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In the US, there is an interesting expression: "He can sell the Brooklyn Bridge!". So they say about people who show excessive naivety and credulity in monetary issues. Moreover, this phrase appeared not from scratch. A major friend named George Parker successfully sold the landmark of New York for many years. It may seem strange, but customers were located.

The Brooklyn Bridge was solemnly opened on May 24, 1883. Already on the first day, about 150,000 people took advantage of the construction. True, a few days later rumors that bridge were too reliable, and at any time could collapse. In order to prove strength, the New York authorities went to a bold step: rented 21 elephant in the circus and conducted them on the bridge. Soon there were those who wish to sell and buy such a wonderful bridge.

Not much knows about George Parter, it is assumed that he was born in New York, and the first time decided to sell the Brooklyn Bridge after he argued with friends. He assured them that he was able to sell any thing. And those jokingly offered George to sell the Brooklyn Bridge. Since this all started.

He got acquainted with people right on the bridge and began to tell him about what is the master of the bridge, but decided to sell it. Next Parker began to explain how it is profitable - to own such a wonderful structure. At any time you can overlap it with a barrier and take money from pedestrians and vehicles.

Probably George Packer, indeed, was a born seller: he found wishing to acquire this wonderful bridge to the property and concluded a deal on fake documents. If the buyer did not have the right amount, Parker went on concessions - allowed to buy a bridge on credit and pay money to parts.

The client was satisfied, he became the owner of a whole bridge in a huge city. No one even suspected that in New York it was impossible to sell urban property in private hands. As soon as the "owner" tried to establish a bandwidth to collect the board for using the bridge, the police immediately appeared.

And here George Parker himself even opened a real estate office. Naturally, also "linden". As can be seen, one Brooklyn bridge was a little framed, and other objects were in the sphere of interest. For example, he successfully "sold" the New York Sports Complex "Madison Square-Garden", a statue of freedom, Metropolitan Museum. All buyers received the same fake certificates as happy "owners" of the Brooklyn bridge.

But, all the good ever ends. In 1928, George Parker was arrested. On December 17, the court issued a fraudster sentence - a life imprisonment. Parker's conclusion was sent to Sing Sing Jail,

located in the city of Ossing, 48 kilometers from New York. In the dungeons of this prison, a brilliant combinator spent 8 years, he died here in 1936.

A year before his death, Sing-Sing's Soviet writers I. Ilf and E. Petrov visited the prison, which made a trip through the United States. Its impressions about this visit Ilf and Petrov shared in the book "One-story America", dedicating prison to a separate chapter with the name "Electric chair".