

## TRIAL OF SANDY WRIGHT.

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ON the 31st ult., the case of Wright for conspiracy and treason was opened. The court-room was crowded. When His Honor had taken his seat, Mr Equity, Q.C., begged leave, before the business of the day was taken up, to apply for an order of the court to amend the bills of costs in the case of Wm. Farmer et al. Judgment had been rendered against his clients and they had been served with demands for each of them to pay the amount of the entire costs, the result being that the experts and the counsel on the other side would be paid three times over for the services they had rendered. He had no doubt his honor would see the reasonableness of his motion, that each of his clients be required to pay only one-third of the taxed bill.

Judge: This is a very extraordinary motion. In this court our object is to make costs; not to reduce them.

Mr Equity: Yes, your honor, that is a sound principle in law, but this is an exception. Here, for instance, is a man who puts in his bill for services rendered at the rate of \$30 per day. My clients are willing to pay that, though they think it extortionate, but they do protest against each of them, severally, paying him that amount, and so giving him \$90 per day. If he values his services at \$30 per day, that is clearly all he is entitled to, and I ask that the bills be returned to the prothonotary to be amended so that each of my clients

shall pay him \$10 each, and so on with the other items in the bill.

Judge: If you lived in this district, Mr Equity, you would not make such a motion. I do not forget I was a lawyer once myself and feel that the dignity of the bar must be maintained by refusing all motions to reduce bills of costs.

The trial of Wright was then proceeded with. Asked who was his counsel, he replied he had none and would defend himself. The empanelling of a jury was begun, and after peremptorily challenging three, accused asked to see the list. After reading it he said, "May it please your honor, all named on this list are French Canadians."

Judge: What of that?

Prisoner: Just this, I am accused of a crime that is no crime in the eyes of any other class of people. To select a jury from this list to try me will be mockery of justice.

Judge: Why?

Prisoner: I do not object to them upon the score of creed, for I am willing to accept a jury of Irish Catholics; I have them for neighbors and will trust them to do what is fair; but I am here to be tried for protesting and working against the Nationalist movement to change Quebec from a British into a French province, and I deny that, on such a charge, French Canadians will impartially judge me.

Judge: You are here to be tried by the law of the land. That law