

constitution and by-laws, which prohibited soliciting business, except as provided therein, and the taking of club orders of associated buyers at reduced prices, and provided for keeping the retail price of coal uniform, so far as practicable, and required a certain vote of the association to change the price. The constitution also provided that no price was to be made amounting to more than a fair and reasonable advance over wholesale rates, or more than the current prices of the coal exchanges at certain designated neighbouring cities when figured upon corresponding freight tariffs, and the retail price of coal actually fixed by the association was a fair price. Held, that the association constituted a combination in restraint of trade, and membership in such association would support a conviction on an indictment for conspiracy to commit acts injurious to trade. *People v. Sheldon*, New York Supreme Court.—Hun's Reports.

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JURIES AND THEIR VERDICTS.—An apt illustration of the influences which often govern juries in rendering their verdicts is found in the following incident narrated by Montagu Williams, Esq., in his *Reminiscences*: "It is remarkable what the personal influence of counsel will do with the jury, especially in the country. On one occasion I went down to Worcester on the Oxford circuit. They were not my sessions, but I was specially retained. While I was waiting for my case to come on, I witnessed a striking illustration of the truth of that which I have just said. The leader of the sessions was Mr. C., who was afterwards county court judge, and has since retired. These were the last sessions in the county that he would attend, for he had just been made a Queen's Counsel. For a number of years he had been a leading man in the county, and he was a favourite with all classes. C. was defending a man for horse-stealing, and the evidence against the accused was of the most damning character. He had been seen in the immediate neighbourhood of the field from which the horse was stolen shortly before the theft took place; he was seen driving the animal from the spot; and he was further identified as the man who subsequently sold the beast at Wycombe fair. At the close of the prosecution, C. addressed the jury in something like the following terms: 'Gentlemen, I have been among you for a number of years. I was born in your county, and my