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Building, Montreal.

skins, to the custody of Captain Deering, the
skins subsequently being sold at \$10.25 each.

The skipper of the "Beatrice" brought a
claim against the British Government for the
value of the catch that might reasonably have
been secured had the schooner been allowed to
complete its season's hunting. Several other
vessels, notably the "E. B. Marvin," which was
similarly situated with regard to presumptive
loss incident to their seizure, determined to let
the "Beatrice's" appeal stand as a test case,
and the hearing of the claims accordingly
brought on as quickly as possible. The judge
decided at the outset that the justice of the
claim could not be disputed, and the evidence
taken was almost entirely as to the extent and
value of the catch that the schooner might rea-
sonably have been expected to make had it com-
pleted the season's hunting.

After comparing and averaging the catches of
all the schooners of the fleet similarly outfitted,
it was decided to allow the "Beatrice" the
value of 518 additional skins at the price
realized for those given back to Captain Doer-
ing, with his vessel. From this total the court
deducted the value of the stores saved by the
schooner's early return, and an order was made
for a judgment against the Crown for a net
balance of \$3,163.50.

The "Marvin" and several other vessels
will now go through the formality of proving
their consequential damage claims, while Great
Britain insists that the United States, by
whose vessels the irregular seizures were made,
must ultimately foot the bills.

COSTLY ARBITRATION.

The cost of litigation even in what should be
its cheapest and simplest form has grown to be
excessive and burdensome, and too often en-
tirely out of all reasonable proportion to the
amount involved. A case in point is that of
William Book, of South Grimsby. The Tor-
onto, Hamilton & Brantford Railway, it ap-
pears, had expropriated a piece of land belong-
ing to Mr. Book, and offered him \$300 as com-
pensation. The sum was considered entirely
too small, and the amount was eventually fixed
by arbitration, at just double the \$300. But
the worst feature of the case was the enormous
costs. The arbitrators' and stenographer's
fees amount to nearly \$800, and the solicitors'
costs and witness fees on both sides will be at
least another \$1,000, all of which, fortunately
for Mr. Book, has to be paid by the company.

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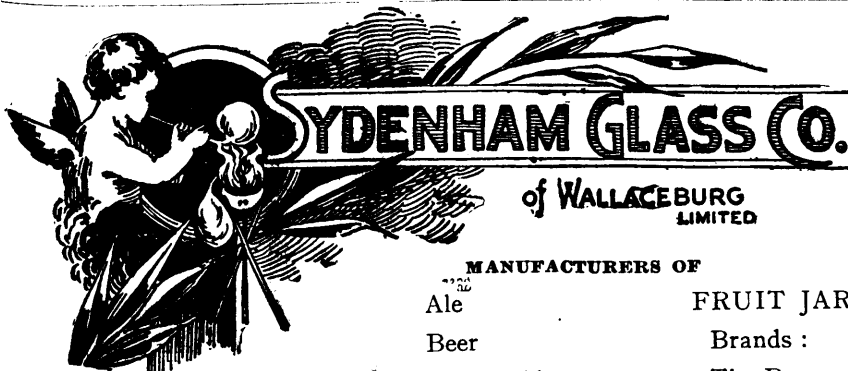
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