

The cause of Putnam vs. Hardman et al, was argued on appeal before the Supreme Court of Canada at Ottawa on February 18th. The court, at the argument, without calling upon appellants' counsel (Mr. Newcombe) in reply, gave unanimous judgment for the appellants, setting aside the verdict and decree of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia on the ground that Judge Weatherbee had misdirected the jury and improperly left to the jury issues of fraud against the appellants. Justice Strong said there was no evidence of fraud, and the issue should not have been submitted, and he would like to know upon what line of the evidence Judge Weatherbee could put his finger which showed fraud. The full text of the judgment, delivered by Sir Wm. J. Ritchie, Chief Justice, is as follows:—

Hardman vs. Putnam.—Sir W. J. Ritchie, C. J.—I think the broad and general principle that the minds of the jury trying a case should be confined to the real issue, was not carried out in this case. The crucial issue was whether the contract of co-partnership was proved, as claimed by plaintiff, or whether such contract was subject to a forfeiture as alleged by the defendants. I cannot say that in the way in which the case was tried justice was done to the defendants, numerous issues, not material to the real issue on which the case should have turned having been introduced into the discussion and questions thereon submitted to the jury with very strong observations by the learned judge, as appears from the charge, calculated materially to affect, injuriously, the determination of the real question; therefore, I think the case requires further investigation and the appeal should be allowed. While I cannot approve of the manner in which the case was submitted to the jury, I do not, in any way, impugn the integrity or motives of the learned judge; but I am bound to say, that this court, as an appellate court for the whole Dominion, should not approve of such strong observations being made by a judge which in effect, charge against the defendants, upon whose testimony the establishing of the contract set up by them chiefly depended, fraud not set out in the pleadings and not legitimately in issue in the cause. Under these circumstances I think the case should go down for a new trial. I express no opinion as to how the case should be tried, whether by a judge or a jury, that being a matter for the judge, or the court below, to determine in his or its discretion. The judgment of this court will be that the appeal is allowed with costs of the appeal to this court, the decree set aside and a new trial ordered, the costs of the appeal in the court below to be costs in the cause.

THE PRACTICAL CHLORINATION OF GOLD ORES AND THE PRECIPITATION OF GOLD FROM SOLUTION.

(Concluded.)

The air in the top part of the barrel is compressed and forms an elastic cushion, which gives the wash water perfect freedom to circulate evenly over the whole surface of the charge, and wash every portion of it thoroughly and with the smallest quantity of water possible. By washing in this manner no gas is allowed to escape into the building; the solution runs into a covered reservoir tank, from which an exhaust fan draws the excess of gas and discharges it outside the building.

The length of time required to do the leaching varies with the leaching quality of the ore treated—charges having been leached in 40 minutes with a pressure of from 30 to 40 pounds per square inch. With higher pressures the time can be materially shortened.

As can readily be seen, the ore in the barrel is in the best possible shape for rapid and perfect leaching. When the barrel is stopped the ore settles on the filter, the coarsest and heaviest on the bottom and graduated evenly over the whole surface and up through the charge to the slimes on top.

In order to facilitate the leaching of charges carrying an excess of dust or slimes, a valve placed in the casting of the head, on a level with the surface of the pulp, is opened just after the barrel is stopped, and the dust and slime which remains in suspension is run off into an outside washing filter press, where it can be treated separately, and the charge washed in the usual way.

The tailings are discharged into a car which will hold the whole charge of ore and water, and then run out; or, if water is abundant, they are discharged into a sluice and washed away.

For leaching purposes, the amount of water necessary to wash a charge varies very little with the richness of the ore, which goes to show the perfect leaching condition of the ore in the barrel. The amount required is about 120 gallons per ton more than the quantity used in the barrel for chlorination, which is about 100 gallons per ton.

In order to get a concentrated solution for after-treatment, and to reduce the amount of solution to be treated, also saving in water, a tank is placed above the barrel, and when the richest of the solution and wash water has run out into the reservoir tank the discharge hose is connected with the pipe leading to the upper tank, and the washing is finished into it. The solution collected in this way is used in the next-following charge in the barrel; the quantity of solution to be precipitated is thus reduced to about 120 gallons per ton of ore treated.

The advantages of this method of treating ores are many, among which may be cited: the small amount of labor, and especially of skilled labor, necessary; the freedom of the building from chlorine gas; the control one has over the perfect washing of the charge; the small amount and simplicity of the machinery for the great amount of work accomplished.

One man of ordinary intelligence and a helper are able to take care of three barrels, that is, look after the charging, leaching and discharging. If the tailings are sluiced out, they can also attend to it; but where they have to be trammed out, one more man is necessary.

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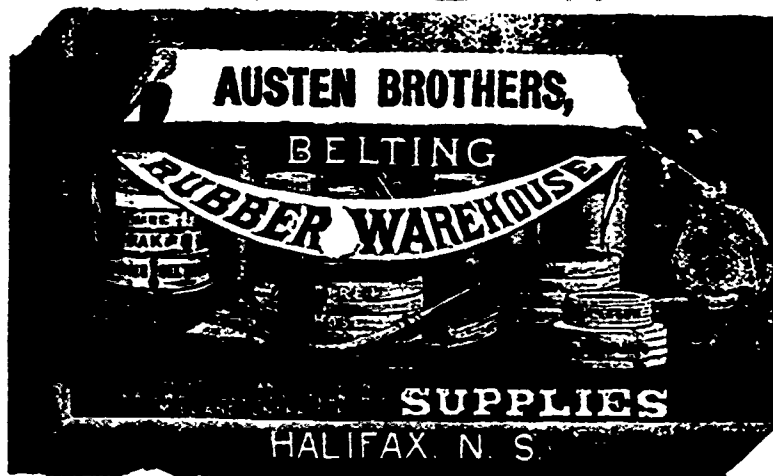
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