

of the situation, found a true bill against him. And now after an exhaustive trial, wherein legal aptitude and judicial talent were plentifully exercised, a petty jury declares itself unable to agree as to his guilt or innocence. The case is a perplexing one. Human nature revolts at condemning as a faithless scoundrel, a young man of generally good repute upon the testimony of hardened criminals like Pare and Holden. And yet it is hard to understand how these criminals, who confess to have robbed the bank, could obtain the knowledge which enabled them to do so unless they had what is termed "inside information," that is, intelligence from some one of the bank staff as to the contents of the safe and the means of getting at them.

The manner of the prisoner Ponton, both at the trial and before it, his self control and even cheerful confidence in a situation of serious gravity, is calculated to heighten the impression of his innocence. And that the community in which he is well known should refuse to believe in his guilt is intelligible. But for a mob of townspeople to go so far as to make hostile demonstrations against the judge who tried the case and thereby to throw reflections upon the administration of justice is painful to the thoughtful mind and discreditable to the community of Napanee. There is no excuse for such a suggestion of mob rule as was made on Saturday last; no sense in such manifestations of feeling as tend to throw discredit upon law and order. Much as the public may suspect the unscrupulous methods of imported detectives who sometimes act as if they were bound to make out "a case;" much as we detest the idea of convicting a person upon the evidence of burglars and crooks, it is scandalous to have opprobrium thrown by a rabble upon officers of British law, who, it is our pride to feel, have only at heart the cause of sacred justice.

The result of this outburst of popular feeling must be, in the further trial of Ponton, to bring about a change of venue, to remove the case from such surroundings as clearly prejudice a fair trial of the accused, and to establish the truth by means of another jury, remote from the influences which seem to have interfered with an unprejudiced disposition of a case more than usually intricate.

#### INIQUITOUS SALES UPSET.

There is a certain class of financially weak traders in Canada, perhaps a larger proportion of them in the Maritime Provinces than elsewhere—but this may be by reason of the state of the law down there—who are too ready to sell their stocks to anyone who comes along and makes them a sporting offer. The transaction completed, the next step is to pay in full the friends whom they may owe, and then the remaining creditors are approached with the offer of a compromise, in some such language as the following:

"I beg to advise you that I have sold out my estate. I hereby make you a cash offer of 40 cents in the dollar. It is all I can pay; and if you refuse to accept you are not likely to make more than 80 cents by process of law."

It may be well to remind traders who intend trying any such game that creditors have rights and may proceed to cancel any such sale, following and recovering the goods wherever they are to be found. Not only this, but the proceeds of merchandise sold to third parties may be compelled to be disgorged. A case in which this was successfully done was detailed by us last week. • London and Toronto creditors of one Grossman at Ailsa Craig, and one Kauffman at St. Paul's, Ont., took action to set aside the sale by these two parties of goods to Simonsky &

Levinsky and A. Raffleman, and to recover other goods shipped from the two points named to fictitious persons in Toronto. Many of these goods were in original cases, bulk having never been broken. It was a difficult matter to trace some of the merchandise; and it was claimed by the purchasers named that they bought from Grossman in good faith. But the creditors persisted and succeeded; the goods shipped to Toronto, some \$1,800 worth, were recovered, and \$1,500 besides was got, being the proceeds of other goods already disposed of. Suit is still pending against one Raffleman, to whom other goods were sent.

If we suppose that Messrs. Simonsky and Levinsky paid, as they declare they did, for the goods bought from Kauffman and Grossman, the fact that they have had to pay for them over again to creditors of the latter should be a warning to them, as well as to others who may contemplate similar transactions, to be more careful with whom they deal. A merchant who is offered goods by another owes it to himself to see that this other is not in difficulty or insolvent before he agrees to purchase such goods. It is further an encouragement to wholesale houses who may suspect that they are being wronged to press their rightful claims to the uttermost, now that they see how by process of law, transactions in bad faith, such as we have described, may be upset.

#### QUARTZ GOLD TREATMENT.

Some recent correspondence in Halifax newspapers calls attention to the need of improved methods in what has long been recognized as one of the most important of Nova Scotia's industries, namely, gold mining. A week or two ago a letter appeared in the Morning Chronicle referring to "Wasted Gold Resources." The waste there criticised was blamed upon the crude methods now applied for the extraction of gold from the quartz. Reference was made also to the mineral sand deposits, whose wealth appears to be overlooked and "the valuable conglomerate to be only added to the refuse heap."

On Saturday last another writer corroborates the views of the first mentioned and relates the expressed opinion of a mining engineer lately from the gold fields of South Africa. To him, as to others, it seemed that much valuable mineral is wasted by Nova Scotia gold miners. In South Africa, he said, the tailings are considered a most valuable adjunct, being treated by known processes and compelled to yield their quota. This working is often done by separate companies. No leavings are discarded and nothing is thrown away until it is ascertained that the refuse contains no ingredients of value. This engineer, before he left Nova Scotia for Africa, procured some samples of tailings and applied a process to the deposits with the most satisfactory results; the yield of gold was remarkable. Further, it seems that the tailings of most of the Nova Scotia principal mines are sold to American syndicates, whose purpose in acquiring them is to work them later on by applying processes which are found to yield remunerative results.

The only reason one can imagine for thus disposing of valuable tailings is that the processes by which they are treated are expensive and difficult; therefore the local miners think it best to sell them. This, however, is a disposition of valuable assets which appears to need reconsideration. The proportion of free gold contained in the Nova Scotia rock must be rich indeed when miners deliberately treat as worthless refuse material which in other countries is made to yield gold in paying quantities. They are not doing justice to either themselves or their properties in selling for a song what is an element of wealth