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delphia, Whittaker Wright is said to have been a millionaire at 31 years of age. About 1891 he became a company promoter in England, starting the West Australian Exploring and Finance Corporation in 1894, and the next year the London and Globe Financial Corporation. These were afterwards amalgamated with a capital of £2,000,000. The London and Globe, the Standard Exploration and the British American Corporation—which he subsequently started—smashed in 1900 with an apparent deficit of about £5,500,000, involving Lord Dufferin and many others. He was examined in bankruptcy in 1902, and towards the close of the same year the British Attorney-General decided that his case was not one to be taken up by the Director of Prosecutions. After his leaving for Paris in 1903 an order for his prosecution for fraud in issuing deceptive statements was granted by Mr. Justice Buckley, and he was arrested at New York in March. He was extradited after some months' delay, charged at the Guildhall in August, and liberated on £50,000. Shortly afterwards came his trial, conviction and death at the age of 47. Such a career as this man's

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shows, among other things, how easily a bold and confident operator can get control of enormous sums of money from the English public, and how for years he can live the life of a prince and escape punishment for his misdeeds.

## BRANDON BOARD OF TRADE.

The Board of Trade of Brandon, Man., held its annual meeting on Tuesday of last week with a large attendance, Mr. F. Nation, the president, in the chair. The presidential report spoke of some very satisfactory features in the growth of Brandon. For instance, the customs collections for the past year amounted to \$113,106, as compared with \$84,372 for 1902. Last year the value of the dutiable goods brought in was \$320,000; of free goods, \$300,000. Everything, it was said, indicated that Brandon would continue to be the best and largest commercial city between Winnipeg and Vancouver. Several instances were given of cases in which the board had successfully attempted to bring about improvement in various matters in which the city was interested. A strong resolution was passed by the meeting asking the Government to locate the agricultural college at Brandon rather than at Winnipeg. The election of officers was then proceeded with, and resulted as follows: President, John Inglis; vice-president, W. J. Lindsay; secretary, Kenneth Campbell; council, Dr. Harcourt, G. R. Coldwell, A. D. Rankin, F. Nation, F. W. Smith, Dr. McDiarmid, W. Warner, John Hanbury, A. F. Campbell, J. D. McGregor, C. E. Bowker, Dr. S. W. McInnes.

## HIS LAST CIGAR.

Nobody could have been much fonder of tobacco, in the shape of snuff, than the famous German general, Moltke. While working out his wonderfully successful strategies in the war of 1871 he is said to have consumed from six to eight ounces in the course of a week. Prince Bismarck was another no less enthusiastic German devotee of the weed. There is on record, in his own words, a delightful story of how, at Koeniggratz, he had only one cigar left in his pocket, which, during the whole of the battle, he guarded as carefully as a miser guards his treasure. Said he, "I did not feel justified in using it. I painted in glowing colors in my mind the happy hours when I should enjoy it after the victory. But