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## COMPLETE COLLAPSE OF THE PLUMBERS' AND PLASTERERS' COMBINES IN LONDON

Investigation at Toronto Causes the Members to Take Fright and Return to Old Way of Doing Business—Plasterers' Burn Books to Hide Evidence of Ring.

The exposures made at Toronto during the past week or ten days in connection with the plumbers' combine investigation has resulted in the complete collapse of the ring which has existed among the plumbers of London, or at least, the vast majority of them, for a year or more.

Before the inquiry was opened at Toronto, a Londoner who wanted any plumbing or heating work done, had to pay the hold-up prices of the combine, unless it were possible to get some independent plumber to do the job, or else do without. In many cases the Londoners did without, preferring to wait rather than allow themselves to be held.

### HOW IT OPERATED.

The modus operandi of the combine was so bold from the outset that it was not long before its existence was causing complaint. Any person who asked for a price for work could not get it until the job had been submitted to the ring, which had things arranged in such a way that one firm would be named to get the contract, his price also being fixed. Not only was this done, but the combine would give three or four other members a figure, which, of course, would be higher than that of the person who was selected for the work.

### WHOLE HOG OR NONE.

The plumbers were not even modest in their prices. They were not satisfied with a small advance over the figures that would have been quoted before the combine was formed. They played whole hog or none, and on jobs which could be profitably done by an independent plumber for \$200, they would demand from \$275 to \$350 or \$500.

Not only in new work did they attempt to hold up the public. In repairing, they were known to have secured exorbitant pay. More than one itemized account for repairs has shown a charge of from 5 to 25 cents for material, with \$1 or \$1.50 tacked on for labor.

### BALKED BY INDEPENDENTS.

Among the many plumbing firms in the city, only one or two are known to have kept clear of the ring. It was the intention of the combine to have the supply houses sell to men outside the combine only at a great advance in price, thus shutting off their competition and compelling them to join the organization. In this the combine failed, for the independents managed to get their supplies and do business on the same old stands—and prices, these independents, consequently, and themselves pretty well supplied with orders.

The combine did not confine its operations to Toronto and London alone. It was a provincial affair, and parties connected with the building trades state that a person could not go to another place and secure figures, the condition of the membership being that there was to be no invasion of territory.

### SCARED BY EXPOSURES.

But all this has come to an end, so far as London is concerned—and all the result of the Toronto investigation and the likelihood of an inquiry being prosecuted here.

A plumber who was one of the shining lights of the combine, was twitted about the Toronto exposures only yesterday, and at the same time he was asked about tenders for work.

"Oh, well, it is all off now," he said, "and we are free to submit figures just as we please."

He didn't explain what he meant by "it," but the conversation was in reference to the combine.

### PLASTERERS BURN BOOKS.

There are others besides the London plumbers who have been growing fat on the strength of a

combine. They are the plasterers. Not all of the latter have been in an organization of their own, but the large majority of them were in the clique. The investigation at Toronto has brought out a condition of affairs that frightened the London plasterers, who, fearing exposure here, held a meeting this week, at which it was agreed to disband and burn the books, thus hiding all trace of the ring's existence.

The plasterers, however, have not been as bold as the plumbers, although they have demanded just as stiff prices. Only a few days ago a tender was asked for the plastering of a large building now being erected in

London, and the lowest bid was in the neighborhood of \$1,400. This was almost double what had been estimated, and the owners of the building refused to be held up. An outside firm was asked to tender on the same work, and the figure submitted by it was close upon \$700 lower than the lowest of the Londoners'.

But, like the plumbers, the plasterers are now doing business on their own hooks, and can give figures for work without first submitting the same to a ring.

Such strong evidence of the existence of the two combines has been secured that an investigation in London would see some rich evidence given.

## Assessments Struck Off Have Reached \$19,601

### List of Latest Decisions of the Local Court of Revision.

The following appeals against assessments have been dealt with by the court of revision. The total assessment struck off in these appeals totals the sum of \$19,601. This does not mean that the court refused to allow the city to assess the property to the new owner. None of the amounts struck off are very large. It will also be noticed that the court refused to entertain a large number of appeals as the many confirmations of the assessment commissioner's judgment shows:

The following is the list:

Amelia Adeock, against income tax. Confirmed.

Ada Adair, against income tax. \$10. Allowed.

Mrs. Mary Allen, over-assessment on real. Confirmed.

Ernest Atkins, against income. Allowed.

George W. Armstrong, over-assessment and portion of land sold, \$200. Allowed.

Robert Annett, over-assessment on real. Confirmed.

Christina G. Allen, change in ownership. Granted.

Wm. F. Bell, over-assessment. Confirmed.

U. A. Buchner, against being assessed as owner. Allowed.

John Ballie, over-assessment on real. Confirmed.

George Brown, against statute labor and to be assessed as owner, \$1. Allowed.

John Black, over-assessment on real. Confirmed.

Continued on page eight.

## ALD. COOPER STILL TALKS MAYORALTY

Says He Can Get Conservative Convention Ahead of All Others.

"I'm not kidding. I mean business. You fellows don't take me seriously, but I tell you I am going to run for mayor. Why shouldn't I run? Haven't I as good a right to run as Matthews or Judd? I have been longer in the council than Matthews, and well, Judd's had his chance. I say that if Mayor Campbell doesn't run, Judd has no hold on the party. If the mayor looks for another term, ex-Ald. Judd has the right to take another fall out of him."

This is what Ald. Cooper told the Advertiser today in the city hall.

"Neither Matthews nor Judd can get the Conservative convention against me," he continued. "I know who I'm talking about. Why, every day people meet me and ask me to run."

"Are they friends of yours?" asked the reporter.

"Well, they'll vote for me, anyway," the alderman replied.

Ald. Cooper doesn't believe that ex-Ald. Judd will run under any circumstances. He says that Mr. Judd dare not run if the party doesn't endorse him.

"If the Grits would keep out of the fight and leave it to Matthews, Judd and myself, you'd see the fur fly," he told the reporter. "And I'd be the next mayor of London."

### LAIRD-McBROOM

Miss Elvie McBroom, one of London's most popular young ladies, became the bride of Mr. Joseph Laird, of Blenheim, at the residence of her father, Mr. George McBroom, 242 Hymen street, this afternoon at 5:30 o'clock.

Rev. J. W. Graham, of the First Methodist Church, performed the ceremony, which was witnessed by about 40 of the near friends and relatives of the parties. The interior of the home was very prettily decorated for the occasion.

The bride, attired in ecru lace, over white tulle, looked very charming. She was given away by her father, Little Miss Alice Graves made a very pretty flower girl, and a sister of the bride, Miss Winnifred, was bridesmaid. The latter looked charming, gown in white crepe de chine. Another sister of the bride, Miss Everina McBroom, played the Wedding March. The groom was supported by G. M. Matheson.

The many wedding presents testified to the esteem in which the young couple are held by their friends.

They will leave this evening for an extended honeymoon trip of five weeks' duration to Chicago, Missouri and other western points. The bride's going-away gown was brown, with velvet hat to match.

## POLAR WHALING FLEET DOOMED

Seattle, Nov. 15. — Capt. Francis Tuttle, formerly in command of the revenue cutter Bear, states that from what he has learned from Capt. Bodfish, of the whaler William Bayliss, there is absolutely no chance for the whaling fleet to escape. In his opinion

the ships will be crushed in the ice. The crews will have to desert the ships and make for the Mackenzie River. The fleet is reported to be 60 miles from Banks Land, which is 500 miles east of the Mackenzie. He does not think a relief expedition could aid them in any way.

## P. C. GREEN TELLS OF HOT MIXUP

Relates Story of How Flexen Peppered Him in Thrilling Fight at the Cove.

Policeman Harry Green was welcomed by his comrades this morning on his first visit to the police station. Since the shooting affair a couple of weeks ago. A general handshaking and congratulations were the order of the day. His rather strenuous experience and enforced confinement has not affected his appearance to any extent. Beyond the handshakes and congratulations, he was kept around his neck, there is nothing about the policeman to tell of his wounds. The effects of the shot on the nerves of the arm, however, are still felt.

Green is in good spirits over his release from the hospital. Though he was fortunate in coming through the fray with no more serious injury, the two weeks has seemed a long time to the big policeman. He told of the shooting to the Advertiser this morning.

"I was so close to Flexen when he fired that when he swung around just previous to shooting, his right hand knocked my helmet off. The fellow had both revolvers in one hand, and was evidently searching in his pocket for more cartridges with the other. I was only about five feet away from him, and his back was turned. I put my revolver in my pocket so as to have both hands free to grapple with him, and was approaching him in a crouching position ready to spring on him at the instant he turned."

"The first shot struck me when I opened fire. Flexen became apparently frightened, for he ran away across the track to the north side. Smith pursued him and vainly tried to shoot him. His rather strenuous experience and enforced confinement has not affected his appearance to any extent. Beyond the handshakes and congratulations, he was kept around his neck, there is nothing about the policeman to tell of his wounds. The effects of the shot on the nerves of the arm, however, are still felt."

The bullet will remain in Green for the rest of his life. No danger is anticipated from it now, however. The X-ray photograph taken of Green was sent to the police station. He was accompanied by Vice-Principal Dearness, of the Normal School, to be the best piece of this kind of work yet done in this city, and as the local apparatus is the best obtainable, the picture can be said to be one of the best ever taken. Aside from the bullet, it shows the ribs, collarbone, lungs and spine very distinctly.

### TORPEDO BOAT FOUNDERS

One Officer and Thirty-Two Seamen Are Reported Missing.

Kiel, Nov. 18. — The torpedo-boat "St. 156" was in collision last night near Buek with the small German cruiser Unsinw. The torpedo-boat sank and one officer and thirty-two of her seamen are missing.

Minto at Bombay.

Bombay, Nov. 17. — The Earl of Minto, the new Viceroy of India, formerly Governor-General of Canada, arrived here this evening. The retiring viceroy, Lord Curzon, will leave Bombay tomorrow for England.

## TOUCHED MERCHANT COURT SCORES FOR A TWO SPOT

Places Big Order for Goods and on Strength of That Pulls Off the Loan.

Wm. Hodgins is an intelligent-looking man about 40 years of age. A few weeks ago he called on a Dundas street firm, and, claiming that he represented the Stratford Clothing Company of Stratford, spent several hours looking over the stocks of the store with the apparent intention of placing a large order.

He selected the goods and told the firm to ship these direct to Stratford. The shipment amounted to about \$50, and was in due time sent on.

Immediately after placing the order Hodgins told the merchant dealer that he was short of funds, and would deem it a favor if he was advanced a couple of dollars with which to return home. Without hesitation the merchant loaned the money and could have had more had he wished it. But his needs were apparently small.

Communication from Stratford shortly after said that no man representing the Stratford Clothing Company had been in London of late and that they had no employee by the name of Hodgins. Some three years ago, a man by that name had worked for them.

So the goods were shipped back at the expense of the merchant dealer, who was out the freight charges as well as the \$2 and the time expended in looking over the goods with the man. The fellow's familiarity with the goods at once was apparent, and this seemed a guaranty of his genuineness. The police were notified, with the result that Hodgins was located in St. Thomas and forthwith arrested. Detective Egerton went after him today, and Hodgins will have to stand trial here for obtaining money under false pretences.

The sum is small, but the principle of the matter is bad and the dealer is naturally rather sore that he was made the dupe of the occasion.

### BOTH WOMEN REMANDED

Elizabeth Hendrie and Kate Wilson To Be Tried on Monday.

Elizabeth Hendrie and Kate Wilson, O'Hanley, the two young women arrested yesterday at the Grand Trunk Station on a charge of theft, were remanded this morning by Police Magistrate Love until Monday for trial.

The alleged offence was committed the other day at the home of Mrs. Margaret E. Harper, Talbot street, where the young women were boarding. Mrs. Harper left \$10.50 in her purse, which she left in another room while she was attending to some duties in the kitchen. Later she found that the money was missing, and it was presumably by the two women who had left her place about the same time that the money was missing.

John McKenzie found recourse to alcoholic stimulants once more, and as a result was fined \$5 or 10 days.

### LONDONER IN COMBINE

But Had Never Refused to Sell Goods to Anyone.

Toronto, Nov. 17. — This afternoon James A. Berridge, the original complainant, told how he had been refused plumber's supplies when he applied to certain firms in the city, because he was not a member of the Master Plumbers' Association. None of the lawyers for the defense asked the witness any questions.

T. A. Stevens, of the Empire Manufacturing Company, London, Ont., the next witness, admitted he was a member of the Central Supply Association, Counsel for the defense conceded that the association as originally formed was dissolved, and that the present body came legally into existence on Sept. 3, 1905.

Mr. Duvernay, by letters from the witness to the Supply Association and by questioning him, showed that the original association with all its property, its contracts and understandings, was taken over by the new association, and witness admitted that to all intents and purposes, the new association was the old association. Mr. Stevens said he had never refused to sell goods to anyone. He had not had many dealings with the Master Plumbers' Association.

### THE WEATHER.

Tomorrow—Milder.

London, Saturday, Nov. 18.

Sun rises, 7:15 a.m. Moon rises, 10:34 p.m.

Sun sets, 4:50 p.m. Moon sets, 12:22 p.m.

A heavy gale has prevailed today over the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Maritime Provinces, and a few light local falls of snow or sleet have occurred in the Georgian Bay and lower lakes region. Elsewhere the weather has been fine and in the Northwest Provinces continued very mild.

Minimum and maximum temperatures: Victoria, 45-52; Edmonton, 26-48; Calgary, 26-46; Qu'Appelle, 22-41; Winnipeg, 26-42; Port Arthur, 28-40; Pelly, 20-32; Montreal, 28-40; Ottawa, 28-38; St. John, 28-42; Quebec, 30-35; Halifax, 30-32; St. John, 28-42.

FORECASTS.

Saturday Nov. 18—S. a.m. Winds mostly from the west and north today and on Sunday; not much change in temperature.

TEMPERATURES.

Stations.	8 a.m.	Min.	Weather.
Calgary	22	18	Fair
Edmonton	26	22	Fair
Winnipeg	26	22	Fair
Port Arthur	28	24	Fair
Toronto	32	20	Rain
Ottawa	28	22	Fair
Montreal	30	24	Fair
Quebec	30	24	Fair
Father Point	28	14	Fair

WINTER NOTES.

Since yesterday morning a very heavy gale has prevailed in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and over the Maritime Provinces, and light local snow or sleet has occurred in the Georgian Bay and lower lake region. The weather continues fine and mild in the Northwest Provinces.

LOCAL TEMPERATURES.

The highest and lowest readings of the thermometer at the observatory for the 24 hours ended at 8 p.m. Friday were: Highest, 46°; lowest, 27°.

## A BOOK CONCERN

Says "Business Methods" Were Peculiar and Decides Case for Local Representative.

His Honor Judge Macbeth handed out his decision in the suit of Street vs. Winston & Co., awarding \$70 and costs to Miss Street.

Last November Miss Street, a seamstress of this city, saw the following advertisement in the papers: Wanted—Gentlemen or Ladies; \$800 per year and expenses, permanent position, references unnecessary. Address M. A. O'Keefe, Toronto.

Miss Street answered the advertisement, and received a letter from the firm, offering her the position. The letter stated that there were five other applicants "from your province," but as hers was the most satisfactory she would get the position. The letter told her that Miss Street being traveling superintendent would have to secure agents in different localities, instruct them in their work, and advertise the business of the firm. To do this she would be given a large extent of territory to look after, and would be allowed \$3 a day for traveling expenses. Miss Street accepted the offer, and accepted and received another letter some time after asking her to forward \$1, and the contract would be sent her. Shortly after another letter came from the firm saying that they would ask that she do one month's canvassing before she would be given the permanent position, to be done at her own expense, and with the business methods of the firm. Miss Street sent the money for deposit, and was given her outfit to begin her work. For this work she was guaranteed \$2.50 a day for 30 days' canvass. She would be allowed 40 per cent commission on all her sales over her regular salary.

Miss Street began her canvass and sold books. Every day or so elaborate instructions came to her, but after her month's work was done, her commissions amounted to just \$5. She had to forward the money for the books sold before she received the books. She was caught today by the box move, and her new position that of traveling superintendent. The firm did not seem anxious to give her the position. However, they agreed to do so, if she sent \$5 deposit, and left her other work. In the meantime, Miss Street interviewed her lawyers, and they wrote the firm, demanding Miss Street's salary. The firm refused, and the suit was entered. Miss Street sued for \$70 back salary, and damages for not giving her the position as promised in the contract. The case was tried some time ago, and yesterday Judge Macbeth handed out his decision giving her \$70 and all the costs in the case. He said that as Miss Street had worked faithfully for the stated number of days she was entitled to the remuneration promised.

His summing up paragraph is given in full, and deals with the business methods of the firm in question, and others of like nature.

"I fear that the transaction with the plaintiff, as disclosed by the evidence, is a case of a sample of the business in which the defendants are engaged. The cunningly-worded contracts are apparently kept in stock for the credulous who order their advertisements. The lengthy letters sent to the plaintiff were not composed solely for her benefit, they were stereotyped letters, and a sample of the business in which the defendants are engaged. The cunningly-worded contracts are apparently kept in stock for the credulous who order their advertisements. The lengthy letters sent to the plaintiff were not composed solely for her benefit, they were stereotyped letters, and a sample of the business in which the defendants are engaged."

When caught today he said his name was John Schmidt and told the following story of his robbery. Yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock, he was in the warehouse at 212 Spring street. Schmidt was taken to the company's warehouse at 212 Spring street. Schmidt was in one of them which was fitted with spring locks to be opened from the inside. With him was a bottle of whisky, a set of burglar's tools and a dark lantern. The other box was used for packing his plunder.

During the night he emerged from his hiding place and collected a lot of plunder and at 7 o'clock this morning re-entered his box. Not long after ward an employee saw the box move unaccountably as it stood alone on the floor, and peeping through a knot hole in the top saw the burglar's hat. He immediately smashed the package case open. Five minutes later an expressman called asking to remove the two boxes which contained the burglary. The police went with the express man to meet the man who sent him after the boxes. This man, who gave the name of Robert Arnold, was found waiting at the Bowery and Second avenue, and was arrested.

Meredith, Fisher & Taylor appeared for Miss Street.

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### TWO KILLED IN COLLISION

Were on the Pilot of G. T. R. Yard Engine at Belleville.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Belleville, Nov. 18.—Two yard engines collided here this morning and two men were killed. David Wrenn, who was on the platform of the pilot, was instantly killed. Dick's head was severed and Wrenn's back broken.

### RUN OVER WHILE IN FIT

Son of Wealthy Fruit Grower Cut to Pieces Near Hamilton.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Hamilton, Nov. 18.—Joseph Tweedle, son of William Tweedle, a wealthy fruit grower at Fruitland, met a terrible fate this morning. He had just stepped out of the Stoney Creek post office and started to cross the Hamilton Grimsby and Beamsville Railway tracks as the 9 o'clock car came along, when he suddenly fell in a fit, and before a dozen horrified eye-witnesses could make an attempt to save him, he was cut to pieces.

### STATE ENTRY ON NOV. 25

New King and Queen of Norway Will Enter Capital That Date.

Christiania, Nov. 17. — Preparations are being made to receive the new King and Queen of Norway (Prince and Princess of Denmark), whose formal election by the Norwegian Parliament tomorrow is a foregone conclusion. The state entry into Christiania will occur Nov. 25. The vessel bearing King Charles V., and his consort, his consort of Norwegian, Danish, British and German warships, will be met by a large flotilla of steamers from all the coast towns, and will be conveyed to this port, where the first official and popular welcome of the new rulers will occur.

### Burned to Death.

Amherstburg, Nov. 18.—Six-year-old Corin Martin, while left alone, played with the fire and ignited her clothes. She was burned to death.

## The Three Grenadiers.



GEN. R. B. BENNETT—Oh, I lured them on in Alberta!

GEN. R. L. BORDEN—And me in Nova Scotia!

GEN. KUROPATKIN—And me in Manchuria!

## A NEW WRINKLE IN HIGH BURGLARY FOR U. S. RAILWAYS

A Thief Enters Storage Warehouse in Package and Plunders, a la Raffles.

New York, Nov. 17.—A thief who entered the Security Storage company's warehouse in an express package yesterday was caught today as he was about to leave the warehouse hidden in the same package along with \$800 worth of stolen goods. Last night he climbed out of the place and after robbing the warehouse again repacked himself and his plunder.

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### MURDERED THE CONSTABLE

Manitoba Farmer Shoots Officiary Who Was Making Seizure.

Treherne, Man., Nov. 18.—J. W. Clarkson, town constable here and deputy bailiff, was murdered by Eli Grobb in cold blood while in the discharge of his duties on the latter's premises, eight miles north of here, yesterday morning.

Clarkson went there to make a seizure under the seed grain mortgage act and Grobb ordered him off the farm. When the bailiff refused to go Grobb seized a shotgun and shot him twice, killing him instantly, on charge of tearing a large, ragged hole under the left shoulder. The murderer then drove into town and gave himself up to the authorities, and had to be confined in a tailor shop until the keys of the jail could be secured from the person of the dead man. The corpse was found in a wheelbarrow near a straw pile, as though Grobb had at first intended to endeavor to cover up his crime.

### ATTACKED BRITISH FLAG

New York Longshoremen Tried to Haul It Down, but Police Interfered.

New York, Nov. 18.—An attempt to haul down the British flag was made by longshoremen yesterday at the Cunard Line dock, where Prince Louis' flagship, the Drake, is anchored. The flag which was attacked was not on the warship, but floated over the dock in honor of the British guests. The longshoremen were fought off by a dozen policemen, who saved the emblem from violence.

### \$1,000 FOR A MEAL

Pittsburg, Pa., Nov. 18.—Fred Fleck, an old locomotive engineer of the Pennsylvania road, says he has received a letter from Andrew Carnegie, offering him a check for \$1,000 to pay for a luncheon, which Mr. Carnegie is giving to the Pennsylvania road engineers. Mr. Carnegie, it appears, was ravenously hungry, and gladly dined on the contents of Fleck's dinner pail. He has now paid for that meal.

St. Paul, Minn., Nov. 18.—The North American Life Assurance Company, of Toronto, Ont., has brought suit in the district court here to compel State Insurance Commissioner O'Brien to surrender securities to the amount of \$12,401, deposited by the company for the security of policyholders. There are now in force only nine policies issued by the company to parties residing in Minnesota.