

steam, hot-water, or gas fittings, but when prices are asked from them they may quote parties wanting an idea of cost not less than 25 per cent. over the association price, and that the undersigned supply houses will not sell plumbing goods or steam-fitting, hot-water, or gas fittings except steam and pipe fittings, to the trade generally except at the advance of 20 per cent. upon the prices quoted to members of the Master Plumbers' and Steamfitters' Association, and that they will give the said plumbers in good standing, unless otherwise notified by the association, a preference of 20 per cent. on all purchases made by the said members better than the figure at which they will sell a like quantity and quality of similar goods to persons in the trade who are not members of the Plumbers' and Steamfitters' Association. It is interesting to notice how that was received by the association. It was evidently a matter of considerable time before the agreement evidenced by the one read was reached, and I find in the minutes of 21st May that communications were received from the Robertson Company, the Ontario Lead and Wire Co., and the Webb Manufacturing Co., acknowledging receipt of a copy of the agreement and of the price list. The agreement went into effect, and was acted upon by both parties until 26th October, 1904. Reference is constantly made in the minutes shewing the endeavour to enforce that agreement, and the difficulty that was had from time to time to enforce it, and the complaints that were made and the excuses that were given, but speaking generally it was fairly successfully enforced, and I find as a fact that the effect of that agreement was a contravention of sec. 520 of the Code.

But it is said that that agreement was abrogated in October, 1904. Therefore it is necessary to see what was done on that occasion. Turning to the minutes of 26th October, 1904, we find an extraordinary state of affairs. The first thing that takes place is: "Clause 1 was then read, which was to the effect that every member by solemn oath renew his obligation and allegiance to the association, promising fidelity and faithful obedience to the by-laws." Clause 2, "that the agreement or understanding between manufacturers and supply men and our association as to giving preference to members of our association be abrogated, and that the manufacturers and supply men be given a free hand. Each member present signified his individual intention to purchase