

## THE EMPIRE ON LIBEL.

IN his address to the C.P.A. convention, President Pirie referred to the Empire's article on libel, as regards the judge's powers, and remarked that the Empire had well set forth the desired change. The Empire's article is given for the benefit of those who have not read it.

"The question is raised as to whether judges should be allowed to punish journalists for expressions of opinion delivered in their newspapers after the public trial of cases of public interest. A judge's right to maintain order in his court when engaged in hearing cases is unquestioned; without the exercise of this prerogative courts of law might be paralyzed and their usefulness destroyed. In such cases committal to prison on the ipse dixit of a judge is right enough. But we think the time has come when men engaged in discussing public affairs of the nation in public journals should be relieved of the danger of being sent to prison as criminals on the personal order of a judge, without trial by their peers. There can be no doubt of the idea of judges sitting as accusers, judges, and jury, all in one, being repugnant to the ideas of personal liberty and independence which prevail at the present day. The country is governed by intelligent public sentiment, and judges, like other officers of the Crown, may safely rely upon enlightened public opinion for their protection. Their public services, their impartiality, ability, and high personal character form a better protection than can be secured through committing offenders to prison or the imposition of fines and costs. We recognize the fact that the law, while within the reach of judges, has been seldom appealed to, and that unjust criticism of the decisions of our courts is seldom seen. This is due not to the fact that the power of imprisonment is in the hands of judges, but to the general belief that the judges are fair minded, honorable, capable men, and to a general recognition of the social necessity that exists for preserving a bench without reproach. Under all these circumstances, it would seem to be time to declare that there should no longer be that anomaly in our constitution which enables one of Her Majesty's subjects, of his own motion, to arrest and imprison without trial another subject of Her Majesty for offences alleged to have been committed in connection with the exercise of the liberty of public discussion. The judges should, in our opinion, be placed on the same footing as other citizens. If they are libelled in the press, if they are falsely accused, let them appeal to the courts and to a jury of their fellow countrymen, who will not fail to see that ample justice is done."

## SPECIAL MONTREAL NEWS.

THE George Bishop Engraving Co. matter is still in statu quo. What the outcome will be is not known, but the impression seems to be that the property floated by Mr. Bishop on his own responsibility will be taken up or arranged for in some way.

There have been some changes in the directorate and management of the Jewelers' Guide. Mr. E. Mann, the founder of the paper, who has had editorial charge since its inception, has sold out his shares to the joint stock company which has practically controlled the paper for some time.

There is considerable talk in newspaper circles here over the difficulty between the Roman Catholic ecclesiastical authorities and Mr. Beaugrand, of La Patrie. Mr. Beaugrand claims that the Liberal press are discriminated against, claiming that the Conservative press, Le Monde, for instance, is allowed to pub-

lish in its columns Dumas' great work, "The Three Musketeers," which is on the index of works which good Catholics are not allowed to read. He made a bet of a case of champagne that this was so, and to prove it published a fake ad. to the effect that he intended to publish in his paper, "Monte Christo," which is certainly the most moral of Dumas' works. Sure enough, the archbishop instructed his vicar to notify Mr. Beaugrand that Dumas' works were interdicted, and that if he persisted in publishing "Monte Christo" the faithful would be warned against his paper. In the meantime Le Monde goes on publishing "The Three Musketeers," and Mr. Beaugrand has a subject for some biting editorials, several of which have appeared on the subject.

There has been gossip during the month that the old Herald is once more to change hands, a syndicate headed by Ald. McLean, of Ottawa, the late Queen's printer, having, it is understood, had some negotiations with the people who control the paper at present. Nothing has been consummated yet, but some changes which have occurred on the staff make it look as though something was on the tapis.

The paper trade is very quiet at present here, and the general complaint is that buyers are operating from hand to mouth. This policy is due to a fear that there may be some changes in the tariff, but people who ought to know say that this is hardly possible. In the case of ordinary papers there is only 20 per cent. duty, which even printers allow is not more than is wanted; while in the case of coated papers, card board, etc., if any reduction was made in the 35 per cent. duty, it is claimed that it would kill out the only two establishments in the country which turn out any goods of this sort. In the meantime, however, owing to the uncertainty, business is quiet.

The average amount of type set by hand composition per hour is 800 ems, but last week Thos. Flawn, an operator on a linotype machine in the Witness office, set 240,950 ems corrected matter for the week of forty-eight hours - an average of a fraction over 40,000 ems per day and 5,000 per hour. This breaks the Canadian record by 20,450 ems, which was previously held by Wm. O'Brien, of the Toronto Globe who set 220,500, and thus won the \$100 gold prize offered by the Linotype Co., of Montreal, to establish a record. Following was Mr. Flawn's daily composition:

Thursday	47,900
Friday	43,750
Saturday	28,600
Monday	38,900
Tuesday	41,500
Wednesday	40,300
Total	240,950

## SELF SPACING TYPE.

FEW printers and perhaps not many type foundries realize, or if they do they have kept it quiet, that there is the possibility of so improving the manufacture of type as to cause a greater revolution in printing than any one other factor outside of the type-setting machine. I refer to self spacing type.

There will be hundreds of objections to this assertion, and as many or more reasons will be given why it is not practicable. Notwithstanding all of these objections, I make the prediction that the time will come when they will have been overturned, and that all type cast will be upon the point system, both ways.

Body type was long ago cast upon this system, and is a success. To be sure there are those who do not believe in it