

# WHERE TREASURE IS KEPT.

Massive Vaults Which Set Burglars and Fire at Defiance.

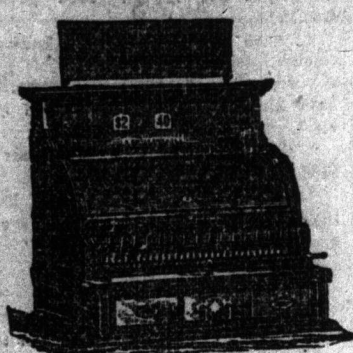
The banking hall, with its rich decorations and classic elegance, forms a feature of the building which attracts much interest, but that interest is divided evenly when the great vaults are viewed. Their size, massiveness and intricacy of the lock mechanism attract not only interest but create surprise and wonder in the minds of those who are allowed to see them.

They are said to be the finest banking vaults in the Dominion of Canada. They are heavy and beautifully finished and are absolutely burglar proof as well as fire proof. The cash vault is the most perfect and most elaborate of all. The floor is of solid steel plate, as too are all the walls and the ceiling. The iron and steel plates which are used for flooring are laid on solid masonry, which is 15 feet deep and extends from the floor of the bank right down to the ground. Messrs. J. & J. Taylor, who built the vaults, told The World yesterday why this solid masonry was put in. When vaults were built of such heavy material that it became almost impossible to effect an entrance through the door, it became a common practice with burglars to burrow under the vaults. The man who undertakes to burrow under the Bank of Commerce money vault is going to be one of the millionaires of the future.

The entire walls, floor and roof are protected by several thicknesses of heavy solid plates firmly secured to each other made proof against hardened steel drills, or shattering by heavy sledge hammers; and to prevent wedging or forcing apart, the corners are formed by bending the heavy plates of steel and iron so as to form a solid corner without joint from floor to ceiling. The entrance is protected by steel door frames and doors weighing several tons on both inside and outside of the bank walls, and the space between forming a vestibule is protected the same as the steel walls of the vault. The heavy steel and iron entrance door is hardened and tempered to resist burglars' drills. The steel used is of special make so that after being chilled and tempered it cannot be shattered by hammer. The edges are formed by rivets and are rounded and grooved to prevent the door from being forced apart. The door closes on to a specially constructed rubber packing forming an air tight joint to prevent the introduction of explosives by the use of an exhaust pump. The door is forced firmly into the jambs and against the rubber packing by a powerful eccentric lever on the outside, and an ingenious method of swinging the door on a massive cast iron hinge instead of ordinary hinges. The door is made to move in a parallel direction into its place. The locking bolts, 54 in number and two inches in diameter, hold the door on all its edges, are made to revolve, thus preventing their being out of order by saws or drills. The splines and arbors operating these are a patented invention of J. & J. Taylor and are so constructed that they can neither be driven in, pulled out nor broken. These doors are fitted with four burglar proof combination locks, each capable of over 40 millions of changes of combination to prevent the possibility of picking the numbers, and a double chronometer time-lock, thus preventing robbery by the use of the clock. A strong grating gate prevents any one from entering even during banking hours but those authorized. The chronometer locks on the safes are costly ones. Messrs. J. & J. Taylor put them on the safe doors at an expense of \$400 each. The doors of the safe and vaults cost \$300 each and are not only works of beauty, but they are also works of strength. The work on these vaults has been done in Toronto, and in it Messrs. Taylor have finished a work that will remain a perpetual monument of their art. In conversation with a World reporter yesterday Mr. West of J. & J. Taylor told how 20 years ago his firm had built the vaults in the old Bank of Commerce. Then those vaults were regarded as the best in Ontario, and with the modern improvements and inventions, they afterwards came to be regarded as old-fashioned. But the vaults in the new bank are of a later design and are regarded as a triumph of modern art.

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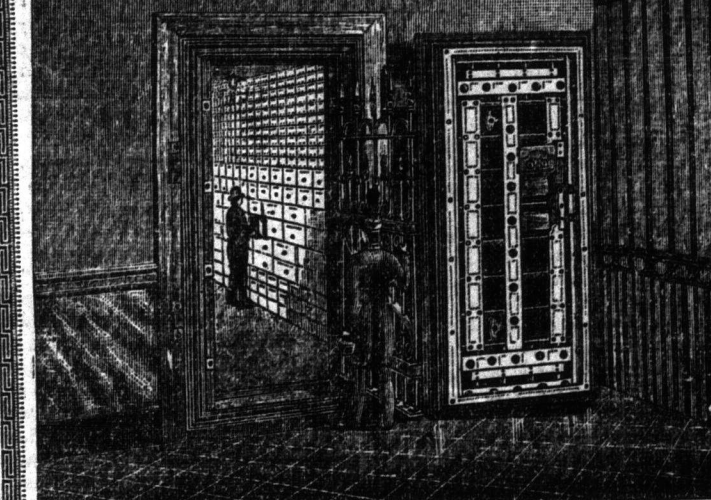
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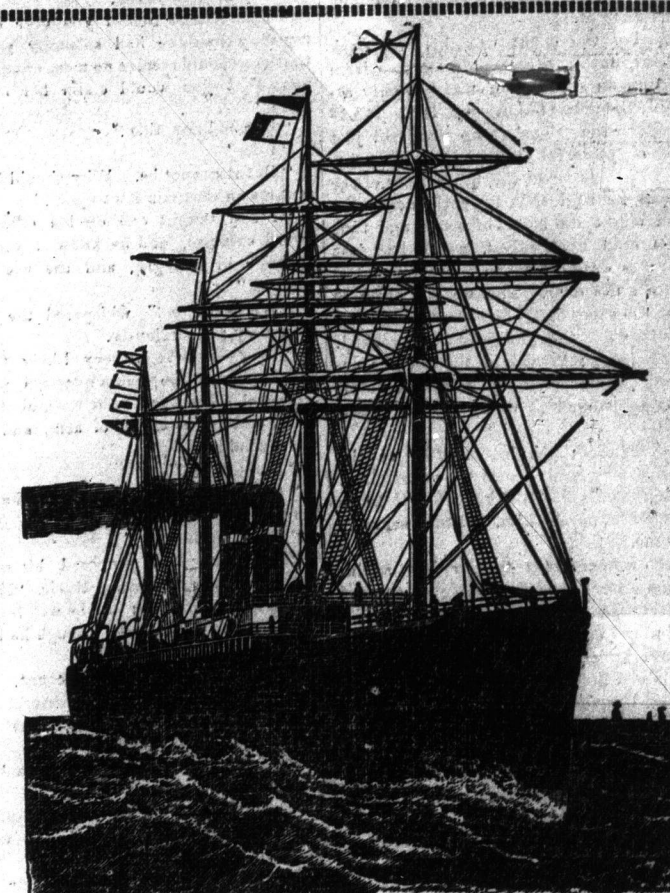
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