

is just the question that will hereafter have to be tried; but, until found guilty, the prisoners are presumably innocent. It is manifestly a gross injustice to the prisoners to publish such a statement. It is bad enough for practically irresponsible reporters to put sensitive people to torture by publishing abroad matters with which the public have no concern, but it is grossly unfair to men on trial for their lives to make statements which are calculated to prejudice the public against them. It is contrary to British law and British fair play, and should not be permitted.

If sensational headings are a necessity to the existence of a newspaper, let them at least be reasonably accurate. In such cases as these it would be well to wait until the prisoner is either acquitted or found guilty, and then use letters an inch long, if thought necessary to sell the paper. We are not surprised at the indignant comment of the counsel for the defence in the case referred to, when asking for the discharge of one of the prisoners: "We were tried, we were convicted, and we were hanged by some of the newspapers of the city of Toronto before a particle of evidence had been given." It would be much better for the "fourth estate" if they left to the duly constituted authorities the rôle of judge, jury, and hangman.

It may be that there are but few people nowadays who accept as facts statements made in the sensational papers of the day, but amongst the unobservant there may still be some who think things must be true because they are in print. There is need, therefore, for the exercise of some supervision over newspaper fireworks.

THE public are informed that a painful surprise has happened to the city of Hamilton and the County of Wentworth, in that the County Treasurer has appropriated nearly \$9,000 of the county funds to his own use. He is said to have admitted taking this amount in various sums at various times, and put it into his business as though it were his own money. "He had hoped to make the deficiency good, but had been unsuccessful in his business." We are also told that "the treasurer is very popular with the county councillors," and he having, with much candour and with proper feeling, "expressed his sorrow at the state of affairs" the county council decided not to deal harshly with him. In fact, they were so impressed with his misfortune