SENTENCED TO FIVE TRY TO STOP THE YEARS FOR FRAUD

C. W. JENNINGS MAKES TEARFUL PLEA FOR MERCY

While Organizing Insurance Company

Vancouver, May 17.—Charles W. Jennings, president of the defunct Hudson's Bay Mutual Fire Insurance placarded with picturesque notices of Company, accused of traud, was sent the race meeting which is billed to tenced to five years in the penitentiary commence on Saturday, and the street by Judge McInnes vesterday after cars bear on their fenders a legend to a with hands twitching pervously I and yet the question whether the race mee

with hands twitching hervously and yet the question whether the race meet askd for leave to appeal against it in will actually take place is one that depends upon legal argument to be depends upon legal argument to be depends upon legal argument to be depended in Vancouver to morrow, there with by W. Jennings, and the subsequent history of the company were given yesterday by the accused who was the capital this afternoon to apoly for an injunction restraining the Victoria. dence in his own behalf.

to make a future for myself in the permit being granted the club by the west. The money that was put into city. organizing the company was my This latter part of the argument is for. I humiliated myself to obtain they have the right to race irrespective funds with which to carry on the of whether the city grants them the work of organizing the company, by permit or not. The grounds are not

was up against." Jenning's explanation of the downfall of the Hudson's Bay Mutual Fire ings by H. W. R. Moore, and it is pos-Insurance company and his story of sible that a better understanding will the doings previous to the formation be arrived at then. of the company occupied the attention It is believed that the city would of the court for over an hour. Dur-ing the giving of his own evidence, he necessary, if the club would undertake repeatedly accused witnesses of having perjured themselves in their statements against him. With regard to the evidence of Mr. Olds and Mr. Sirk heard yesterday, he said that both these witnesses were aiming to both these witnesses were aiming to upon with that special purpose in view

obtain control of the company. had come to him in his office and in-formed him that he had better let

to seattle noners.

As the council was on the point of adjourning at the time nothing more pany up to nearly \$130,000. The was done, but the summary disposal of on Monday and were identified by the satisfaction. witnesses called by the prosecution. Yesterday H. L. Carric of Spattl was called and produced the \$12,400 represented in certificates sold to Seattle people. There was 112 certificates which the witness swore were sold by the company for \$110 per

share. Upon conclusion of Jenning's state ment he was subjected to a severe cross-examination by Mr. McKay. company?" accused was asked. "As far as I know they are still in the of-

ice of the company.' "Where is Birrs now?" "The last I saw of him he was on his way to Seattle. He was very intoxicated and could not tell much about the affairs

of the company." "What is your right name? "Charles W. Jennings. "Are you not a son of Avela Birrs?"

can answer that question."

Mr. McKay here produced letters from the accused to Birrs in the accused to Birrs in the accused handwriting in which the latter addressed Birrs "Dear Father" and ter addressed Birrs "Dear Father" and the route of the National transcontinents of the concluded with "Your Loving Son." can answer that question."

concluded with "Your Loving Son." Brown entered suit for \$50,000, Jennings admitted the letters were written by him, but would not admit that Birrs was his father. Several that Birrs was his father. Several tooks. other questions were put to Jennings before the cross-examination was concluded, one of which was with reference to the amount of stock issued by the company. Jennings swore that he had only issued stock amounting to about \$75,000.

ADDRESS TO THE KING.

Will Be Presented Through the Governor-General and Colonial Secretary.

Ottawa, May 17.—Earl Grey has re-King's pleasure with regard to the presentation of addresses from civic and occasion of His Majesty's coronation that such addresses shall be presented it has advanced to the Panama Canal. in the ordinary way through the governor-general and the secretary of state for the colonies, as it will not be possible fir His Majesty to receive them from delegations.

ANGLO-AMERICAN ARBITRATION. Bradshaw of the Dundas Street Meth-

posed treaty or arbitration between the Vancouver and has decided to accept United States and Great Britain has the call, subject to the action of the Curran and Charles Carnine, coal min-reached the stage where it is to be conference. presented to the British government approval. Ambasedor Bryce, behe cabinet met vesterday, had a conference with President Taft, in - the final firaft is

WILL ATTEMPT TO ENJOIN THE CLUB

Prisoner Tells of Tribulations Case Will Be Argued in Vancouver To-morrow-Mayor Makes Affidavit

(From Wedensday's Daily.) The hoardings throughout the city are Jennings heard the sentence similar effect in large and lurid type,

went into the witness box to give evi- an injunction restraining the Victoria ence in his own behalf.

Country Club from bringing off the race meet at the agricultural grounds. company that would live for centuries In his journey over he is armed with and that would carve for him a bril- an affidavit over the signature of the liant future, was the statement made mayor to the effect that the lease as Jennings.

Jennings almost broke down on two occasions and with tears in his eyes and a wavering voice appealed to the court for protection against the claims of the club to be in possession of a five-year lease in untenable because the B. C. Agricultural Association, prior to the holding of the sixty-day meet two years ago, was only for one year, and that the claims of the club to be in possession of a five-year lease in untenable because the B. C. Agricultural Association had not the power to grant it. It will be pointed out by the city solicitor also that the by-law under which the race meet is being held requires a permit being granted the club by the granted the club by the B. C. Agricul-

money, money that I had worked hard denied by the club. They contend that borrowing from whoever I could. Any within the city limits, and the usual square minded man can see what I permit has been obtained from the Oak Bay council. The club will, of course, be represented at the injunction proceed-

btain control of the company.

Upon one occasion, Kirk, he said, ting within the limits of the Miller Act

At Monday night's meeting of the formed him that he had better let him take over the control of the company. He had told him he had not sufficient stock in the company to do this.

When the hearing of the case was resumed yesterday another batch of stock certificates representing about \$12,400 were produced by the crown Prosecutor, Wm. McKay, shares sold to Seattle holders. This brought the total in shares disposed of by the comcouncil Aiderman H. M. Fullerton en-

"What became of the books of the Winnipeg Telegram Withdraws Charges Against E. Brown —Libel Suit Bropped

(Special to the Times.) Winnipeg, May 17.—The Telegram this morning publishes an apology "Are you not a son of Avela Birrs?" for and withdrawal of the charges made against Edward Brown, Liberal candidate in South Winnipeg, dur-

UNCLE SAM WANTS MONEY.

companies of which the treasury has prisoners.

Abbatemaggio again recited his story ceived intimation from the secretary of his banker. By this issue of \$50,000,000 state for the colonies that it is the United States will owe its people his banker. By this issue of \$50,000,000 the other by taunting him. cther bodies in the Dominion, on the from the new issue will be issued part- not put yourself to unnecessary trouble.

ACCEPTS CALL.

(Special .. ti - Times.)

Woodsteck, Ont., May 17. Rev. G. K. odist church, has received a call from Washington, D. C., May 17.- The pro- the Sixth Avenue Methodist church of

PLACED ON TRIAL

Calgary, May 17.—Thomas Mitchell fight in Lebanon last December 18. erick W. Dubrau, who met death by Contrain points in the treaty were Robertsen, whose confession was re-Judge Hadley sentenced McCurran coming in contact with a guy wire configuration of John and Carnine to solitary confinement on charged with electricity on Monday. tos senate for re tation reviewed the case.



-Montreal Herald.

MR. BORDEN-You will have a most interesting time in London, my dear Laurier. SIR WILFRID-Historically yes, but for real excitement, my dear Borden, it won't be a patch on time you will have trying to convince those Westerners that they will not profit by reciprocity.

WINNIPEG ELECTRIC DIVIDEND INCREASED

shareholders of Winning Electric vesterday afternoon it was decided to increase the quarterly dividends to threeper cent. payable July 1 to shareholders of June 19, or twelve per cent. per annum, an increase of two per cent. It understood, however, in local financial circles, that this increase has been anticipated and in itself does not explain the sensational movements of this stock during the last few weeks.

EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE.

London, May 17.—The Morning Post mation and opinions must be arranged. In spite of the lack of proper preparation on the part of the board of educaucation.

ANOTHER PRISONER

Camerrists-Abbatemaggio Denounced as Assassin

Viterbo, May 17.-Francisco Desiderio, one of those charged by Genarro Ab-the Great Lakes, he can give a day bebatemaggio with having been at the Aida tavern in Bagnoli when Genarro Cuoccolo was condemned to death for the negative. Washington, May 17 .- Seventy-seven treachery by a court of Camorrists, pail bags filled with invitations to the faced the informer at the trial of the public to bid for Uncle Sam's bonds left Camorrists to-day. The exchanges were Washington to-day. Everyone of 23,000 similar to those in which the state's national banks, state banks, and trust witnesses have engaged with other

"You did not learn your part well receive another \$50,000 if possible. about \$963,000,000, upon which the this merning," said the alleged assassin. rates of interest are paid. The money Abbatemaggio replied calmly: "Do Abbatemaggie replied calmly: "Do ly to reimburse the treasury for money It is useless to try to confound me." Desiderio was frequently prompted by others of the accused, especially Alfano and the priest, Vitozzi. The latter, quoting from Alfano's earlier denunciation repeatedly cried out at Abbatemaggio. Assassin, you are the real murderer."

LIFE IMPRISONMENT.

Belleville, Ills., May 17.—Edward Mcers of Lebanon, Ills., were each sen-Judge Hadley to-day, for killing Wilitation. The prisoners pleaded guilty, ties.

CATTLE RAISERS FEAR RECIPROCITY

TEXANS DECLARE BILL WILL DESTROY INDUSTRY

Winnipeg, May 17.—At a meeting of Senator Stone Will Press for Vote of S. Senate inance Committee

f Missouri, announced to-day to the ingland deals with the C. N. R. that he would soon press for a vote on the honor of the minister or reflecting reciprocity. He said he did not promise integrity as a trustee of public TWO DEATHS FROM pose to let the hearings drag along in- interests. definitely. An unsuccessful attempt to become a true link between the edu-cational authorities of every part of tor Penrose, chairman of the commitwas made by the committee to fix a the Empire something more than an tee, expressed the belief that the recihotel district had another early morn-LBFAL CANDATE disolated meeting every four years is required. Constant interchange of information and opinions must be arranged. Controversy over the prices of Cana dian cattle arose between members of West 44th street near Broadway, and the committee and a witness at to- shattered a few windows without hurt-

tion, the conference has resulted in en-couraging the future development of C. E. Lansater, president of the Cattle sternation in the neighborhood that the common and imperial traditions in ed- Raisers' Association of Texas, declared police reserves had to be called out to that the cattle raising industry would quiet the excitement. be destroyed because Canadian prices were lower.

Senator Stone declared this was not the case. He quoted statistics which Mr Lansater questioned. The secretary of agriculture and Prof. Emery of the tariff board will be called to explain the figures and apparent contradictions. Question in Commons.

London, May 17.-In the Commons to-day Rowland Hunt, Unionist, asked lvely Exchanges at Trial of the premier whether, in view of the fact that President Taft has definitely stated that his object was to prevent preferential trade and the commercial union of the Empire and Secretary Meyer had not denied that America had trebly violated the Bagot-Rush treaty by reason of the number and size of the armament of war vessels on questions. The premier answered in

CHINESE RELIEF.

Ottawa, May 17.-A telegram from nmittee at Shanghai has reached the particulars by dropping around to see sertion in turn and sought to confuse people for the relief already sent, and expressing the committee's desire to

SCHOOL ON FIRE.

Over Three Hundred Pupils March Out of Burning Building.

London, Ont., May 17 .- In forty-five econds the 360 pupils of the Rectory Street school marched out to safety this morning when the building caught fire. Though dense smoke poured from the basement there was no panic. VANCOUVER FATALITY.

Vancouver, May 17.-Criminal neglitenced to imprisonment for life by gence was the verdict rendered by the coroner's jury here yesterday in the liam Campe, a farm hand, in a street case of Thomas P. Costello and Fred-

HOUSE COMMITTEE **BEGINS INQUIRY**

Hon. Frank Oliver Will Give Assistance in Making Investigation Thorough

(Special to the Times.) ons committee investigating the tured Bacum, on the Yaqui river interior department, as first witness. The minister of the interior told the town. emmittee he desired to offer every fasenate finance committee, at the hear- It is confidently asserted by those casualties of the fight are not known. ing on the reciprocity and free list bills who know the facts of the case that that he would soon press for a vote on the honor of the minister or reflecting

BANK EXPLOSION

ing bomb explesion to-day. The ex-

Loses Control of Biplane Which Plunges Hundred Feet to Earth

Los Angeles, Cal., May 17.—Overfore Whitsuntide to consider these quickly how to handle an aeroplane Hon, H, J. Palmer succeeded Hon. A, L. day at the aviation camp at Dominguez Field of A. V. Hardle, an ama-folio, filling a vacancy existing for sevthe chairman of the Chinese famine 100 feet and was instantly killed.

instructor, Hardle went up again to- McInnis, all without portfolios. day and while at a height of 100 feet, lost control of the machine and plunged to the ground. His body was badly mangled. Hardle came here from Marseilles, Ohio.

WOMAN BURNED TO DEATH.

Glenwood, Ia., May 17.-Mrs. John Fox was burned to death, Mrs. O. C. John Fox and James French were seriously injured in trying to rescue Mrs. Fox, when her clothing was ignited while she was trying to kindle a fire with kerosene last evening.

MANY ARE HOMELESS.

Chattanooga, Tenn., May 17 .- One housand persons were without shelter one was seriously injured.

PAGE WILL SION BE RESTORED

REBELS TO SUBMIT **FULL PROGRAMME**

Agreement Will Probably Be Close Examination by Asses-Ratified by Mexican Government in Few Days

Juarez, May 17.—In response to a request from the Mexican government, subject yesterday afternoon before Provincial President Francisco I. Ma- court enquiring into the wreck of dero, jr., and his cabinet gathered at 11 steamer Sechelt, three were o'clock to-day to formulate a final opinion that the Sechelt was peace agreement which is to be sub-mitted by telegraph by Judge Carbajal opinion. A. C. Kick, holder of a to-day to President Diaz and his cab- engineer's certificate, and former

ance now of the principal points, but ed the boat top-heavy and cranky instead of a point by point ratification, without ballast, and that her burn It has been decided to have the rebels defects she was ill-found in pump submit their programme in full for blanket ratification by the government. the ship on one trip to Sooke, and The ratification will be coincident with Fastwell, lighthouse keeper at the announcement of an armistice.

The signing in Juarez of the agreeent within a few days by Judge Car- Eastwell refusing to take passa bajal and the representative or repre- her the day of the wreck. entatives whom the insurrectos to-day ame, will end the armistice and a normal condition of peace will be recognized as existent.

graph or send couriers to their constituents in various parts of the republic. Foreign Minister's Views. Mexico City, May 17.-Foreign Min-

ister De La Barra said peace negotia-tions between government and rebels cessor the pump needed new valves. doubtless will reach a definite and fa- The ship lacked a bilge pump to orable result at to-day's cabinet meet- engine, but had one ejector.

government had the greatest desire to left her. onclude a peace agreement. Should the present negotiations fail said the witness, "but the prin t is regarded as not unlikely that the thing I was afraid of was her la city will be cut off soon from the out-side world. With the occupation of The witness was positive that Valles, a town in the Tampico branch bolts which fastened the stern of the National railway yesterday, the to the stern post were missing rebels now control the railway into and was cross-examined on the point out of San Luis Polosis to the north as Mr. Bass, and was positive in an

and west to Aguas Calientes. Rebels Driven From Town. Guaymas, Son., Mex., May 17.-Ma-they would have allowed her to or Louis Medina Barron and his Agua sea. I am sure the governmen Prieta federals, reinforced with 300 spectors would not have allowed Ottawa, May 17.—The special Com- Yaqui Indian infantry, attacked and to leave had they seen her."

charges against Hon, F. Oliver met this sterday.

morning and decided to call R. E. Two machine guns were taken at a upon him under the Shipping Young, chief of the land branch of the point near Bacum and assisted mater—calling on master, mate, or eng ially in driving the rebels out of the to report lack of equipment on a town.

The later fled to the southward and inspector. The witness replied he Washington, May 17.—Senator Stone, cility for securing information respect- are expected to make another stand not aware of that clause in the when reinforcements come up. The until lately, but he had informed

HEAT IN CHICAGO bunkers. Engineer Kick 27 years sea experience.

Controversy over the prices of Cana- plosion occurred in front of a house in Numerous Prostrations Also Reported-No Relief Yet in Sight

> Chicago, May 17.—Two persons are 125 pounds each, 25 switches. dead and numerous prostrations by axle boxes, and 33 pairs of car who intense suffering from the humidity is a toal weight of 8900 pounds. the result of Chicago's hottest May 16 rails were on the main deck but n 38 years, according to the weather pureau. The maximum temperature the C. P. R. dock.

> vas 89 degrees. The warm weather caught the public keeper at Race Rocks for the last inprepared. No relief from the heat years, had intended taking pas is promised to-day.

P. E. I. CABINET. nation of Hon. A. L. Haszard.

(Special to the Times.) Charlottetown, P. E. I., May 17 .- A re-organization of the Liberal provinconfidence in his ability to learn clal cabinet took place last evening. is given as the cause for the death to- Haszard, called to the bench, and Hon. Cyrus Crosby, Benshaw, was appointed member of the executive without portteur aviator, who plunged to the eral months. These were the only in the straits. He product the ground from a height of more than changes. Hon. John Richards remains of the light house log for three da of the time of the wreck. commissioner of agriculture and secre-Hardle, who was about 30 years miskey, commissioner of public works. Abbatemaggio again recited his story committee at Shanghai has reached the model of the meeting at the tavern, and department of external affairs, stating old, had a bioplane built at the aviation camp and made his first flight Hughes, Benjamin Gallant, John Mcyesterday. Against the advice of his Millan, Lachlan McDonald and J. D.

ARBITRATION TREATY

Washington, D. C., May 17.-The draft of a general arbitration treaty was submitted to-day to the British and French governments through their ambassadors here, as a basis for negotiating permanent treaties on general lines. Questions of honor and vital much house work. McLean was seriously burned and irrerest are to be subject to arbitration. The Hague tribunal will decide issues. Questions which both parties agree are not justifiable are to be referred to special committees to devise a means of settlement, Agreements are to be submitted to the United States senate for ratification.

FLOODS IN AUSTRIA.

Lemberg, Austria, May 17 .- A cloudlast night as the result of a fire which burst at Boryslaw, a town of 11,000 in- Head wharf. The weather was so This was the final conference. sponsible for the conviction of John and Carnine to solitary confinement on the final conference. sponsible for the conviction of John and Carnine to solitary confinement on the final conference. Sponsible for the conviction of John and Carnine to solitary confinement on the final conference. Sponsible for the conviction of John and Carnine to solitary confinement on the final conference. Sponsible for the conviction of John and Carnine to solitary confinement on the final conference. Sponsible for the conviction of John and Carnine to solitary confinement on the final conference. Sponsible for the conviction of John and Carnine to solitary confinement on the part of the final conference. Sponsible for the conviction of John and Carnine to solitary confinement on the final conference. Sponsible for the conviction of John and Carnine to solitary confinement on the part of the final conference. Sponsible for the conviction of John and Carnine to solitary confinement on the part of the solitary confinement on the part of the final conference. Sponsible for the conviction of John and Carnine to solitary confinement on the part of the solitary confinement on the part of the final conference. Sponsible for the conviction of John and Carnine to solitary confinement on the part of the solitary confinement on the part of the final conference. Sponsible for the conviction of John and Carnine to solitary confinement on the part of the final conference. Sponsible for the conviction of John and Carnine to solitary confinement on the part of the final conference. Sponsible for the conviction of John and Carnine to solitary confinement on the part of the final conference. Sponsible for the conviction of John and Carnine to solitary confinement on the part of the final conference. Sponsible for the conviction of John and Carnine to solitary confinement on the part of the final conference. Sponsible for the conviction of John and Carnine to solitary confinement on the part of the final conference. oll works.

HULL INSPECTOR GIVES EVIDENCE

SEAWORTHINESS OF RESERVED DISCUSSED

sors as to Granting Sooke Run Certificate

(From Wednesday's Daily Of four witnesses examined proper boat for the Victoria-Sook gineer of the Sechelt when she of ed in Victoria waters, and with There is practically a mutual accept- years sea experience, said he cons Carl Stromgren, who was mast Rocks, both believed the boat wa suitable for the run and should have been taken out on March 24.

Engineer Kick underwent cross-eximination from Oscar C appearing for the owners of th The insurrecto chiefs here will tele- ship, and was questioned by Cap Neurotsos. The witness had been gineer on the Sechelt from Mar to March 17, and had then left boat because he did not consider a seaworthy vessel. Her donkey pu

the hip was on the ways he saw Finance Minister Limantour was not her stern post had started, and quite so sanguine as his colleagues in would account for her leakage the ministry this morning. He said the not liking her sea possibilities he

"I consider the ship was top he The witness was positive that far as Saltillo into Cohuila, east to ing as before.

Tampico on the southwest Tamaulipas, "Had the underwriters seen few months before I joined said the witness, "I do not b

The witness was questioned by captain of the Sechelt of her unwo ness, and advised that her bunke kept full, as she had a long roll 10,000 ton ship. On two trips wh he made, the witness told the cou the Sechelt arrived in Victoria wit

less than a half ton of coal in unkers. Engineer Kick said he A witness giving evidence as what cargo she carried said people walking aboard over the ga plank at the .C. P. R. wharf wo cause the boat to list towards wharf, and that one person walk along the top deck close to the would cause her to list. He noticed this as she was at the wh side. The cargo loaded at the C. P wharf consisted of 30 rails weigh

Frederick Eastwell light on the Sechelt. He told Capt. J: he thought it too rough. He arra to go the following day at two o Capt. James had offered to pu Changes Are Made As Result of Resig- in at Pedder Bay. From the w noon that day, conditions Rocks would be pretty bad and Bedford island the witness sa was no tide but continuou the worst of the rip would quarters of a mile from W ford island and there would more rip until close to Beach The safest course would be dle of the straits. It would be re worse weather at Beachy Head tha in the straits. He produced a cop

> of the time of the wreck. "As a sailor, had I been alone day I would have taken passage Beachy Head myself, but no furth he said. "The rip is really worse the tides are half run out. here are the most irregular in part of the world."

The witness agreed to prose the court his private record of kept by him at the light hou the light of his knowledge ience, over twenty-two years at light house, the witness the Sechelt was not a proper boat for that run, because she

"There is no place in these where there is such a rotten so the Race Rocks neighborhed concluded. Thomas Reilly, master

has been navigating in this visince 1885. He last saw the Sec at William Head wharf at four the day of the wreck and spo Captain James. Capt. Reilly that the starboard port doors open when the ship was at

(Concluded on page 10.)

WANT TO NAME CABINE

Madero Will Prob didate for P Next Ele

Juarez, Mexico, M ngness of the Me to grant the insurr name three members he governors of 14 states depends the eace in Mexico. This proposition, a the original dema

which called for four cabinet, is the reply to-day to the offer of ment of one cab ten governorships as t The answer from the pected here to-day. The insurrectos, peace is declared, v arty which probably progressive" party. completely restore llows out his inte which insurrecto lead in two or three mo will devote itself to

ional campaign. Tindoubtedly Fra will be the candid while It is consider Vasquez Gomez may dent, as he did in s possible that Dr. one of the cabinet be given the rebels nd it is said he'v me a candidate General Armist

Juarez, May 6.—() few hours a general it Mexico will be federal government ists. The peace p assed back and had reached a p where their accepts rectos was only a hours. This staten v one of the insur day received word proposals.

Rejoins the Chibanhua, Mexic Paso, Texas, May member of a pro-Mexico City, and an who was captured : March 6, escaped

INSURGENTS

(Concluded

Drunken Rebels and Rob Banks

Mexico City, May, billaging occurred at the early hours of to the surrender of the the rebels became their commanders. in terror barricaded remained concealed. looted.

Pachuca is a min population, capital Hidalgoa and sixty of Mexico City. Sunday night it f of the revolutionists trefon, who is operat rection of Gen. Gig ture was effected wit

During last night m helped themselves saloon supplies and the orders of their of ning throught the str shooting, the lawles form of robbery in Charges of dynam under the foundation exploded. Where ever effected the banks w

invaders swarming

taking possession of buildings without a

rioters then turned commercial houses v of their stocks. One of the first act to force the doors of the prisoners. This blance of order had

TWO LOSE TH

Davenport, May 16.—7 north of Davenport, at Spokane, has claimed ohn Snide, of Marsha Fleet, a quarter-breed ? was on the Spokane Snider and Fleet, sickle, were taking a he Spokane river. manageaule and drift it the mouth of the men were helpless to a floating mass of logs. ountered and the raft wo men going down ansickle escaped by gaining the shore be reached.

SENTENCE CO Washington, D.C., Ma court of the United St proved the recent sen posed in the New Yo opher C. Wilson, pres Wireless Telegrah Co., Usal to permit the company's books.