To the Trade

March 1.

We begin this month with an interesting stock of Hosiery and Gloves.

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DEFENCE OF LONDON.

Measures That Are Being Taken for Its Protection Against Military Attack.

To many readers the information that serious steps have been and are being taken to defend London against attack will doubtless come as a surprise. Those who are responsible for the national defences have based their action on the theory that if we were unhappily involved in war with a powerful European coalition, and if, still more unhappily, a disaster to our navy deprived us for a while of the command of the sea, an attempt would be made to invade England and seize London.

The bold chalk ridge of the North Downs is thus the southern wall of London. The line of selected positions extends for 36 miles from the Hog's Back on the right to Halstead, in Kent, on the left. On the other side of the river there is another series of positions selected, running from Tilbury on the Thames, by Brentwood, to Epping, to protect London against an attack coming thru Essex. On the northwest, positions have been chosen about Berkhamstead, in the Chilterns. Between the left of the southern line and the right of the Essex positions lies the great waterway of the Thames.

There are two groups of forts to guard the river. First, on the broad estuary that forms the actual mouth of the river, there are the forts of Sheerness, with the defences of Chatham behind them. Further up there is another group of forts, to bar the narrow passage of the river at the sharp bend just below Gravesend. Several of these forts are, it must be admitted, somewhat antiquated and unsatisfactory structures, armed with what a sporting man would call "rather a scratch lot" of guns. The old muzzle-loader is far too prominent among them. But they are now being rearmed with heavy modern guns and quick-firers. One good modern battery has been constructed lately on a spot that need not be noted here, and preparations have been made for mounting powerful guns at other points where the enemy might least expect them, the actual mounting being left till the eve of war in order to complete his surprise. A few good pieces of modern artillery, well mounted, can do more work than scores of old-fashioned guns.—Cassell's.

IT'S A CRIME TO BE HARD UP.

Inspector Archabold Has a Heavy Case in Hand—A Sample Case in the Morality Department.

One who gives her name as Alice Wilson is exciting the attention of Inspector Archabold of the Morality Department and the representatives of several charitable institutions, by her refusal to tell anything about herself. In order to cover up her identity she has told the police several stories, which upon investigation have been proven to be false. First she claimed to have worked in Eaton's at the handkerchief counter for a year, and had been discharged for underselling. She also said she had been boarding at 118 Bond-street, after leaving her home in Peterboro, where she maintained the family by teaching music. The young woman applied to Mrs. Gooderham of Sherbourne-street last Friday for assistance, and was by her sent to Miss Scott of the Deaconess' Home. From there she was taken to the Y.W.C. Guild, and then handed over to the police. She appeared before Magistrate Denison yesterday and was remanded for a week to enable Inspector Archabold to discover something about her. The prisoner is of fair complexion, with big blue eyes. She is slender and claims to be 19 years of age.

A Presentation.

After the sale of stocks yesterday at Suckling & Co.'s warerooms, Mr. I. Silver, on behalf of some old customers and the employes of the firm, presented Mr. Fred Suckling with a fine English leather traveling bag on the occasion of his leaving the firm and going to the Gault Bros Company of Montreal, whom he will represent in Ontario in the north and west. Fred said in reply that, while they had been getting good bargains before, it was nothing to what they would get when he called on them at their homes.

THE THOMPSON CASE AGAIN.

Fire Chief Was Not Present Owing to Illness, But Several Witnesses Were Examined.

HIS WORK FOR EX-MAYOR SHAW.

Thompson Gave the Scrutineeers Their Papers Before the Election Took Place.

The Thompson investigation was resumed before Judge McDougall in the Court House yesterday morning.

Mr. Charles Ritchie, Q.C., counsel for the Chief, stated that his client was unable to attend on account of illness.

Mr. Du Vernet, who is acting for the city, asked that a doctor's certificate be produced, and in this His Honor concurred.

Mr. Ritchie said his client was prepared to admit that he had attended committee rooms in the municipal election of 1899, but Mr. Du Vernet said he had witnesses to prove that the Chief had done more, and had participated as a manager and instructed the scrutineers in their duties.

How a Fire Engine Was Used.

John McGowan, secretary of the Fire Department, was the first witness called. He testified that on Jan. 4 last Ald. Dunn had applied for the use of the Lombard-street fire engine to pump out the steamer Queen City, which he understood was the property of ex-Ald. Davies. The request was not granted at first, as the loan of an engine would have crippled the department, the other engine being then disabled. Finally, however, the engine was sent, he did not know on whose orders. The engine was away three or four hours. He saw it come back.

Hearsay Evidence.

As hearsay evidence, Mr. McGowan testified that about a year ago, when Mr. Thompson was deputy chief, he understood a fireman named Corbett had quarrelled with and attempted to thrash him, but had afterwards apologized and been retained on the brigade. Witness testified that before his present appointment, Deputy Chief Noble was supposed to have been clerk of the stores, but he never saw any record of such appointment by the Council.

He knew of nothing improper having passed between Noble and a man named Jack Foote regarding election matters.

Edward Vaum, an employe of Mitchell's livery stable, was called to explain an entry in one of the firm's books, but Mr. Ritchie objected, maintaining that the evidence was irregular. The objection was sustained.

Ald. Burns' Story.

Ald. Burns testified to a conversation he had had with Mr. Thompson three or four weeks before the latter's appointment as Chief. He spoke of a rumor that was current to the effect that he (Thompson), Mayor Shaw and Mr. Noble had an understanding by which, if Thompson assisted the Mayor in his election, he was to be appointed Chief. Thompson had admitted that he helped Mayor Shaw, but denied that he had contributed anything to his election fund, or figured in any money transaction.

Witness said he also spoke to Mayor Shaw about the matter, but that gentleman also denied the existence of a deal between them, tho Mr. Thompson might have helped him in his election, as he was a friend of his. In answer to a question by Mr. Ritchie, witness said he heard the rumor in a roundabout way, but from a reliable source, which he declined to divulge. He had no personal knowledge of firemen taking part in the elections.

Got His Scrutineer's Books from Thompson.

Stephen Shipman, a carpenter, testified that he had taken part in the election of Mayor Shaw in 1899. At the committee rooms, 330 East Queen-street, he had seen Ald. Davies, Chief Thompson and Ald. Lamb. He had gone there for his books as a scrutineer, and received them from Mr. Thompson, whom he had known for several years. He received $2 for his services on that occasion.

Also Got His Papers from Him.

James Shipman also acted as scrutineer in the 1899 election. He was at the committee rooms on East Queen-street, and saw there Mayor Shaw, Chief Thompson and William Noble. He likewise received his papers from the Chief and was sworn in by Ald. Lamb. On the same premises he had also seen Ald. Davies, Beale and Allen. He had been paid by Mr. Steen.

Another One Still.

Charles Rapp was another man who acted as scrutineer for Mayor Shaw in this election. His story was substantially the same as that of the two preceding witnesses, he having received his books from Chief Thompson, been sworn in by Ald. Lamb, and paid afterwards by either Steen or a man named Rogers. He had no doubt as to the date of the occurrence.

The Chief's Physical Condition.

In the afternoon Dr. Bail was the first witness called. He testified to the condition of the Chief, and that he might be able to get about in three or four days. This means a postponement beyond next week, as His Honor's court opens next week.

Thompson Taking an Active Part.

Edward H. Graham, a commission merchant, was next called. He testified to having taken an interest in the municipal election of 1899. He had introduced the Messrs. Shipman to be sworn in by Chief Thompson and Ald. Lamb, at the premises, 330 East Queen-street, on the Saturday evening before the election. He did not know that Thompson had any particular duties there, but seemed to be taking an active part in instructing the scrutineers. He had seen ex-Ald. Davies in the committee rooms.

Witness admitted having received $3 for his services from Thompson about three months after the election. Thompson had called on him one night and paid him, saying he was sorry he could not pay him more, but there was not enough to go around. Shipman was in the house that night.

In answer to questions by Mr. Ritchie, he thought over 100 scrutineers were sworn in by the chief and Ald. Lamb that night.

William Noble's Story.

William Noble, president of the Young Men's Municipal Club, admitted having been sent to the committee room at 330 East Queen-street by John Shaw to make arrangements for rigs. He had seen Ald. Davies, Lamb, Dr. Noble and Chief Thompson there on that occasion. A man named Rogers was in charge of the room. Witness had spoken to Thompson about having the rigs sent and he (Thompson) said that if John Shaw wished it he would send them. He believed Thompson was at the committee rooms about 3 or 4 hours that evening. He had asked witness if he could get him any men to put in the north end booths and he had got them. He had seen Deputy Chief Noble there for a few minutes about 11 o'clock that night.

In response to questions by Mr. Ritchie, witness said he had seen ex-Ald. Beale three or four times and Mr. DuVernet three times in connection with this affair. He would not say he was an enemy of Mr. Thompson.

John McDole, a painter, testified that he had acted in John Shaw's interest in the election of 1899. He was at the committee room on East Queen-street on the night in question and saw Thompson there. Ald. Lamb swore him in and furnished him with his voters' list. He had only seen Thompson once since, going into his own house. He had acted on his own responsibility in applying for the position of scrutineer. "Times are hard about elections and there is not much money going," said the witness with a grin. "They are all after it." He admitted having received $2 for his services from a man named Hamlin.

William Steen failed to appear, tho his name was called three times.

Mr. Ritchie was of opinion that these witnesses should not appear till paid their fees.

Mr. DuVernet said he believed the city intended to pay them as was usual. He did not intend to move for an order of committal unless His Honor so ruled.

Mr. Ritchie understood that Mr. DuVernet took the ground that none of the witnesses were entitled to be paid.

Mr. DuVernet said this was not the case.

Ex-Chief Graham.

Ex-Chief T. Graham was next called. He thought that he had heard something of a quarrel between Mr. Thompson and a man named Corbett, formerly a member of the brigade. In speaking of the matter afterwards, Thompson stated that Corbett had made ample apology to him. He knew nothing about Mr. Thompson taking any part in the election of 1899. "The man did his duty faithfully and well," said the witness. He never knew Thompson to have been off duty when he also was away. He could not say where he (witness) was on the Saturday night before the election of 1899.

Crawford Carried the Petition.

William Crawford, fireman at Berkeley-street station, did not remember having been in the Queen-street committee rooms or any others before the 1899 election. He had taken a petition around to about three people in connection with the appointment of Thompson. He admitted having been in the committee rooms at the corner of Queen and Berkeley-streets before the election of this year to see if his name was on the lists.

George Hill, a bricklayer, said he was a scrutineer in the election of 1899 for John Shaw. He had been in the committee rooms at 330 East Queen-street the Saturday night before the election and saw Chief Thompson there. Mr. Steen engaged and paid him for his services. Either Steen or Mr. Rogers had asked him to take a voters' list to Mr. Rapp and he had done so. He admitted that he did not think Mr. Thompson would get a fair show in this enquiry. He had seen Thompson and asked him if he was aware he was going to be fired. [Laughter.] If he had ever said he did not see Thompson in the committee rooms it was to throw some people off the track who had endeavored to throw him down. He felt justified in this course and Mr. DuVernet might call it an untruth if he wished.

The investigation was adjourned till 11 o'clock this morning.

A Mock Parliament.

The members of the North Toronto Liberal Club will hold a very interesting meeting to-night in their club rooms, corner Yonge and Cumberland-streets. The program will be a mock parliament, Mr. George Anderson, the Premier, has formed a Cabinet of considerable strength. The Opposition will be very strong in debating power, and will be led by Mr. A. F. Wilson, assisted by N. W. Rowell, W. J. Brown, W. A. Sherwood, Lincoln Hunter, George Pryor Deacon and several other well-known barristers. Young Conservatives of independent views are cordially invited to take part in the Opposition. The Government will be ably supported by L. V. McBrady, Col. Steele, W. J. Dickenson, John Donaldson and others. Dr. E. Herbert Adams will act as Governor-General.

The Demon Dyspepsia—in olden times it was a popular belief that demons moved invisibly through the ambient air seeking to enter into men and trouble them. At the present day the demon, dyspepsia, is at large in the same way, seeking habitation in those who by careless or unwise living invite him. And once he enters a man it is difficult to dislodge him. He that finds himself so possessed should know that a valiant friend to do battle for him with the unseen foe is Parmelee's Vegetable Pills, which are ever ready for the trial. ed

A Chapter in Canadian History.

Prof. Davidson of Trinity College will deliver to-night at 8 o'clock in Holy Trinity schoolhouse, Trinity-square, a lecture on "A Chapter in Canadian History," which will be illustrated by limelight views. A number of patriotic songs will also be given. The entertainment is under the auspices of the Social and Literary Society of St. Luke's Church.

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Parcels for Canadian Contingents.

Mr. S. J. Sharp, western manager, Elder, Dempster & Co., 80 Yonge-street, received instructions from his company that they will carry parcels to any of the troops in the Canadian contingents in South Africa free of charge on the Monterery, sailing about the 15th March. Any further particulars will be furnished upon application.

American Ship Foundered.

Sourabaya, Java, Feb. 28.—The American ship St. John from New York for Yokohama, is reported lost by fire. All hands were saved and landed at Banjoowange. The St. John had a registered tonnage of 1885 and was owned by I. F. Chapman & Company of New York.

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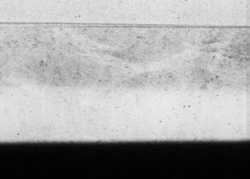

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