

HOPELESSLY RUINED AND DISGRACED AFTER YEARS OF MENTAL TORTURE IN AN ATTEMPT TO BUY SILENCE FROM MAN AND WOMAN WHO KNEW SHORTAGE

STEALS THOUSANDS TO BUY SILENCE

Warriner Declares Money All Went to Two Blackmailers.

(Continued from First Page.)
ment case in the history of American railroads.

LEADING TO DOWNFALL.

THE beginning of Charles L. Warriner's torture dates back to April, 1897.

He was then local cashier of the Big Four railroad, otherwise known as the Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago, and St. Louis, under Frank Comstock, who was the local treasurer.

Warriner had a salary of \$2,500, a comfortable home, a devoted wife, a son in whom his heart and hopes were centered, the confidence of his employees and the sincere friendship of a large and rapidly growing circle of influential associates.

He had much, but, like too many Americans in business life, he longed for the "little bit more" that would spell a larger home, a college education for the boy, a horse and carriage for the wife, whose love was the finest thing in the world to him, and occasional saunters into the world of life and adventure of which both knew only what they had read in books of travel and fiction.

Friend Advises Speculation in Wheat.

One of Warriner's friends—he refuses to name the man—told him that wheat was sure to rise in the market. "It is as certain," said the tipster, "as the sun will rise in the east."

The cashier, according to his own story, told her publicly for the first time, was tempted but little at first. Then came an apparent confirmation of the tip from another man who was also a personal friend. The thought struck. It was with him day and night. He did not tell his wife, but he began to look with interest at homes more pretentious than his and to read railway and steamship circulars, describing vacation trips into regions filled with health and delight.

He had but a little money ahead, only a few hundred dollars. To get anything like adequate results from his friend's sure tip he should have thousands. Where was he to get the money?

The "funds in transit" account came into his mind. He considered, hesitated and was lost.

That first dip into the company's treasury is said to have been \$1,000.

Feverishly he watched the course of wheat. It was inactive for several days. Then there came a slump, a decline that

What Charles L. Warriner Got Out of the Thousands He Stole

A two-story house in the village of Wyoming. A common school education for his only child. An automobile, which cost \$1,200. Twelve years of mental torture. Imprisonment. Physical and mental breakdown. Disgrace.

wiped out in a day all the money he had invested.

That was a terrible lesson to him, one, he told himself, which would last all his life and make him content with the things that are rather than a thief and a thief for the things that could not be.

Very soberly and sadly he started to save from his modest salary money which was to be paid back secretly to the company in restitution for that which had been stolen. He would suffer, but his name would be stainless, honor would never be questioned. His wife and boy would never know of that brief fall from absolute honesty.

Warriner was in this penitent frame of mind when he heard of a fellow-cashier's trouble. This man, Edgar S. Cook, was his dearest friend. Warriner knew what was to feel the iron grip of misfortune. His own experience was so recent that he felt like saying a heartening word to a man who was "down and out."

Woman in Case

With Many Expensive Tastes. The other man's plight was much different from his. There was a woman in that case—a lively "grass widow," Mrs. Jeannette Timmons Ford. The clerk had a wife and a couple of boys, but he was a "high flier" with women, and particularly with the vivacious widow, whose tastes were notoriously expensive.

The two had been seen together in the Majestic cafe, then the swiftest resort in Cincinnati. A staff vice president of the New York Central railroad made the discovery which all the "wise ones" in town had known for months. The clerk's wife was not one of the "wise ones."

Cook had been asked for an explanation. His nervous replies did not satisfy his stern inquisitors, and he was informed that the "Big Four" would get along without his services from that minute.

Warriner sent for the discharged man. "I am sincerely sorry old man," he said, "but I believe in you. Let the little lesson be a warning. Stick to the wife and the kiddies, and you'll be a better man for this misfortune. Let me know when and how I can help you, and I will be your staunch friend."

Requests Money to Make a Fresh Start.

"You can help me now," said the other, according to Warriner's confession. "How?" asked the cashier. He had not expected anything more than melancholy gratitude from his friend.

"Eddie," as Warriner called him, was grim and determined, very different from the subject person the cashier had pictured. "You can help me by giving me

\$3,000 with which to make a fresh start in Chicago."

"But I can't do that, Eddie," protested Warriner. "I have no money in bank, and as you know, receive a salary that just about meets my family's expenses. I'd help you if I could, but—"

"But you're going to just the same," interrupted Cook. "You can get the money from the same place you went to for the \$5,000 you're short."

Warriner stared. He stammered, but was cut short.

Makes Threat To Expose Warriner.

"What's the use talking," said the discharged man. "I know all about it. Give me the money I need and you'll never hear from me again. You can pay it back when you please. I'll make good myself one of these days and hand you back the coin. Come on, I'm desperate. If you refuse I will tell all. The whole town will know tomorrow that I'm not the only black sheep in the Big Four office."

It was in vain that Warriner argued and pleaded. He tried to have the demand reduced. To all the pleas the blackmailers were deaf.

"You must settle now," he said, "and \$3,000 will do the trick. Pay up and I'll never bother you again."

TRAP CLOSURES TIGHT.

THE cashier was caught. He could see no way out of the trap. If he refused, Eddie's story would leave him discharged and disgraced, would shame him before his wife, would give his boy a handicap in life that would tell heavily against the lad's success.

"All right," he said, (the man was never "Eddie" to him after that). "I'll pay your price, but this is the last time I will hear from you."

"Sure thing," said Cook, easily. "The man and his family went to Chicago. Warriner bent his shoulders beneath the heavy burden of the \$3,000 secret indebtedness, and no one suspected the ordeal through which he had passed. His wife, when she worried about his changed appearance, was reassured by the assertion that he was doing extra work in the office, and that he would soon pull through it all right. "Nervous depression" resulting from indigestion," was an explanation that satisfied his friends.

Everything might have passed off smoothly, say the detectives, had not the "woman in the case," followed "Eddie" to Chicago. There appeared to have been something approaching love in her for the man. He was and is good looking, debonair, possessed of an irascible touch, and a quality that is irresistible to a certain type of woman.

She followed him and if the detectives' stories be true he installed her in a comfortable flat near his hotel. It was inevitable that the \$3,000 hush

money extorted from Warriner should go quickly. "Eddie" tried to get drunk, but the kind he wanted, the easy and well paid variety, does not grow on every bush, and the exchequer which supported two establishments was almost drained.

It is Warriner's contention, and the detectives believe him, that the "grass widow" was informed at this time by Cook of the latter's hold upon the cashier. They believe also that it was largely at her instigation that "Eddie" made a trip to Cincinnati and a demand on Warriner for more money.

There was a scene between the men which, if staged, would make the fortune of a playwright. The end of it was another dip into the "funds in transit" account by Warriner and another brief period of prosperity for Cook and his two homes.

Studies Market To Make a Rich Haul.

In the meantime, the cashier had been studying the stock and grain markets. This time there was no thought of long vacation trips, of a finer home, of a college education for his boy. He wanted only to square himself with his employers, so that when the blackmailing demand would be renewed—as he knew it would be—he would be able to go before the officers of the company and say: "Yes, I did take your money, but I have repaid it every penny."

He hoped that repayment and the story of his sacrifice and suffering of his otherwise blameless life and dependent innocent family would move his superiors to mercy.

He saw himself continued as a trusted employee and, in his imagination, beheld Cook's discomfiture when the officers of the "Big Four" should refuse to expose their cashier's forgiven default.

Suffers Loss From His Speculations.

The dream lasted while the market advanced and he made paper profits on the stocks purchased with the money he had taken from the company after Eddie's second visit. Then came another bad day in Wall Street.

The broker with whom he was dealing called for more margin. Warriner dipped again into the funds. A second and a third time came the call for margins. Then came a day of absolute panic and the cashier was "wiped out" a second time.

Upon the heels of this disaster came another demand from the Chicago man. He and the widow had been watching Warriner like hawks. They knew he was "in the market." If he had money for that sort of thing, surely he must have some for them. They would keep still if they got their price.

The cashier's luck was sure to turn. He had to pay his price. They would keep still if they got their price. Besides "Eddie" was going to get a job soon, very soon.

So ran the arguments. Besides all these things the blackmailers pointed out the fact that no one had discovered the shortage in the "funds in transit" account, and it was unlikely that anyone would.

There was no escape from the situation; at least Warriner could see none then. He took what they demanded from the account and helped himself to enough more to go into the market again.

Thus were "Eddie" and the "widow" established in an easy-do-nothing existence, according to the detectives, and commenced Charles L. Warriner's career of deceit, theft, and torture.

He went into the market regularly, and regularly he was bled by his tormentors. There came times when fortune seemed to be with him, and it seemed as though he would be able to pay back the money he had stolen. Then the market would react against him, and he would be in a worse case than before. It was the same whether he bought or sold stocks. In the end luck was against him.

Warriner Wins, But Bucketshop Fails.

Once, according to his story, Warriner's profits in the stock market were within \$1,000 of his total thefts. He notified the bucket shop proprietor that he wanted his money and the bucket shop promptly went out of business without paying him a cent.

Then Frank Comstock was suddenly removed from the position of local treasurer of the Big Four and Warriner was elevated to the vacancy. The superior officers of the road had remarked the cashier's anxiety over his work and the long hours spent by him in the office. Of course they did not dream of the motives that prompted Warriner to keep such close watch on all the details of his work.

To the minds of the directors of the "Big Four" Warriner's anxiety concerning the financial affairs of the Cincinnati office meant only one thing—devotion to the company and an interest in his work that fitted him above all others for the treasurership.

Praising Words Astounded Worried Cashier. When he was called before the board of directors the cashier believed he was to be confronted with proofs of his thefts. He was upon the verge of collapse when the words of commendation for faithful service were spoken and the announcement of his promotion was made.

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HONOR AND FAITH WARRINER'S TOLL

Once Trusted "Big Four" Treasurer Tells of Vampirism.

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Warriner's Statement Tells How the Money Was Stolen

"I always took the cash from the 'funds in transit' account. This was money that came to the Cincinnati headquarters from about six hundred stations of the 'Big Four,' and it was in the custody of the cashier and treasurer until transferred to the general treasury of the road."

Statement by Charles L. Warriner to officers of the New York Central.

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MISSTEP IN EARLY LIFE PROVES DEAR

Railroad's Treasurer Says He Was Forced to Keep Up Thefts.

It was more than \$20 a day. Her meals were served in the suite she occupied with her child and octoroon maid. Another woman of her own type was a welcome guest in the establishment for days at a time, and they gave "parties," at which wine and fine foods were served lavishly and the merriment was riotous.

It was after one of these little affairs that the management of the hotel served notice that the suite must be vacated. The "widow" stormed and wept, but there was no way out of the dilemma of the management. If she did not leave, the other guests would.

During the era of riotous enjoyment at the Altamont envelopes bearing the imprint of the United States subtreasury at Cincinnati came weekly to the hotel addressed to the widow. These contained money in bills of large denominations. Usually they were \$100 notes with occasional fifties.

Demand Payments With Greater Frequency.

When these envelopes failed to arrive on time Mrs. Ford made a flying trip to Cincinnati and hurried the payments with a brief interview. After Lucullan feasts of extraordinary extravagance in the hotel.

Her bills for champagne frequently

(Continued on Eighth Page.)

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