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FIRE AND BURGLAR PROOF SAFES.

The trite proverb, "Prevention is better than cure," is never better exemplified than when a merchant or manufacturer is shrewd enough to invest part of his capital in the purchase of a safe of a sufficient size to suit his requirements. Let us suppose, for an instance, the case of a man who insures his premises and stock, but trusts to providence for the protection of his books of account, valuable papers, documents, &c., and wakes up some morning, not like Lord Byron to find himself famous, but to find that whilst he has been slumbering in the arms of Morpheus, the fire-fiend has been at work, and his place of business is a thing of the past—a heap of smouldering ruins taking the place of what but a few short hours ago was a handsome structure of brick and mortar. Although the building and stock may have been insured, the loss of the records of business transactions is irreparable, and all this might have been avoided by a moderate outlay for a safe that would have been a perfect protection to what is now a few charred cinders.

We fancy then, when such a man makes a fresh start, about the first piece of office furniture he invests in will be a FIRE-PROOF SAFE, and to aid him in his selection we tender a few words of advice.

Although a safe may be perfectly fire-proof under ordinary conditions, it is impossible to foretell how far it may drop in case of fire, or what may fall upon it, therefore, the strength of a safe as well as its resistance to heat, becomes a serious consideration.

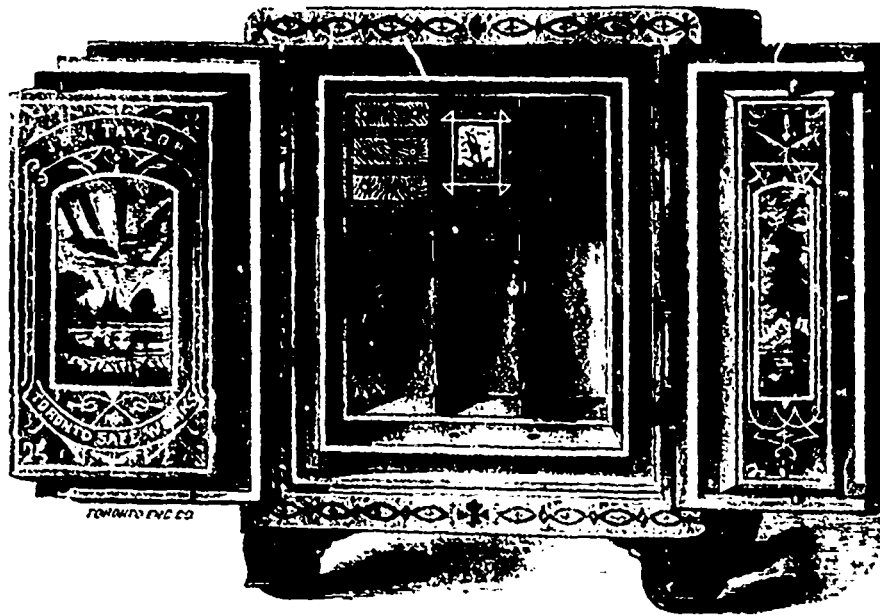
For this reason, as well as for purposes of resistance to the efforts of burglars, as few joints as possible should happen on the outside, and what joints there are should be made strong beyond a peradventure, and so close, if such a thing can be,

as to forbid the insertion of the finest steel wedge; for the wedge once in, it is only a question of time as to the burglars being in and the cash being out.

Another important consideration in the construction of safes is the lock, and probably in no direction has mechanical science made greater progress than in the manufacture of bank and safe locks.

Most individuals remember the time, and it is not in the very distant past, when, as a general rule, the size of the key was an index to the strength of its lock, and no little inconvenience was involved in the carrying of the key of a safe in one's pocket. More than this, the large keyhole furnished an excellent opening for the insertion of the skeleton keys of the burglar, or of a charge of gunpowder or other explosive, with

which to shatter the lock, and render access to the contents of the safe or vault a comparatively easy matter. At the present time all this is changed. A man can carry the key to a powerful lock in his vest pocket with as little inconvenience as he carries his watch-key; or, by the use of the modern combination locks, he can carry it in his head. As a mat-



ter of fact, every first-class safe is now furnished with a combination lock, and the man who retains his mental faculties always carries a key to it that cannot be lost or stolen.

As we have now given for the benefit of intending purchasers, a few valuable hints as to the two great requisites, strength, and a good lock, the next question that presents itself to the inquiring mind is where to purchase such a desideratum.

Probably the best known manufacturers of Safes and Safe Locks in Canada, are MESSRS J. & J. TAYLOR of *Front-St., Toronto*, who have a Dominion reputation for the excellence, durability, and also the skill displayed in the manufacture of