

Not only is the ground thus prepared for the growth of a crop of ordinary criminals, but the very foundations of society are undermined by the idea that every man is a law to himself—that he may do what is good in his own eyes, or rather what will serve his own interests—regardless of law and be ready to violate it whenever it may suit his purpose to do so. If there is no sense of moral responsibility there can be no hope for the maintenance of order except in the very strictest enforcement of the letter as well as the spirit of the law.

RUSTICUS.

THE CRIMINAL LIABILITY OF BANK DIRECTORS.

The following extracts from the charge of the Lord Justice Clerk to the jury in the trial of the City of Glasgow Bank Directors which so clearly defined what is the law as to the criminal liability of bank directors will doubtless be interesting to many of our readers:—

“A director of a bank is generally a man who has other avocations to attend to. He is not a professional banker. He is not expected to do the duty of a professional banker. He is a man respected for his position, his character, and the influence he may bring to bear upon the welfare of the bank, for the personal confidence which is reposed in his integrity and in his general ability. Gentlemen, I need not say that it is not part of his duty to take charge of the accounts of the bank. He is entitled to trust the officials who are appointed for that purpose; and as long as he has no reason to suspect their integrity, it is no matter of blame to him that he has done so. It is, indeed, clear that he must to a very great extent trust to the statements of the officials of the bank, acting within the proper duties of the department which has been entrusted to them. Gentlemen, you may assume that it does, however, follow, that where special circumstances arise to bring within the notice of the directors particular interests, that they