

thought an assignment was in the best interests of his creditors, and the papers were signed yesterday.

MRS. STERNAMAN'S CASE.

An Organization Formed For the Purpose of Assisting the Accused Woman to Defend Herself at Her Second Trial.

Some of those desirous of securing a fair trial for Mrs. Olive A. Sternaman, whose case comes up at the next Cayuga Assizes in May, have effected an organization for the purpose of aiding her to procure counsel and the attendance of witnesses, as she and her friends have expended their means at the previous trial. A meeting of the Sternaman Fund Committee was held yesterday afternoon at the **Mental Science Institute**, corner of Spadina avenue and Cecil street. Rev. Charles Harper Shortt was chosen Chairman and Convener, and Phillips Thompson Secretary. Letters from Rev. J. G. Foote of Cayuga, who has taken an active interest in the case, were read to the effect that a movement was on foot in Buffalo with the same object, and that he had been constituted Treasurer of the fund being raised.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted:—

Moved by Prof. James Mavor, seconded by Mrs. Mary McDonell. That whereas a new trial has been granted to Mrs. Olive A. Sternaman, charged with murder, and it is desirable in the interests of justice and humanity that her case should be fully and fairly presented; and whereas, while the resources of the Crown are available for the prosecution, she is without adequate means to engage counsel and secure witnesses, it is hereby resolved that an appeal be made through the press to the public for contributions to aid in her defence, and that all in sympathy with this object are requested to forward their subscriptions to Rev. J. G. Foote, Cayuga.

The committee adjourned to meet at the call of the Chairman. Rev. Mr. Foote will duly acknowledge all moneys forwarded to him.

J. D. LAIDLAW ASSIGNS.

His Connection With the Farmers' Loan Company Causes Embarrassment in His General Business.

One of the oldest established firms in the County of Simcoe, Laidlaw & Nicol of Stayner, has assigned, the assignment being made yesterday to Mr. John Cameron of Stayner. Laidlaw & Nicol ran a large general store business, and have been in existence for over thirty years. The principal partner of the firm is Mr. J. D. Laidlaw, who resided usually in Toronto, carrying on a grain business here. Mr. Laidlaw was the President of the defunct Farmers' Savings & Loan Company, and it is probably his connection with this unfortunate institution that has led to the present trouble in his general store business. Mr. Laidlaw held moneys as trustee for estates, and it is understood also that his firm had received deposits, as it enjoyed to a high degree the confidence of the community. In fact, the firm was rated as worth from \$50,000 to \$75,000, and it is very possible that its liabilities will exceed the larger figure.

Recently an action was brought by Mrs. Mary Toogood of Toronto against Mr. Laidlaw and other directors of the Farmers' Loan Company for \$2,000, for which amount Mrs. Toogood was a shareholder in the company. The action primarily was to test the liability of the directors to those shareholders and depositors who had lost money in the crash. Mr. Laidlaw himself had some trust funds invested in the Farmers' Loan, and this action, it is understood, caused uneasiness among those who had money in Mr. Laidlaw's hands and also among his ordinary trade creditors. Under the circumstances, therefore, Mr. Laidlaw