

ACCUSED JUDGE A SUICIDE

THE PART OF D. T. HOWELL OF NEWARK HAD BEEN EXPOSED.

Magistrate's Cruelty to His Former Wife Was Told Of by Political Opponent—He Kills Himself on Day Set to Answer Charges—Had Been a Clergyman.

Worried by allegations made against him in a political speech by Under Sheriff Charles M. Mason, in which scandals of his past life were laid bare, David T. Howell, Judge of the First Criminal Court in Newark, committed suicide by shooting yesterday. The deed was done in Branch Brook Park, not far from where Chief of Police John H. Adams, after an indictment against him had been procured by the Sheriff's office, took his life eighteen months ago.

Howell fired a bullet into his head. It stunned him momentarily and he dropped. The revolver fell from his hand, and when he came to, within two minutes, he raised the barrel of the weapon, seized it and pulled the trigger. The second ball entered his brain and he died within two hours on the operating table in the City Hospital.

It has not been determined as yet whether the attempt was premeditated or impulsive. It is believed, however, that Mr. Howell armed himself before he left home. He went to his office in the Scheuer Building about 9 o'clock and remarked to Lester Pach, who is associated with him, that he was feeling very nervous and he was going to take a walk in Branch Brook Park with his wife. Mr. Pach then, at Mr. Howell's request, called the Third precinct station on the telephone and said that the Judge would not be there that day.

It was about 10:30 o'clock when Howell entered the park. He first walked in a northerly direction along the path to the driveway, when he toyed with a lighted cigar he carried in his hand. He then turned and retraced his steps until opposite a bench about ten feet from the roadway, where he stopped.

William Benn, a laborer employed in the park, was gathering up fallen leaves when the Judge came, and although he did not know him his attention was attracted by the Judge's actions. Benn watched the magistrate when he paused, and in the next few moments he and the Judge exchanged glances. Suddenly Howell drew the weapon from his pocket, and at the sight of it Benn turned toward him in an effort to prevent the tragedy.

It was too late, however. After firing the shot the Judge fell to the ground and rested on his back. The revolver lay two or three feet away. Benn ran to summon help, and Joseph Dunn, another park employee, responded. As the two men approached the spot where the Judge lay they were startled. Both had believed him to be dead, but when they came within a few feet of where he was the Judge seemed to come back to life again. He partly raised himself and then balancing on his knees with one hand he picked up the revolver again with the other and fired a second shot.

Benn and Dunn thought that the Judge intended to shoot them and they ran. They turned after the shot and went back again. The shots attracted several other laborers who were working in the park, and one of them, John McCloskey, ran for the police.

A few minutes later Dr. E. W. Murray of the City Hospital staff happened along in an automobile on his way to the hospital. He recognized Judge Howell, noticed that death was imminent and urged that the wounded man be hurried to the hospital instead of waiting for the ambulance. An automobile owned by Harry Kessler of Warren and South Eighth streets was pressed into service and speeded to life.

At the hospital another patient was about to undergo an operation, but noticing the grave condition of Judge Howell the surgeons turned their attention to him. They found that both bullets had entered the right side, one circling around between the brain and skull, the other second lodged in the brain. The doctors extracted the first bullet, but did not dare to probe for the second. While they were bandaging his wounds Mr. Howell expired.

Immediately after Mr. Howell was admitted to the hospital his wife was notified. She hurried to the hospital, admitted to see her husband. When she was told that he had died she collapsed. An hour later she was taken home. Mrs. Howell said that her husband had talked with her about the campaign and the attack made upon him by Under Sheriff Mason last Tuesday night, but as she understood the circumstances she said she did not consider them seriously and did not suppose her husband did.

A number of letters found in the dead man's pockets were turned over to his wife. With one exception all were business letters. That one was the one sent to Mr. Howell by the late Bishop Potter soon after the former gave up the ministry. It stated that the bishop thought Mr. Howell unwise in giving up the ministry to enter the legal profession.

Mason's political speech in which he laid bare the Magistrate's past was delivered at a meeting of the Real Democracy in Newark on Tuesday night. At the time he said: "Should we be surprised that a Mayor like Jake Haussling should appoint as Judge of the Criminal Court of Newark a man that has been convicted of assault and battery upon his wife and from whom his wife, on account of his vice and immorality, was compelled to secure a divorce and to earn a living for herself and three children?"

"I would like to see a man of this character to deal out justice to the people of Newark, but I show you the certified copy of the court records of Sullivan county, N. Y. to sustain my assertion and a letter from the District Attorney of that county."

"The reply to Mason's speech was made by Judge Howell the night before he killed himself, as follows: "One week ago in this hall an attack was made upon the administration. I want to say, and I have the proofs, that if I had to answer this man it would be necessary to have a meeting for men only. I have not been accustomed to casting reflections on men and I don't want to begin to do so now. "If we had to examine the record of the under sheriff of this county we would have to exclude all men under 16. This man—the called a gentleman—has an am ready to meet this man in the presence of witnesses any time. I just want to ask him three or four questions. "I would like to meet him and go before the pastor of St. Patrick's Cathedral, the pastor of Trinity Church, the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church and Rabbi Leucht. All I ask is for such a meeting in the presence of witnesses and then ask me if this man is fit for consideration. "Meddling is against my principles, and I am not allowing it now. Let this man meet me next Friday night here, or at any other time or place that we may suit his convenience. If he would rather select any other clergymen I am agreeable."

It was rumored that the Judge issued his challenge to Mason on the strength of certain promises made to him previous to Friday night's meeting by a man who declared he was in possession of facts that would help to sustain Howell in a controversy of the nature that he invited. It is said that after the meeting the person on whom the Judge relied declared

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that he would not stand by the promise he had made. Mr. Howell was born of English parents in the village of Clifton, near Slyne Head, west coast of Ireland, in 1864. He was educated under private instruction in Dublin, where he went in 1878. For six years he prepared for the ministry in the Protestant Episcopal Church. Then his father died, and the son, having to earn his living, undertook the collection of rents for Capt. Boycott.

Mr. Howell located in New York in 1881 and learned a trade. His first work on the Brooklyn Bridge on May 24, 1883. Following this came his connection with several large concerns, his last work at his trade being the handling of all iron and copper work on the Statue of Liberty. He then entered the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal Church. His first appointment was at the York Street Church and the last one at Verona.

In 1880 he entered the Episcopal Church and continued with that Church until 1890, when he went to Newark, and after preparation for the practice of law in the office of A. Q. Keasby & Son opened offices for himself.

Sensational disclosures were brought about through the retiring of Mr. Howell from the ministry. It developed with the bringing of a suit for divorce by Samuel B. Greene against his wife, and Howell was named as correspondent. Mrs. Greene had previously sought a divorce, but a decree was denied.

Greene obtained a divorce, his wife not contesting the case, and soon after Mr. Howell got a divorce from her husband. With her three children Mrs. Howell moved from Monticello, N. Y., where Howell was then rector of St. John's Episcopal Church, Haverstraw.

Mr. Howell resigned from the ministry and Mrs. Greene became his wife, the couple going to Newark to live.

Greene's divorce suit was brought in the Madison county court at Stony Ford, N. Y., and married his cousin, Miss Lizzie Bull. He ended his life by shooting himself in the head at the Fifth Avenue Hotel in this city on July 11, 1904.

MAY CLEAR UP MYSTERY.

Man in Jail Tells Story of the Blevins Murder.

FRANKLIN, Pa., Oct. 17.—The mystery of the murder of City Treasurer John Blevins of New Castle in that city ten years ago at last promises to be solved. Sheriff Frank H. Williams of Venango county and a posse of detectives and lawyers, accompanied by Frank Barnes, a prisoner, who says he knows all about the crime, yesterday went to Elk county and near St. Mary's found the grave of one of the men alleged to have killed the New Castle man.

This man, Barnes says, was slain by Daniel Wilder of Bradford, who was one of the three who killed Blevins. The fellow had been making demands for money upon Wilder, and the latter, being unable to pay, was afraid that he would carry out his threat to confess and did away with him. Wilder was recently sentenced to the penitentiary for six years for robbery. Barnes is in jail here awaiting a plea of guilty.

Blevins was killed in his office in the city building, almost next door to the police station, at 10 o'clock one December night. The murderers covered up their tracks, and until the arrest of Barnes no tangible clue was ever discovered.

Leading politicians of Lawrence county had been heavy borrowers from Blevins, and the belief always has prevailed that the murder was a political one. It was thought that Blevins had told the politicians that he would expose them if they did not return to him the city's money, and they had killed him to save themselves.

Some very prominent men there have been suspected. Blevins's accounts were found to be \$20,000 short, and the bondsmen had to make good.

SAVED MASTER'S FAMILY.

Dog Burned to Death After Giving Alarm of Fire.

Buster, a little brown dog, perished with seven horses in a stable fire in the rear of 15 East Kinney street, Newark, about 1:30 o'clock yesterday morning. The dog met his fate after he had aroused by his barking the family of Paul W. Ober. This done he ran into the barn where the horses were and was out of his flames.

The dog was owned by Ober, who lived over the stables. The horses were the property of the Newark News Company. When Ober was awakened by the barking he barely had time to get his wife and two children to a roof of extension in the rear and thence to the ground.

The origin of the fire is unknown. The loss is estimated at \$1,500.

The Rev. C. B. Estler Coming to Brooklyn.

The Rev. C. B. Estler, who has had charge of the Universalist churches at Carthage and Natural Bridge for the last two years, has accepted a call to the pastorate of the Church of Good Tidings in the Stuyvesant district of Brooklyn. Before joining the ministry he practiced law for three years at Manila.

Woman Salekeeper a Bankrupt.

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Mrs. Louisa Weasels of Elmhurst yesterday filed a petition in bankruptcy in the United States court in Brooklyn. She conducted a saloon, and her entire indebtedness amounting to over \$12,000, is due to a firm of brewers. Her only assets are clothing valued at \$100.

Paymaster Arrested for Embezzlement.

MINNOLA, L. L., Oct. 17.—Otto Ermel, 32 years old, of Glen Cove, who has been paymaster of the Lederer Leather Works of that place for the last three years, is locked up here on the charge of the embezzlement of \$4,000 from his employer.

He was committed by Justice Cooke of Glen Cove. Ermel is married. He lived in good style at Glen Cove and had an automobile.

Feather Factory Girls Saved by Fire Escape.

Twenty-five girls got away from a fire in the artificial feather factory of P. T. Peabody, on the fifth floor of the building at 285 Mercer street, yesterday afternoon by climbing down a fire escape.

The blaze was caused, it is said, by an office boy throwing a lighted cigarette butt near a can of benzine. Peabody's stock, valued at \$1,000, was entirely consumed.

Lord & Taylor

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Gowns 98c., \$1.25, \$1.50, \$1.95, \$2.45, \$3.25, \$3.95

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Skirts 98c., \$1.25, \$1.95, \$2.45, \$2.95, \$3.95

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Black and Colored Taffeta in a large variety of shades at \$5.95, \$6.95 & \$8.75

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House Gowns in German Flannel.....\$1.95, \$2.95

Japanese Quilted Robes at \$10.50

Kimonos in Crépon.....\$1.95, \$2.25 in German Flannel.....\$1.75

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Waist Dept.

Madras Tailored Waists \$1.45 & \$1.65

Tailored Linen Waists at \$1.95

Cotton Crépe Tailored Waists imported material, copy of French Model at \$6.75

Corsets

In Couil long waist, medium high bust, long back, (attached supporters) at 98c.—value \$2.00

In Fine Couil genuine whalebone, high bust, long hips and back, (attached supporters) \$1.75, \$2.45, \$2.95—value \$4.75 to \$7.00

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Long Island Railroad TRAIN SERVICE FOR THE VANDERBILT CUP RACE SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24TH OVER THE LONG ISLAND MOTOR PARKWAY ALL AUTOMOBILE SPEED RECORDS TO BE BROKEN Race Starts at Daylight.

Paymaster Arrested for Embezzlement. Feather Factory Girls Saved by Fire Escape.

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6-Button Length, Fine French "Biarritz" Gloves Paris point embroidery; colors: smoke-grey, tan, brown, black, and white \$1.25 per pair

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Women's Bags, Purses & Card Cases of morocco, seal, alligator, lizard, pigskin and beaver, in staple and fancy colorings.

Special Values 9-inch Carriage Bags leather lined, bent bottom, in fine English morocco, real seal, pigskin and calf alligator, \$3.95, value \$5.00

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