

Speaking to a meeting of East York Liberals on September 17th, 1919, Mr. Curry said:—

"I charge that the Government of the Province of Ontario in power at that time (1905-6) knew that there were combinations in restraint of trade in respect to every article that went into a man's house or into the household, and that there was sufficient influence brought to bear to cause the Government to desire the prosecutions to end, and the prosecutions did end with my resignation."

Mr. Curry said that in dealing with the high cost of living at present most people thought of the cost of food. It was not confined, however, to those necessities of life. Every article that entered the household and went to ensure the comfort of the home, had been without doubt for years the subject of combination and profiteering. He told at length of the endeavours he had made to have the combinations in restraint of trade prosecuted during his occupancy of the position of Crown Attorney for the City of Toronto.

The Plumbers' Combine.

Information came to him of a combine with respect to plumbers' supplies and the manner in which plumbers were carrying on their business. The information was found to be correct, and, as a result, he started prosecutions in the Police Court. The first prosecution served as a small fire for a great conflagration. As a result of the first prosecution a search was made of the premises of the Plumbers' Association and the documents taken. These investigations began late in 1904 and continued until 1906. Mr. Curry says:—

"The plumbers' combination, although they suffered perhaps the brunt of the punishment that was inflicted, was not any worse than, if as bad, as many of the other combinations in respect to which information was obtained and in respect to which investigations to a certain extent took place and which were subsequently stopped."

Sharing the Rake-off.

Mr. Curry explained the procedure when a man called for tenders in those days to have the plumbing done in a house. The tenders had to go before the Plumbers' Association. If a dealer could show that he had formerly done the work for that man he