cost \$240 to tell in print how two pumps at the pumping station worked.

A bill was rendered by the Argus Company to the Journal Company for one thousand copies of the Building Code. The cost of these copies was, of course, over \$250 and required public bidding under the law. The copies were split up by Mr. Barnes's Journal Company into separate deliveries of \$250 each. The cost of the city printing is measured by the page. Before Barnes took charge of the public printing in Albany, there were forty-one lines of printed matter on a page of the proceedings of the Common Council. In the volume for 1910 there are but twenty-seven lines to the page—and the type is of the same size.

Under the law, certain State officials designate an official State paper for the printing of public laws and notices. The Board of Supervisors in each county also designates an official county paper. Barnes's paper, the Albany "Journal," was designated as the official State paper for the years from 1896 to 1911, with the exception of 1908 and 1909. For the State printing during these years the "Journal" was paid \$85,384.50. During the same years the "Journal" was designated by the Board of Supervisors of Albany County as the official county paper. It made but the one publication of the laws for both the State and county; but it collected in duplicate, and received \$15,064 illegally. In his "Reminiscences," Carl Schurz, speaking of Barnes's grandfather, Thurlow Weed, said: "While everybody recognized his extraordinary ability, opinions about his political virtue were divided. His opponents denounced him as a selfish and utterly unscrupulous trickster, while his friends emphasized the fact that he secured office for ever so many friends, but never any for himself, except a public printer's place which was profitable in revenue but very modest in rank."

EMBROIDERED PRINTING

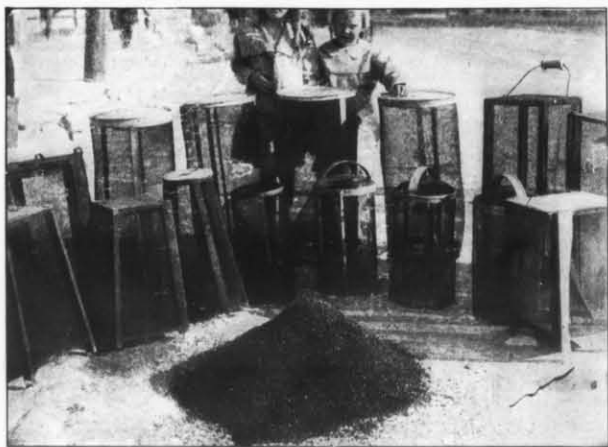
THE Legislature of 1893 directed the clerk of Albany County to make a condensed index of deeds and mortgages in two series, one of grantors and mortgagors, the other of grantees and mortgagees. The work was to be completed in three years, at a cost which was originally not to exceed some \$60,000. The work has now been in progress eighteen years, and is about half done. It has already cost \$238,876.52; and there is a grave question whether it conforms to the law, and whether it will be of any value except as a memorial of public folly. The Argus Company received the contract for the printing. Whether Barnes was paid his

royalty on this is not known, as the majority of the Court of Appeals of New York upheld him in his unconcerned refusal to answer the questions of the Senate investigating committee. It is not likely that Barnes would let this monumental graft slip through his fingers. He is frugal in such matters. His father, who was formerly State Insurance Commissioner, had been a representative of the insurance companies at Albany. During the insurance investigation a letter turned up from William Barnes, Jr., to the Mutual Life Insurance Company, in which Barnes wrote: "The honorarium which the Mutual Life, with other companies, was kind enough to confer upon my father, William Barnes, has customarily been paid on July 1 each year. I trust you will pardon me bringing to your attention the fact that the Mutual Life has not yet sent a check."

THE STEAL OF THE ALBANY BASIN

THE Albany Basin was the property of the State of New York. It was described in the language of the Legislature as the "termination of the Erie and Champlain Canals," and connected the Erie Canal with the Hudson River. Even the Constitution of the State provides that the canal shall never be given away for any purpose. The State recently appropriated \$19,800,000 to furnish proper facilities for canal traffic. The Republican ring in Albany got the Legislature, on various fabricated pretexts, to dispose of this basin to the "riparian owners" for a nominal sum. The riparian owners happened to be chiefly the New York Central & Hudson River Railroad and the Delaware & Hudson Railroad. The title to the larger part of this public property, of such tremendous value and importance to the people of the State, and upon which enormous sums of money had been expended, has therefore passed from the people to the New York Central Railroad, and the rest will go to the Delaware & Hudson. But the value of the present grant is as nothing compared to the taxing power in transportation charges that the railroads will in future saddle on the people of New York, by reason of the elimination of water competition. At the time this deal was put through, Barnes's corporation counsel of Albany was also counsel for the New York Central; probably as a reward for his services, Barnes subsequently made him a Supreme Court judge. The Mayor of the city was likewise intimately associated with the coal companies of the Delaware & Hudson Railroad Company. As a member of the State Senate he introduced the bill in the Legislature, and was Mayor of Albany when the scheme was put into effect.

Such is the history of the Barnes ring in Albany. Its members are prominent citizens. They are a powerful link in the government of the State. The ring is the product of the political genius of William Barnes, Jr., who testified before the investigating committee of the Senate that as a political leader was "one whose advice was quite largely taken" by the members of the organization.



Swatting the Fly

A group of fly traps in McGregor, Texas, where the school children have been entered in a competition to see who can cause the greatest mortality among that most obnoxious pest. The pile in the center of the picture is made up entirely of dead flies.

You can't be misled in your varnish buying if you accept this label as your guide.

But if you buy on a price basis—

Or simply say, "I want some varnish"—

Or pass up the whole question of varnishing as a thing of little or no importance—

Then 99 times out of 100 you will run into trouble and added expense.

You Can Afford to Use the Best Varnish

And you can afford to take a personal interest in seeing that you get it.

Whether you wield the varnish brush or hire someone else—

Whether you have one floor or an entire building to be varnished—

Whether you are wealthy or in moderate circumstances—

You should always use the BEST varnish, and select or specify the make yourself.

Why? Because the market is flooded with "cheap," inferior varnish.

And it costs just as much in time and labor to put this cheap stuff on as it does to put on Berry Brothers' Varnish.

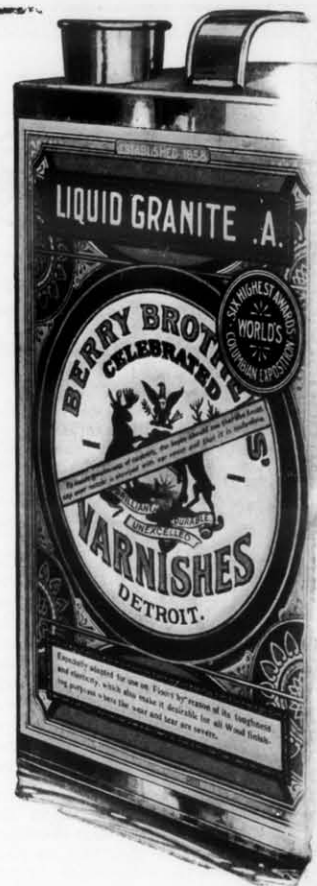
What little you save in the gallon-cost is eaten up many times over by the expense of more frequent refinishing—

And your disappointment in the looks of the job, plus the annoyance, can't be measured in dollars and cents.

If all dealers sold nothing but good varnish—and all painters used nothing else—

Then you could safely think only of the work to be done, and not at all of the varnish itself.

But under existing conditions you should protect your own pocket-book—and make sure of a good-looking, long-wearing job by insisting on the use of Berry Brothers' Varnish—an easy name to say—an easy label to remember.



This One Label Protects All Your Varnish Needs

You will never find occasion to buy a substitute for Berry Brothers' Varnish—

No matter what you want to use varnish for, there is a Berry Brothers' product to meet your need.

All of your most frequent needs are met by one of the five varnishes listed below.

The label is the same on all of them—with the name of each kind shown at the top.

The reason there are different kinds is because there are many different uses for varnish, and no one kind or formula is suited to all—just as no one medicine is efficacious for all ills.

It is not necessary that you remember the names of the various kinds. Simply make sure of the Berry Brothers' Label. Your dealer or painter can tell you which kind your work requires.

Liquid Granite—For finishing floors in the most durable manner possible.

Luxberry Wood Finish—For the finest rubbed or polished finish on interior woodwork.

Elastic Interior Finish—For interior woodwork exposed to severe wear, finished in full gloss.

Elastic Outside Finish—For all surfaces, such as front doors, that are exposed to the weather.

Luxberry Spar Varnish—For ships, small boats, yachts, canoes and other marine uses, outside or inside. Has never turned white under water.

Any dealer or painter can supply Berry Brothers' Varnishes. If you have any difficulty in finding them write us and get the name of a dealer who believes in Berry Brothers' standard of quality.

Write for booklet: "Choosing Your Varnish Maker" interesting to all users

BERRY BROTHERS' VARNISHES

BERRY BROTHERS, Ltd. ESTABLISHED 1858

FACTORIES: DETROIT, MICH., AND WALKERVILLE, ONT.

BRANCHES: NEW YORK, BOSTON, PHILADELPHIA, BALTIMORE, CHICAGO, CINCINNATI, ST. LOUIS, SAN FRANCISCO.