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**ACTION FOR LIBEL BY MR DE
COBAIN, M.P.**

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BELFAST, FRIDAY.

At the County Antrim Assizes to-day, before Chief Baron Pilles, the libel action in which Mr Edward Samuel Wesley De Cobain, M.P., was plaintiff, and Mr E. Dwyer Gray, M.P., was defendant, was mentioned. It was an action brought to recover £5,000 for libel. The libel complained of was published in an issue of the *Belfast Morning News*, of the 8th of November last, and was in the nature of a letter written by a correspondent. The libel complained of was headed "Mr E. S. W. De Cobain, M.P., and the Municipal Elections," and stated that "Mr De Cobain was seeking to be returned as an alderman for his own selfish gains, and was no friend of the workman, Orangeman, or Islandman." It then proceeded to set out the statement that "Mr De Cobain, the owner of house property in the neighbourhood of Ballymacarrett, occupied by Orangemen and workers on the Queen's Island, some time before last Christmas, when one of his tenants, named Reynolds, ran into arrears to the extent of 12s, his wife having been laid up in bed with sickness, and who had died on the 1st December—the husband was out of employment, and Mr De Cobain went to the house shortly after the death, and, as alleged, distrained for the amount of rent due—12s." It was further alleged "that Mr De Cobain had the furniture in the house, which consisted of a big drum, removed to Smithfield, where after remaining for fourteen days were sold by public auction." It concluded by stating that *this was the first big drum ever sold by public auction since the introduction of Orangism, and asked, "will the electors of Ballymacarrett return Mr De Cobain as a representative of the Municipal elections."* It was signed "J. M., Donegall street."

In the statement of defence the defendant denied that he had printed or published the words complained of; that it was concerning the plaintiff that the words were spoken, and that the words were not a libel. As an alternative defence, the defendant said that the several words and statements complained of were true in substance and in fact.

Counsel for plaintiff—Mr Orr, Q.C., Mr Gerard, Q.C., Mr J. W. Craig, and Mr Whittaker (instructed by Mr J. B. Scott). For the defendant—Mr Carton, Q.C., Mr Dodd, Q.C., and Mr Macinerney (instructed by Mr Ambrose Flunkett, Dublin).

A settlement was arrived at to-day, whereby the defendant withdrew the plea of justification and agreed to pay the costs of the plaintiff when taxed and ascertained. The consent was made a rule of court.