

PRESS VINDICATION.

There are some people who, when they desire to suppress an unpleasant truth, knowing the costliness and trouble of a libel suit to the parties against whom it is instituted, even should it not be successful, seek to bully publishers by threatenings and bluster. Having everything to gain and comparatively little to lose these persons frequently initiate proceedings and carry them on in the hope of wearying the other side, which, in many cases, has neither the time nor the money to expend on the case, and often attain their object—the withdrawal of and an apology for the objectionable statements. It is, however, worth remembering that almost in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred the publisher concludes, before making his announcements, that he has a *prima facie* case, or he would not run the risk to which he is subjected under a libel law of the most stringent character.

A long time back the *Moniteur de Commerce*, a commercial paper of Montreal, stated that La Banque de Hochelaga, an institution with its headquarters in that city, had accepted bills of the late Central Bank when they were without value, and had in bad faith passed them on to the public. This was a bold, a direct and most damaging statement. The directors of the Bank—the manager, Mr. Prendergast, having been previously connected with the Press—adopted the usual course, that of threatening a suit. But *Le Moniteur* would not back down. On the contrary it reiterated its statement. Action was taken; but the proceedings were delayed, not, it is said, at the instance of the defendant newspaper, which pressed for a more speedy decision. And now we find that the Bank in its action for \$50,000 damages has been nonsuited in a jury trial, the verdict being that the article was not libellous, the allegations being substantially true.

Considerable credit is due *Le Moniteur de Commerce* for its pluck in insisting or bringing the matter to an issue and in vindicating its own position. Frank Shallow, its editor, and Henry Mason, editor of the *Trade Bulletin* are two commercial journalists of Canada who have refused to be browbeaten by corporations and individuals, both having elected to vindicate their statements before the Courts and the public rather than take back and apologize for what they published in good faith and what they considered to be in the public interest.

The opening of the German Reichstag has been postponed to December 5.

During last month, 1,000 head of Northwest cattle were shipped to the British markets.

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