

The Scotsman, 14th June 1892, Page 5.

APPREHENSION OF A BURGLAR

In the Dundee Police Court yesterday, **William Bremner**, **Wilhelmina Todd**, and **Isabella Macdonald** were remitted to the Sheriff on a charge of assault. On Saturday morning a boot factory in Kirriemuir was broken into, and a considerable quantity of stock taken away. A member of the Forfarshire constabulary and a Dundee detective proceeded to **Bremner's** house in Dundee on Sunday morning. The officers met with a warm reception, being assaulted by both **Bremner** and the two women. Ultimately **Bremner** was secured and removed in custody, and no fewer than sixteen pairs of boots were afterwards found in the house, and were identified as having been taken from the Kirriemuir factory.

The Scotsman, 4th October 1892, Page 5.

THE DUNDEE PRISON-BREAKER. – **William Bremner**, who escaped recently from Dundee Prison, and who was captured in Inverness on Saturday, was conveyed to Dundee yesterday afternoon. It was expected that **Bremner** would have reached the city at twelve o'clock, but failing to catch the connection at Perth, the officers with their charge did not arrive at the Dundee West Station until one o'clock. At that time the station was besieged by spectators anxious to catch a glimpse of the notorious criminal, who was securely fastened by a belt to the left wrist of one of the officials. A crowd had gathered round the entrance to the prison, these being chiefly of the lower order; and as the cab drove up with **Bremner** a loud cheer was raised on his behalf. It is understood that **Bremner** will first serve his original term of imprisonment, and on its completion will be charged with prison-breaking.

The Scotsman, 28th December 1893, Page 3.

THE HIGH COURT IN GLASGOW.

A sitting of the High Court of Justiciary was held in Glasgow yesterday – **Lord Young** presiding. The calendar was unusually light, there being only six cases on the roll. A charge of murder against a man from Greenock was included; and **Bremner**, the locksmith who broke out of Dundee prison a year ago, was tried for housebreaking at Tilliecultray. **Mr. John A. Reid**, assisted by **Mr. Arthur Dewar**, conducted the prosecution.

(Unrelated cases omitted here.)

THE DUNDEE PRISON BREAKER'S CASE.

The Dundee Locksmith, **Wm. Burnett** or **Bremner**, was next placed in the dock, along with **John Nicoll**, a cabinetmaker. The charge against **Bremner** was of having broken into the Co-operative Store on the night of the 30th October last, and stolen twenty-one watches and seven chains. Both were accused of resetting the articles in Glasgow. **Nicoll** pleaded guilty, and the evidence was led in **Bremner's** case.

GEORGE RYALL, described as an accountant, said that the two men came to his office with watches for sale. He knew **Nicoll** before, but on hearing that his friend was **Bremner**, "who had broken out of Dundee Jail," he declined to have anything to do with the goods. He regarded **Nicoll** as **Bremner's** dupe.

At this stage, **BREMNER**, addressing his Lordship, said he thought his case was being neglected. The witness was telling a lot of lies. He was a convicted resetter. If counsel was not going to attend to the case, he would do so himself. He would defend his own case. His Lordship agreed to this course, and **Bremner**

forthwith cross-examined **Ryall**. At the conclusion witness admitted that he was convicted of reset, and sent to prison for thirty days by **Sheriff Birnie** in July last.

EVA MORGAN, a fashionably-dressed young woman, wearing a sealskin jacket and turban, gave it that she met **Bremner** and **Nicoll** in the house of a **Mr. Valentine** in New City Road on 2nd November. **Bremner** showed her several watches, and then the two went out for the purpose of disposing of them, but after several futile endeavours they went into an Oxford Street public-house and had “drinks”. Then **Bremner** went out a message, and in his absence witness called in two policemen, who took her and the watches to the police office, but did not apprehend **Bremner**. The watches were subsequently identified.

LORD YOUNG (to **Morgan**, whom he has previously asked to speak louder, remarking, “There should be no shyness about a woman who goes out to sell watches”) – What is your occupation?

WITNESS – I am doing nothing at present. I belong to the theatrical profession.

Evidence was led to the effect that part of the stolen goods were pawned by **Nicoll**, and **Detective Mackay** stated that in consequence of information received, the two men were apprehended in Glasgow.

The jury found both charges proven.

Lord YOUNG remarked, with regard to **Bremner**, that his convictions went back to his very boyhood. He had spent a good deal of his life in prison, and what they had seen and what they had heard of him went to indicate that he was a dangerous character. It was in the interests of the honest community that pests like him should be shut up, and the sentence would be five years’ penal servitude. As to **Nicoll**, he appeared to have been used as a dupe; and his sentence would be six months’ imprisonment.

The Scotsman, 2nd May 1902, Page 0.

GLASGOW HIGH COURT.

NEW COURT – Before **Lord Kinnear**.

William Burnett Bremner and **John Wilson** were charged with housebreaking and theft from Co-operative Stores on a large scale. **Bremner** was charged with breaking into the Co-operative Store, Greengairs, New Monkland, between 4th and 6th January 1902, and stealing five smoked hams, 22 pounds of boiled bacon, 12 one-pound tins of roast beef, 30 pounds of tobacco, 84 pounds of tea, 95 pairs of boots, 52 men’s shirts, and a large assortment of underclothing, tweed caps, scarfs, pinafores, gloves, towels, bed sheets, shoes, sox, shawls, window curtains, and other articles. **Bremner** was further charged with breaking into the Co-operative Store at Moffat Mills, Monkland on 22nd or 23rd January, and stealing 75 pounds of tobacco, a tin of biscuits, and 7 pairs of boots. A third charge bore that **Bremner** and **Wilson**, on 27th or 28th February, broke into the Co-operative Store at Moffat Mills and stole 24 pairs of boots, 12 pounds of tobacco, and a quantity of underclothing. **Wilson** was further charged with assaulting **William Elrick**, police constable, while engaged in the execution of his duty, by beating him on the face, head, and hand with iron pinches or crowbars, to the great effusion of his blood. **Wilson** pleaded guilty. Some of the stolen goods were identified by shop assistants. Access had been gained to the premises on one occasion by false keys, and unexploded gun-powder had been found lying about the safe. The jury brought in a verdict of not guilty in the first charge against **Bremner**, but convicted him on the second and third charges. Sentence of three years’ penal servitude was passed in each case.