

## AFTER A RAILWAY BONUS.

Time has cut a wide swath in the ranks of the spellbinders who thirty years ago represented this city throughout the country.

There was many a hot fight on in those days outside of politics, some of the fiercest being over the securing of bonuses for the construction of railways to this centre.

George Laidlaw was the chief of the bonus hunters, and by his sagacity and foresight did more than any other man in laying the foundation of this present important railway centre.

He was generously aided by many of the best-known citizens of that day. There were W. H. Beatty, John Gordon, Angus Morrison, John Hallam, John Baxter, John Canavan, William Ryan, Alexander Mancing, Colonel Arthurs, Hon. John Beverley Robinson, Nathan Dickey, John Ginty, Garrett Frankland, John Taylor, James Scott, John Macdonald, "Square Toes" Medcalf, John Blevins, George Morse and the writer. Verily the scythe-bearer has cut broad and deep amongst those I've mentioned. Out of the score named above all but two, W. H. Beatty and myself, have travelled the through route and ended life's fitful journey. W. H. Beatty is still head of a great legal firm, a wonderfully well preserved man, almost as stalwart and erect in appearance as in those days when he made the farmers of Grey county believe that the construction of the Grey and Bruce line would put them all on Easy street. Last, the writer is still here, and now, as then, wielding the pen and wondering whether the next thirty years will be as prolific of results for the city as the past.

The occurrence I am going to relate took place at Priceville, up in Grey county. We were after a bonus of \$300,000, and the Hamilton people were fighting like Tro-