

with having excluded reporters from its meetings ; and yet this Council, so far from having excluded reporters, two or three years ago, in order that the profession outside might be fully informed as to what is being done here in this Council, although it involved a large amount of expenditure, did not hesitate to employ a shorthand writer and give the proceedings to the profession at large ; and it continues that. Only yesterday we re-elected our official stenographer to give the work of this Council to the public that they might know who does the work in this Council, and the reason why the work is being done. He charges us with having improperly influenced members of the Legislature ; that is a broad and general charge. We as broadly and as widely brand that as a falsehood. He charges this Council with having expended large sums of money belonging to the Council in champagne suppers : this same charge has been made previously to this ; and we were charged at other sessions with junketting and spending large sums of money belonging to the Council ; if he confined himself to that I do not suppose the members of this Council would care very much, because the very fact that the charge is made refutes it. We are a body of gentlemen. We have been a great many years here in this Council and our proceedings are well known. I believe the majority of us are known to a large number of the citizens of Toronto, and if we spent our time in rioting and drinking, the public press would have been filled with it long ago, but there is nothing of the kind ; and the public know that it can't be true. It might be said that we ought to take criminal proceedings because of this : well, I do not think that we require to go that far : consider what this gentleman has said over his own signature, because, no doubt, it is said by the same man who has been writing long letters in the *Mail*. There can be no doubt in my mind that a jury asked to give a verdict that would consign the proprietors of the *Mail* to prison would not convict : I think you would fail ; and to fail would be to do us a great deal of harm ; it would injure the Council very much. It would be said that out of revenge because five territorial members are being added to the Council we brought a criminal action against Mr. Bunting. Whilst quite satisfied, as Dr. Bray says to the Council, that this article is libellous, I do not think

—I may be wrong—that we stand in so poor a position before the public of this country that we ought to ask for a criminal conviction of the proprietor of this journal.

Dr. BRAY—The remarks of Dr. Bergin might apply were this not an editorial : if it were a communication it would be only expressing the views of one individual, but this is a different thing ; it is a leading article in one of the leading papers of this country ; and it is supposed to reflect the views of the managers and leaders of that journal, therefore I do not think the Council, in justice to itself and its constituents, ought to allow this to pass unnoticed. I do not think we are going to take an action : my object in bringing it up was that the Council might express their views on it, and express their disapprobation. It will be published (perhaps not in the *Mail*) before the public. But if we were to allow this leading article to go before the country without contradiction, the people might believe it, and they would have reason to believe it, because it charges us directly with all kinds of fraud : I do not think it is necessary for us to go into a criminal prosecution, although I think we should, for possibly the paper could be made to retract. While we believe it is from the pen of the man who has written these articles, when he signed his name it was all right enough, but this reflects the opinion and the views of this paper, and this paper goes into thousands and thousands of homes in this country. I think we would be doing ourselves a great injustice not to stamp this as it should be stamped.

Dr. BERGIN—You misunderstand me, Dr. Bray : I concede that this resolution should be passed by the Council : that is an entirely different thing from engaging in a law suit. Whilst I think we were bound, in defence of our honour, to pass a resolution of some kind contradicting the article, it is another thing to bring an action against the paper.

Dr. DAY—Mr. President, while agreeing that the article is away beneath contempt, there is not, so far as I know, a solitary sentence of truth in it : that we all know, everybody knows that. I think that a merely denunciatory resolution by this Council would be all that is necessary. I have no objection to the wording of the resolution : you cannot make the wording too strong to be truthful,