

BILLY BOYD WAS CONVICTED

The London Jury Yesterday Found Him Guilty of Conspiracy on Fixed Foot Race

Much Local Sympathy for Mrs. Boyd and Boy—To be Sentenced on Friday.

Yesterday, at the London Assizes, Wm. Boyd, of this city, the well-known sprinter, was found guilty, along with a confederate named Stephenson, of conspiracy, by which ex-Ald. Douglass, of London, lost \$10,000 on a "fixed" footrace.

Boyd in this, his home town, has many friends, and public sympathy is universally felt for his 'unfortunate' and popular little son Jim. It is understood that a largely-signed petition will be forwarded to his lordship Judge Meredith, asking for leniency.

The London Free Press, in today's issue, says of the case:—

The jury who sat on the case of Boyd and Stephenson, charged with having conspired to defraud ex-Ald. Hugh M. Douglass out of \$10,000 by enticing him to bet on a fixed foot race at St. Louis last fall, registered a verdict of "guilty" in the Assize court yesterday afternoon. The prisoners will be sentenced later in the week, probably to-morrow or on Friday.

The case lasted all day, and the big crowd in the court room evinced the keenest interest in the proceedings. Crown Attorney Sidney Smith conducted the prosecution, and Thomas Robinette and Edward Meredith acted for Boyd and Stephenson respectively.

It took an hour and a quarter to empanel a jury. The three counsels, Smith, Meredith and Robinette, exercised the full challenging powers given them by law before twelve men were sworn.

COVERS THE CASE.

Crown Prosecutor Sidney Smith whose conduct of the case was most thorough, gave a general synopsis of the story, after which Hugh M. Douglass, the plaintiff, was placed on the stand.

He told the story which has been heard before in London, how Stephenson had dropped in upon him to buy some cigars, and while he was there Boyd came in. Boyd had a letter, which he read for them. It was from an alleged sprinter in St. Louis, named Maxwell, and the writer wanted to match himself with Boyd for a foot race. In it Maxwell said he expected to be beaten some day and since Boyd had been named as his superior he would like to try conclusions. He had a club of millionaires behind him ready to back him for any amount.

Boyd put the letter in his pocket and explained that the president of the millionaires' club, a man named Peck, had been sorely bitten in money affairs by some of the juniors in the club and wanted to get even. Boyd suggested that Douglass go and hold the stakes.

Douglass agreed, and at their advice got a line of credit from his banker. In two hours they were off to St. Louis.

GOT TO ST. LOUIS.

They were to pay all expenses, but Douglass found that when he got on the train he had to buy for himself. At St. Louis Stephenson, Douglass and Boyd registered at a hotel, the first two under their right names and Boyd under an assumed one.

There they met President Peck of the "millionaires." Peck was going to put up about \$150,000, he said, but before Douglass could hold stakes he must prove himself responsible. Finally Douglass proved that he was good for \$10,000 at the bank.

The papers for the match were signed and Douglass met Spencer, Wright and Henderson, millionaires, and Maxwell, sprinter.

Douglass was appointed bettor for the Boyd supporters and Peck held stakes. Peck advanced \$20,000, and they adjourned to the young members' club, a rather tough looking place, according to Douglass, and did

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their betting in a bandstand. Numerous side bets were made and Peck suggested that Douglass had better draw \$1,000 to carry with him, that he might keep up appearances. Otherwise the other party might suspect that Peck was financing the whole party.

On the advice of Boyd and Stephenson Douglass did so. He was assured that he would get it all back when the race was over.

BETTING GOES ON.

The next day the betting was continued with increased vigor. Big sums passed to and fro. Presently one of the millionaires laid down ten thousand dollars and called for someone to cover it.

Douglass laid down his \$1,000 and went to draw more money. He got it, came back, and in a few minutes, to his dismay, found that Stephenson had bet his ten thousand.

Presently someone grabbed Douglass' account sheet and swore there was an error of \$2,000 in it. The utmost confusion ensued. Revolvers were drawn and Douglass began to fear for his life. He felt sure that his death was only a matter of seconds. In the next room sat Peck, gasping for air, and gripping the satchel, while someone fanned him.

"Run the race now and settle it," whispered someone in Douglass' ear.

Boyd concurred, and to Douglass' amazement showed himself, booted and garbed for the event. So the party took a street car and went to the track. Maxwell stripped, and, wearing a loin cloth and a pair of light walking shoes, prepared for the start. Douglass thought he looked more like a hotelkeeper than a champion sprinter.

THEY WERE OFF.

One of the millionaires gave the signal and they were off. It was not a good race. Boyd, said the witness, made a big flourish, but very little speed. He ran ahead of Maxwell till he tripped and fell headlong. Maxwell finished first. Peck rushed forward, and showing Douglass a smooth, round cinder, cried:

"Isn't it a shame? There's what a three poor Boyd."

A hubbub followed, and a second race was demanded. It would only be given on condition that Douglass would post a forfeit of \$20,000, and write a letter saying what an honest and sportsmanlike crowd the millionaires were.

Douglass promised to do so, and took a train for home. The second event was never run off, nor was the forfeit or the letter sent.

DOUGLASS CROSS-EXAMINED.

Edward Meredith, counsel for Stephenson, commenced his cross-examination just before the court adjourned for lunch. He elicited the evidence that Stephenson and Douglass had shared profits on a slot machine in Douglass' hotel at Port Stanley; that he had given a man named O'Leary permission to conduct gambling games on his premises, and that his hotel had benefited by the crowd who came to see a balloon which never went up. The suggestion that he had a reputation in municipal circles as a "grafter," Douglass vehemently denied.

Douglass admitted, when questioned by Lawyer Meredith, that when the big bet, the \$10,000 one, came on, he permitted his \$1,000 to be held as security while he went to get the rest of the money.

Mr. Meredith then produced the paper on which the bets had been recorded. On the paper was the legend "H. M. Douglass, \$10,000," and the counter entry was "Spencer, \$10,000." Douglass admitted that the handwriting was his own, and there was another bet of \$5,000 bearing Douglass' signature right after it. There was still another bet registered on the sheet. The witness admitted the further bets, but said that his signature on the one was a mistake made in the confusion of the moment.

Henry Turner, of Port Stanley, appeared for the defence, and said that he had seen Douglass and Boyd in conversation several times before they left for St. Louis. Detective Northgraves gave similar evidence.

WANTS MONEY BACK.

Hugh Sharkey, Petrolia, hotelkeeper, also for the defence, swore that while in conversation with Douglass in December last, he had asked what Douglass was going to do with Stephenson.

"Nothing," replied Douglass, "but I want to get my money back. If I had taken Boyd's advice I would never have left it in St. Louis."

Lawyer Meredith made a powerful address to the jury in which he picked inconsistencies in Douglass' story and maintained that if these

things were not to be believed, the whole story might be branded as a lie. It was not likely, he claimed, that a man would enter into such a foolish compact as Douglass spoke of unless he was on the inside.

Mr. Robinette maintained that Douglass, if he was so frightened all the time that he was being duped and so sure that his companions were crooks, could have withdrawn at any time and did not need to come back three miles with his own money for the \$10,000. If he had been duped as he said, the St. Louis police could have rectified the matter in a very short time.

Prosecutor Sidney Smith's summary was orderly and pointed. He showed briefly how the plea for mercy on account of Boyd's family could not be entertained for a moment. It was the jury's duty to put aside a matter of sentiment, and punish parasites on the community. The evidence had clearly shown that Douglass had gone to bet for Peck upon an athlete whom he considered was capable of winning the match. Douglass had lost his money. There was object in taking a man who knew nothing of foot racing all the way to St. Louis. He would never have been made stakeholder if these men had made an honest bet. He had never been taken to any of the clubs with high sounding names, and Detective McKenna had shown that there were no such places in the vicinity.

Judge Meredith's charge was chiefly composed of instructions to the jury as to the nature of their finding, although the tendency was against the prisoners. After some speech in discussion, the jury returned with their verdict. Sentence was withheld for the time.

THE AUTONOMY DEBATE.

Eight Speeches Made in the House and

Ottawa, May 3.—Hon. Mr. Brodeur, Minister of Inland Revenue, was the first speaker in the House yesterday on the autonomy bills. He was followed by Mr. Macdonnell of South Toronto, Mr. Kennedy of New Westminster, Mr. Bennett of East Simcoe, Mr. Maclearen of Lunenburg, Dr. Worthington of Sherbrooke, Dr. Reid of Grenville, and Mr. Wilnot of Sunbury, N. B. Hon. Mr. Fitzpatrick has the floor first to-day.

Mrs. Covell Goes to Jail. St. Thomas, Ont., May 3.—Mrs. Benjamin Covell, the Rodney woman, accused of complicity in the murder of Miss Eliza Lowry, was brought to the County Jail here Monday night. She was taken from her bed, dressed and taken to the train, in spite of protestations that she was too ill to travel. Her husband came with her and stood by her until compelled by the authorities to leave her in her cell. Her daughter, Mrs. Lusty, of Barrie, showed much distress and was sympathized with.

Chancellor Wallace Resigns. Toronto, May 3.—Chancellor Wallace yesterday tendered to the Senate and Board of Governors of McMaster University his resignation which was accepted. Chancellor Wallace has been connected with the university for the past ten years, and on his retirement from his present position will return to his first charge at Lowell, Mass., which has a membership of some 1,200. The reason given for his retirement is a desire to re-enter upon the active duties of the ministry.

Connected by Cable. Tangier, Morocco, May 3.—The French cable connecting Cadix, Spain, with Tangier, provided by the Franco-Spanish convention, has been completed. The cable belongs to the French Government and constitutes, it is considered here, another step towards the consolidation of French interests in Morocco.

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THE LOCAL BUDGET

H. A. Labott, of Wallaceburg, spent last evening in the city.

Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Northcott, of Dresden, spent yesterday in the city the guest of Mrs. Walters, Selkirk street.

Lost to-day, between Dr. Duncan's office and Austin's store, a ladies' open face watch, guard attached. Finder will be rewarded by leaving at this office.

Dr. W. H. Tye, one of the Maple City's most highly esteemed young medical men, left last evening for Kansas City, Mo., where he will in future reside. We wish the doctor every success in his new home.

A petition is being circulated for moderation in the sentence to be passed by Chief Justice Meredith on Stephenson and Boyd in London to-morrow that is being largely signed out of sympathy for Mrs. Boyd and her son, who are highly esteemed, and for whom much sympathy is felt.

QUICK WORK

This morning there were eight hundred and fifty-five pupils in attendance at the Central School, and in the presence of some of the trustees, Principal Stokes sounded the fire alarm. At the expiration of one minute and thirty-five seconds the last pupil had left the building.

TO THE LADIES

How to look well—Protect your face from the complexion-ruining heat and the evaporating labor of cooking with coal or wood by using a gas stove.

How to dress well—Don't spoil your clothes attending to coal or wood fires. Use a gas stove and you will not only save your clothes but save enough money to buy a nice dress now and then.

How to feel well—Save time by cooking with gas, and have more time to spend in recreation and health-giving pleasures.
Stoves \$1.00 to \$30.00.
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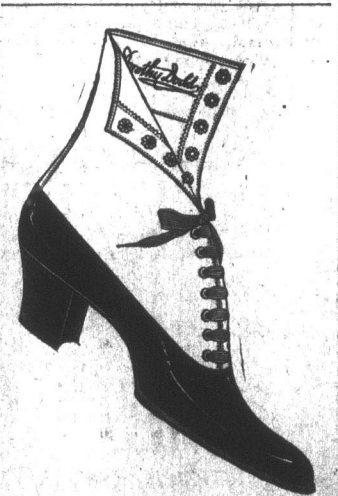
SEEDS IN THE SEEDLESS.

New Kind of Apple Pronounced a Fraud by Experts.

London, May 3.—(C. A. P.)—The seedless apples for propagation which were sent by several nurseries in Canada have been pronounced a fraud by a crowd of experts. Recently great interest was aroused by the fact that Messrs. Shearn had purchased a pair of these apples from a Covent Garden salesman for three pounds, one also being sent to the King. They originally came from America. The sceptics challenged the Messrs. Shearn to open theirs. This was done before experts and found to contain just as many pips as and a larger core than most apples. Messrs. Shearn stated they would bring an action against the firm who sold the apples on account of misrepresentation.

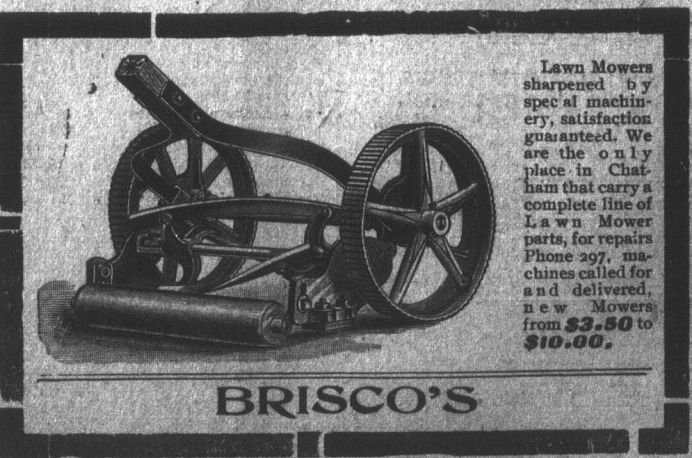
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New Brown Lustres in dark and light shades, beautiful lustrous finish, 44 inches wide, our regular 60c value, 49c Special price on Thursday.

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25 dozen Ladies' Fabric Gloves, consisting of taffeta, silk and lisle thread, neat fitting jersey wrists, finished fingers, silk roped backs and finished vamps, colors black, white, tan, grey, etc., at a pair.....

Women's plain Cashmere Hose, seamless, spliced heel and toe, full fashioned, warranted fast black, sizes 8 1/2 to 9 1/2, Special a pair.....

Children's 1-1 Ribb Cotton Hose, fast black, seamless feet, Sizes 4 1/2 to 7, at a pair.....

Ladies' 24 inch frame Parasols, extra fine cloth, warranted fast black, rain-proof, fancy pearl handles, regular \$1.25 and \$1.50 lines, at.....

Ladies' Fancy Silk Parasols, in blue and white, green and white, and black and white, plain blue, plaid green and plain white, assorted handles, at \$2.50 up to \$5.00.

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