

*Judgment of the Lords of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council on the Petition of Charles Frederick Cross and others for an Extension of the term of Letters Patent granted to Charles Frederick Cross, Edward John Bevan, and Clayton Beadle for an Invention of "Improvements in dissolving Cellulose and Allied Compounds," dated the 7th May 1892, and numbered 8700; delivered the 2nd May 1906.*

Present :

LORD MACNAGHTEN.

SIR ANDREW SCOBLE.

SIR ARTHUR WILSON.

SIR ALFRED WILLS.

[*Delivered by Lord Macnaghten.*]

THERE is no question about the merits of this invention. It is an invention of conspicuous merit. The inventors have really created a new material, which may be applied in a vast number of cases. The only difficulty is about the accounts. At first sight, no doubt, they are rather confusing, and it is not very easy to make out exactly what the position of the Patentees is; but their Lordships, having considered the matter, and having heard the explanations that have been given, are satisfied that the accounts have been made out perfectly honestly, and that the confusion, if there is confusion, has arisen from the desire of the Patentees to give every information in their power.

Their Lordships will therefore humbly report to His Majesty as their opinion that the Patentees have been inadequately remunerated, and that the term of the Patent ought to be extended, and extended for the longest time that has been granted of late years to an invention of conspicuous merit. They propose to advise His Majesty to extend the term for five years.

