

champagne, I am very sorry that it was done behind my back, for I do not know anything about it.

Dr. DAY—Do you admit it was done?

Dr. BRITTON No. The gentlemen who were associated with me on the Legislative Committee were perfect gentlemen.

Dr. DAY—Your language would infer that it was done.

Dr. BRITTON—I had not completed my sentence or you would not have judged that. I do not think any member of the Committee is low enough, degraded enough, bar room frequenter enough, to give a champagne supper or any other kind of supper to members of the Local Legislature for the purpose of securing their influence on the side of this Council. I might say I had a conversation with one of the legal fraternity to-day and this matter casually came up (he had read this editorial) and he called it an infernal thing: he was astonished the *Mail* had ever introduced it. I said, "what do you think about it from a legal standpoint?" He said, "considering everything, I think the Council has a very strong ground for legal action against the *Mail* newspaper." (Hear, hear.) And personally, unless a most ample apology is made for the insertion of that editorial, and in as public a part of the paper as that in which the editorial appeared, so that the profession at large and the public at large will know we are gentlemen and not blackguards, I shall go as far as I can personally towards securing a conviction for criminal libel against the *Mail* newspaper for the course it has taken.

Dr. PHILIP—I would just say, as the seconder of Dr. Bray's resolution, that I quite agree with the resolution as it is worded. I speak as Chairman of the Finance Committee, and I can say for the members of the Finance Committee that when the matter of passing the accounts of the Legislative Committee came before us, we investigated every single account brought before us; and we gave, according to the regulations of the Council, the usual per diem allowance to the members of that committee, and nothing more, and nothing of the kind referred to in this article came out; and if it had, I am sure every member of the Council would have opposed the passing of any such item in the accounts. I can speak in strong language on this. I, myself, think Dr. Bray's resolution is not at all

too strong; the article is an infamous one, written without any just cause whatever, and I think if the *Mail* is a wise newspaper it will withdraw it, because the facts are entirely against it; and in saying this, I speak as the chairman of the committee who investigated the accounts.

Dr. MOORE—I have the honour of being a member of that committee, and I brand this article as being a lie, and one manufactured out of whole cloth. No champagne supper was given, nor was any other kind of a supper given, nor was any undue influence of any kind used upon the part of this committee with the members of the Local Legislature. I do not think we can denounce this article in too strong language. We are charged with not only misappropriating the funds of this Council, but are charged with stealing; for the article says, if I remember right, that some person pocketed a certain amount of this \$614; and if I remember right, it also says there were mutual recriminations between members of this Council regarding this, which I brand as another falsehood. Any influence we have used with the members of the Local Legislature was of the fairest and most honourable kind, and not one penny of the funds of this Council was paid out, that I know of (and I think I know of every dollar and cent that was paid out), towards intimidating, treating or influencing that body in any shape, manner or form; and I think it is disgraceful that this paper should, not only charge this Council and the committee, as they have done, but also the members of the Local Legislature, with being influenced by a champagne supper. I want to put myself on record in this matter, and I will go this far, I heard a lawyer say to-day that he thought we had good grounds and very good grounds, for an action; and I agree with Dr. Britton, that so far as I am personally concerned, I will go as far as I can towards securing a conviction against the paper that has published such an infamous article as this is.

Dr. THORBURN—Last year, in 1891-92, I had the honour of being Chairman of the Legislative Committee, and therefore ought to know everything that was done in connection with those committees, and I can only characterize the statement published in the *Mail* newspaper as a gross fabrication from beginning to end; there is no truth whatever in it.