

blackmailing was true. After all the evidence had been given, Mr. J. B. Clarke, Q.C., contended that The Mail and Empire had fully established the truth of the charges, and asked the Court to give judgment in favor of the defendant and dismiss the case. His Lordship reserved his decision for further consideration, but said that in the meantime he would allow the case to go to the jury, which he did. The jury found a verdict for the plaintiff, giving \$50 damages on each of the two charges. On September 28 his Lordship delivered his judgment on Mr. Clarke's motion, as has been said, dismissing the case and ordering Mayor Macdonald to pay the costs. In the course of his judgment Judge Meredith said that Mayor Macdonald's having accepted \$4,500 to stop a legal action against the Street Railway Co. his conduct might properly be characterized as blackmailing.

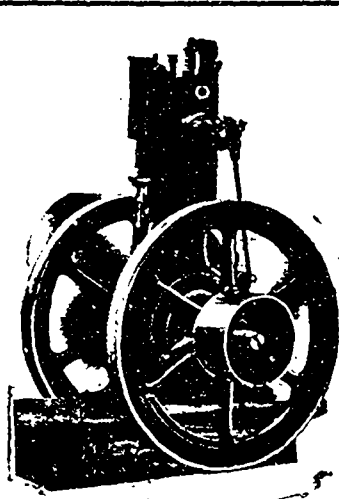
A VANCOUVER SUIT.—In the libel suit of Dr. Brydone-Jack vs. The Vancouver World the jury brought in a verdict of \$5 damages; costs reserved.

A STRING OF LIBEL SUITS.—The libel action of Stirton vs. Gummer, which was tried for the third time at the last Guelph assizes, has become a cause celebre in the courts, if only because it is the first of a string of libel suits and is still undetermined. The plaintiff, Dr. Stirton, is a local dentist who takes an active part in politics on the Liberal side, and the defendant, Mr. Harry Gummer, is the publisher of The Guelph daily and weekly Herald, a well-known Conservative newspaper. The thrice-tried issues between the parties grew out of the local Provincial election of 1898, when Major Mutrie, the Liberal candidate, was returned. His opponents petitioned against his return, but subsequently dropped the protest. Dr. Stirton thereupon went to The Advocate office in Guelph and procured the publication in that paper of an article, "The Protest Aftermath," which he

practically dictated to the editor, and which purported to be an interview between Dr. Stirton and an Advocate reporter. This article commented on the abandonment of the protest, attacked The Herald and contained some complimentary references to Dr. Stirton. The Herald replied in an article, "Don't Get Gay," attacking the Doctor as the author of The Advocate article. The Doctor thereupon wrote a letter over his own signature to The Mercury and Advocate defending himself and assailing Mr. Downey the editor of The Herald. The letter was commented upon favorably by both of the papers in which it appeared. The Herald replied with an article against the Doctor, partly in prose and partly in rhyme, and substantially repeating its previous statements in the article, "Don't Get Gay."

All this occurred over two years ago, the whole controversy being of a highly personal nature. The appearance of the last article in The Herald started a legal ruction which has been going on ever since. There were no less than four libel suits as a result of the controversy. Dr. Stirton opened the ball with an action against The Herald publisher, and Mr. Downey, The Herald's editor, followed on with actions against Dr. Stirton and the publishers of The Mercury and Advocate, respectively. Stirton v. Gummer was the first one tried. In this the plaintiff complained that several acts of gross personal misconduct, during the local Dominion election of 1896 and the local Provincial election of 1898, had been wrongfully imputed to him in both of The Herald's articles. The defendant justified the alleged imputations as true in substance and in fact, alleged that the plaintiff had been the aggressor and had provoked the statements complained of, and that he was entitled to no damages. The first trial of the action, in the Spring of 1899, resulted in a verdict for the plaintiff for \$500 and costs. The verdict was appealed against and upset, on the ground of wrongful rejection, by the trial Judge, Mr. Justice Ferguson, of Dr. Stirton's letter as

The Northey Gas and Gasoline Engine



Price \$155.

These papers—among others—use our Engine. They have written us—you are at liberty to write them—to say what unqualified satisfaction in the way of economy and good results they get with the Northey Engine. It is far and away the easiest operated and most inexpensive independent power plant in the market. Gets up full speed in less than a minute—runs for hours with little or no attention—always perfectly safe and under complete control—operates four or five presses at a time—running expenses very light—takes up little floor space. You can save the cost of the engine by dispensing with the help required to look after the old power plant. We want every printer in Canada to get money-saving pointers about the Northey Engine. Send for Booklet and full information.

THE NORTHEY CO., Limited
1007 King Street Subway.
TORONTO, - CANADA.

Meaford "Mirror."
Newmarket "Era."
Barrie "Examiner."
Greenwood "Times."
St. Marys "Journal."
Gananoque "Journal."
Orangetown "Banner."
Markham "Economist."
Bowmanville "Statesman."
Carleton Place "Canadian."