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**ALLEGED FRAUD ON THE TEES
WOOLLEN COMPANY.**

At the London Central Criminal Court, on Tuesday before the Recorder, Leopold Schocke, 39, a German, stated in the calendar to be an agent, was charged with obtaining 640 yards of woollen cloth by false pretences and in a second count of the indictment the prisoner was charged jointly with another person named Henry Cowan with conspiring together fraudulently to obtain possession of the same goods. Mr. Meade, Mr. and Mrs. G. J.

Lewis appeared for the prosecution; Mr Ribbion was counsel for the defence. The prosecutors of this indictment were the Tees Woollen Company, who carry on their business at Barnard Castle, Durham, and who have an agency in London, in Ironmonger Lane, in the city. It appeared that Corran, the person included in the indictment with the prisoner, who, there was no doubt

was the prime mover in the affair, and who, it was stated, has absconded from this country, occupied a small office in Union Court, Old Broad-street, where he ostensibly carried on the occupation of an importer of foreign goods, and that the prisoner was employed by him in the capacity of a clerk. At the commencement of the present year, it seemed that Cowan entered into some negotiations with

the agent of the prosecutors for the purchase of their goods, and a quantity of cloth was supplied to him at different periods; but the transactions that were the subject of inquiry took place between the 1st and the 14th of August. It appeared that Cowan had applied to the prosecutors for certain goods at this period, and that a quantity of cloth was sent to him, the invoiced price

which was £504 12s 2d, and upon the prosecutors pressing for money to be paid on account, Cowan gave them £160 in two payments, and he also promised, with reference to the last parcel of goods, to hand over the receipt of the packet for them, which they were to hold until more money was paid on account. Cowan did subsequently give to Mr Walker, the manager of the

company, what purported to be the receipt of persons carrying on the business of packers in Jewin-street, but which turned out to be a fictitious document; and it was proved that on the very day when the receipt referred to was given, the prisoner had applied to Mr Venables, a woollen draper in Aldergate, to purchase a quantity of woollen cloth, which he said belonged to

shipper who was pressed for money. The result of the application of the prisoner was that Mr Venable purchased the property that had been sent to Mr Cowan by the prosecutors at a discount of 35 per cent. upon the price at which the goods had been invoiced. The prisoner appeared to have been present when several of the circumstances took place between Cowan and Mr

Walker, and this appeared to be the only evidence against him, with this additional fact, that when he was taken into custody by Funnell, one of the city detectives, and he was asked what had become of the property that had been obtained by Cowan from the prosecutors, he made the false statement that he knew nothing about it, and he supposed that it was shined

The Recorder said it appeared to him that if there was any case at all in reference to the charge of conspiracy, it was certainly a very weak one, and that

The jury appeared to be of the same opinion that had been expressed by his lordship, and they, therefore, without troubling Mr Ribton to address them on behalf of the prisoner, returned a verdict of not guilty.

DREADFUL EXPLOSION OF GUNPOWDER.—An explosion of gunpowder, attended with loss of life, took place on Saturday, at Ballincolling Powder Mills, near Cork. The shock was distinctly felt in the western part of the city, although the scene of the catastrophe is five miles distant. Two men were killed, and one slightly hurt. The explosion took place in the store or drying house.

one portion of which was blown to atoms.



