

CONTRACTORS' LOSSES AT THE PAN-AMERICAN EXPOSITION.

The closing of the Pan-American Exposition brought to light a condition of affairs which tends to throw some discredit on the management of the Exposition, and at the same time it is hoped will serve as a warning to those members of the building trades who may be asked to bid upon the erection of buildings or to do other work for expositions of similar character in the future. The expenditure in preparing for these expositions have grown out of all proportions to the receipts that can possibly be expected from admissions and other sources. The Buffalo Exposition has gone beyond all its predecessors in failing to meet its liabilities, the losses being over \$4,000,000. These losses do not all fall upon the stockholders of the enterprise, but over \$700,000 falls upon the different building trade contractors who were engaged in the erection of these beautiful pleasure palaces. We were informed in September by one painting contractor who had been employed in the decoration of several of the most important of the buildings, says the Painters' Magazine, that the Exposition Company then owed him a balance of \$26,000 on his contracts. He had hoped to receive half of this, but it is doubtful whether he obtained even this much of the balance due him. In any event his losses were heavier than the average painter could stand with a smiling face. This experience of the Buffalo building contractors should teach a lesson to those asked to bid on similar expositions in the future, and should cause the successful bidders to insist upon a guarantee that their money would be paid in full on completion of their work, before signing any contract. As these expositions are usually held in public parks, the provisions of the lien laws that apply to ordinary building operations are of no assistance to the contractors, who cannot recover by any legal process for the labor and materials they have furnished.

Scott & Gray, builders, McLeod, N. W. T., have dissolved partnership.

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Correspondence invited.

GEO. S. KILBOURN, Secretary-Treasurer.

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