

pretence of any palliation for his crime. He coolly trades on the crimes of others and in many instances indirectly induces them to repeat their offences.

It is deplorable that these recruiting sergeants of the army of crime should carry on their business so frequently with impunity. There are very few prosecutions for this offences in Canada, but that circumstance is no index to the extent of the crime. The police in any Canadian city could give impressive information as to the goods disposed of by household servants, boys employed in stores, and employees of large companies, such as gold mining companies and other employees who abstract goods not easily identified, and who find ready purchasers in persons cunning enough to keep just within the margin of the present law. Recently I heard a prominent detective connected with police administration of one of our cities, declare that he had almost abandoned all hope of securing a conviction against a receiver because of the condition of the law in exacting such precise proof of guilty knowledge on the part of the receiver.

On the other hand, it is much easier to refer to the evil than to suggest an adequate remedy. The parties to the purchase and sale of stolen goods are generally only the receiver and the thief, and the latter in his testimony is usually friendly to the receiver, but even if the thief does make a statement tending to shew guilty knowledge on the part of the receiver, it would not be wise to condemn a man upon the uncorroborated evidence of the thief. It often happens, however, that a small portion of the stolen property is found upon the person of the thief soon after the theft is committed, and the thief in this and similar cases being found guilty, refuses to disclose the whereabouts of the other stolen property. Such a disclosure might not be sufficient to justify the conviction of the person having possession of the property, but it would frequently result in the restitution of the stolen goods to the owner. A thief who after conviction refuses to disclose the whereabouts of the stolen property should in every case be treated with the utmost severity. If the sentence inflicted might seem unduly severe the thief would have it in his power to lessen its severity.

There are cases in which purchasers shew a recklessness in buying certain kinds of goods from boys of tender years, and this recklessness ought to be dealt with as a criminal act on the part of the purchaser. If the Code were amended by the addition of a