

opinion, we believe, was quite in accord with the jury. The "discretion" which makes such a result possible in cases which are peculiarly within the province of a jury, and which is productive of such glaring unfairness in the apportionment of the costs, is a "discretion" which will stand legislative revision. There is good reason to believe that the verdict would not have been as it was, if it had for a moment been supposed that the recommendation as to costs would have been disregarded.

Much more might be said on the points suggested by The Monetary Times which affect suitors generally. The present system of taxation in the courts, for example, is, in many respects, an unrighteous system. It is too much the creature and slave of precedents whose usefulness is gone. But enough has been said to show that the law on these questions of "judicial discretion," fair comment, and costs in libel actions is not what it ought to be. The disposition of some of the courts to override verdicts, and to substitute a judge for a jury, who are the only legal arbiters in such cases, is open to grave question. It is not in the public interest, and should be strongly discouraged. It is about time, too, that a jury, who have the largest possible powers in deciding whether a person is libeled or not, should have some voice in the determination of the costs, especially when they award the complainant a nominal or contemptuous sum for damages. A jury's recommendation is seldom ignored in a criminal case, however insignificant. Why should it be in an action for libel, against a newspaper, which, in honestly criticizing the acts and conduct of persons in public positions, is discharging a public duty, in the interests and for the benefit of the public?

C. H. Gibbons, late of The Victoria Colonist, who recently joined The Vancouver Province is doing good work in his new position. He has got the paper's artist to introduce a new feature in British Columbian journalism—illustrate in a humorous fashion passing events.

#### A PROGRESSIVE NEWSPAPER.

The Union Advocate, a Newcastle, N.B., weekly newspaper, appears in an enlarged form. From a four page paper it has grown into a newsy and well-printed paper of eight pages. A new dress of type all through improves it greatly in appearance, and the contents are bright and interesting in news and editorials. Its publishers, Anslow Bros., are to be complimented upon their progressiveness. In its present state it should add many other readers to the 8,000 and more who take advantage of its pages now.

#### A HINT TO SUBSCRIBERS.

It is often hard to know exactly how to word a dunning notice to subscribers through the columns of one's paper. Mr. Thompson, of The Thorold Post, words his notice in a good-humored way, reminding his subscribers that The Post does not often indulge in notices of this kind, and pointing out, without incivility, that a few people seem to consider their newspaper the last thing to be paid for. He winds up with the offer to pay \$100 for a recipe whereby a paper may be conducted in a business-like manner on the proceeds of accounts which are never paid.

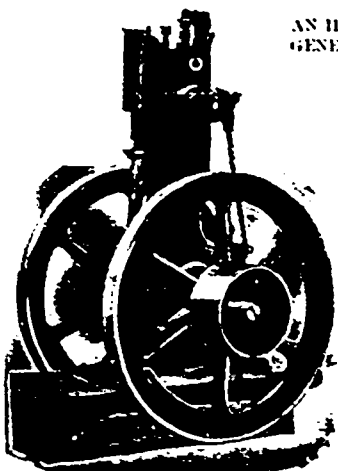
#### SALES OF SUNDAY PAPERS.

The Woodstock Sentinel-Review has taken a courageous stand regarding the action of the local authorities of the Lord's Day Alliance in prohibiting the sale of Sunday newspapers at the Grand Trunk Railway station in that town on Sunday. It declares that while local opinion is not in favor of doing anything improper on Sunday, it is questionable whether the sale of Sunday papers on Sunday would be called improper. It further declares that the Alliance cannot prevent the sale of Sunday papers on trains, and that whether the public should be prevented for 24 hours from getting important news of the world during a period of anxiety is doubtful.

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