

ness, and with which they had built up a very large and lucrative business. . . .

To understand the conduct and object of defendants in this case, it is necessary to refer to the nature of plaintiffs' business. Plaintiffs and their predecessors in title in the United States were the first to introduce what is called "Business Systems" of book-keeping and accounts. This system includes ledger binders and holders of accounts made in such form that leaves may be from time to time supplied and put in the old binders and holders. The form is such as to afford convenience to those using them to a greater extent, it is said, than the ordinary ledger, as well as being a great saving in expense. Whatever the reason, the demand for the "Business Systems" has greatly increased, and plaintiffs have established a very large and lucrative business in this line.

The personal defendants—other than Hoose—while in the employment of plaintiffs formed a scheme and by mutual inducements and combination united in the attempt illegally to appropriate a large part of this business which plaintiffs had built up; and with that end in view defendant King, the general manager of defendant company, was the chief mover, though all the defendants—other than Hoose—were very active in the enterprise. These defendants held many meetings, discussed the matter frequently, obtained private and confidential information relative to plaintiffs' business, utilized this in preparing the prospectus of the proposed company, endeavoured to induce the servants of plaintiffs to leave their employ, carried away with them confidential information, and induced other servants of plaintiffs to leave and to carry away with them when they left further papers containing information acquired while they were in the confidence of plaintiffs.

The defendant company, after incorporation, through their general manager and other officers, continued to induce others of plaintiffs' employees to leave plaintiffs and to join the defendant company, and all of the defendants appropriated the records, pattern sheets, tabs, special tools, and private information, and therefrom duplicated plaintiffs' product, and by the information obtained while in the employment of defendants ascertained plaintiffs' customers, and in this way appropriated to a large extent plaintiffs' business.