

WHEN THE TRIAL COMES OFF.

FIRST MEETING.

SCENE—Committee Room somewhere. Present:—The "Mail's" Arbitrator, the "Empire's" Arbitrator and the Arbitrator chosen by these two. The latter in the chair.

CHAIRMAN—"Now, gentlemen, let us get to work. First of all, as a matter of form, I will state the terms of the contest we are to decide. The *Empire* newspaper alleges —"

EMPIRE ARB.—"Excuse me, it is the *Mail* which alleges."

MAIL ARB.—"No, the chairman is right; it was the *Empire* which first made the allegation."

CHAIRMAN—"Order, gentlemen. It doesn't make any difference. This is the point in dispute: The *Mail* claims to have the largest circulation of any daily paper in Toronto."

MAIL ARB.—"Pardon me, but that is not the point in dispute, as I understand it; the point is —"

EMPIRE ARB.—"Oh, shut up, and give the chairman a chance. He's quite right so far. Its perfectly plain what the point is."

MAIL ARB.—"Then what do you mean by trying to obscure it? I tell you —"

CHAIRMAN—"Gentlemen, it seems quite clear that we are not in a judicial frame of mind at this moment. I move we —"

EMPIRE ARB.—"You can't move a motion. You're in the chair."

CHAIRMAN—"Well, let somebody else move that we adjourn till to-morrow evening."

MAIL ARB.—"I move that"

CHAIRMAN—"Carried. I declare this meeting adjourned."

SECOND MEETING.

All present. Third Arbitrator in the chair.

CHAIRMAN—"Now, gentlemen, I do hope we'll get on. To avoid delay and misunderstanding, let us first get the matter clearly before us. Mr. *Mail*, please state the question as you understand it."

MAIL ARB.—"With pleasure. The *Mail* wagers \$8,000 that it has a larger circulation than the *Empire*."

EMPIRE ARB.—"No, sir, that isn't it at all. The *Mail* pretends —"

MAIL ARB.—"Pretends? Mr. Chairman, I demand that he take back that word. It is not civil, sir."

CHAIRMAN—"I hope —"

EMPIRE ARB.—"I say 'pretends,' for it is nothing more than a pretence,—but if you don't like the word I'll say 'claims.' The *Mail* claims that the *Empire's* circulation is not one-third the size of —"

MAIL ARB.—"Stop, stop! You are foxing again. It was the *Empire* that talked about 'one-third.' No, sir, our claim is —"

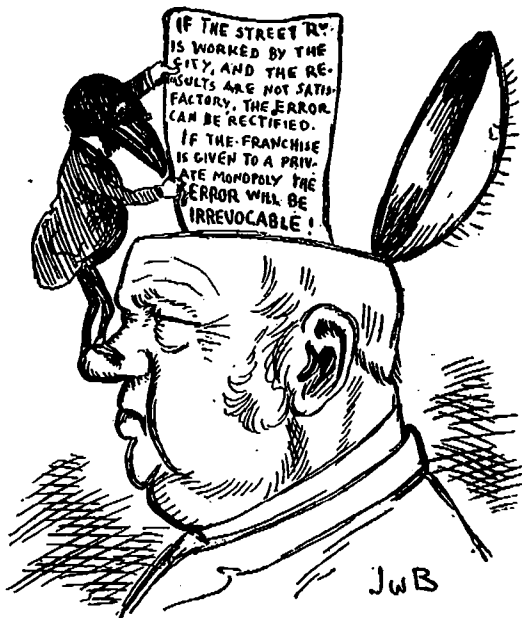
CHAIRMAN—"Well, gentlemen, let us leave that point and get to business. Have you brought your books? Yes? Very good. We will first take a look at the *Empire* book for February."

MAIL ARB.—"No, you don't. I happen to know that the *Empire* sent out a lot of dead head papers during the election, most of them in February."

CHAIRMAN—"What do you say to that Mr. *Empire*?"

EMPIRE ARB.—"I say it is simply a red herring drawn across the trail. He wants to back out. Let us look at the *Mail's* book first."

CHAIRMAN—"As you please."



AN IDEA WE WANT TO GET INTO THE ALDERMANIC HEAD.

MAIL ARB.—"No, sir, I won't permit it. The *Empire* as the challenging party ought to show up first."

EMPIRE ARB.—"I tell you the *Mail* was the challenging party."

MAIL ARB.—"Nothing of the sort. Didn't the *Empire* say —?"

EMPIRE ARB.—"It doesn't matter what the *Empire* says, it —"

MAIL ARB.—"I know it doesn't, because in hasn't any circulation, and nobody ever sees it."

CHAIRMAN—"That's the very thing we want to find out, isn't it?"

EMPIRE ARB.—"No; not as I understand it. The question is —"

MAIL ARB.—"Mr. Chairman, I thought we agreed to lay that point aside. I move we adjourn."

CHAIRMAN—"I'll be glad to, I assure you."

EMPIRE ARB.—"I second the motion. The *Mail's* afraid to come to the scratch."

MAIL ARB.—"When you get one eighth of the *Mail's* circulation, it will be time enough for you to —"

CHAIRMAN—"Adjourned—and this time *sine die*!"

AT THE ROYAL CANADIAN ACADEMY.

BIGGLESWADE (looking at catalogue)—"Within the City Limits—Mower Martin," Well that's a good one—trees and fields and not a house in sight."

MCGORLICK—"Absurd!—false to nature!—Never saw anything more ridiculous in my life—"

BIGGLESWADE—"Oh, you're quite mistaken—It's an excellent picture—I know the locality well—what's wrong with it?"

MCGORLICK—"Wrong with it—good deal wrong with it; why, he hasn't introduced a single real estat agents' sign board!"