

ACT ONE

Scene 7 : A contractor in difficulties

(EXEUNT NAVVIES. ENTER LANDLADY, BRINGING IN JUG AND BOWL AND TOWEL. SHE REPLACES THE ONES ALREADY ON STAGE.)

LANDLADY: Mr Stephenson, Mr Stephenson. Mr Stephenson. A Mr Crossley to see you. Says he's your assistant. Shall I show him in?

STEPHENSON: Yes, yes. Show him in.

CROSSLEY: I have been studying the progress reports relating to Contracts 2C and 3C. It is quite evident that Soars cannot carry on both of these contracts; he lacks the capital.

STEPHENSON: Give 3C to Craven, Craven and Craven and put the completion dates back a few months.

CROSSLEY: Do we hold Soars to Contract 2?