

The "Maritime Farmer," a Weekly Journal, devoted to AGRICULTURE, POLITICAL, LITERATURE and NEWS, is published on the Office.

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A Bitter Disappointment.

Mr. A. G. Blair, for the present, Attorney General of New Brunswick, yesterday added another defeat to his long list of humiliations.

The St. John Valley Railway.

The Woodstock papers contain accounts of a recent meeting of gentlemen interested in the promotion of the St. John Valley Railway.

The Press in commenting on the action of the meeting says: "We have no official information as to the object or the results of the convocation, but it is audibly whispered on our streets, that this meeting of local gentry marks the inception of the St. John Valley Railway Co."

The construction of the proposed railway, would open up a fine tract of land in York County, and run through some of its most important settlements.

Canadian Independence.

St. John A. Macdonald speaking at the Montreal banquet, said, "we want no independence in this country except the independence that we have at this moment."

We can have an army and navy. Aye, but we can have no army and no navy. Look round the world, and what do we see to-day? We see the nations of the world drawn up in hostile camps, and one is almost inclined to believe with Hobbes, the philosopher of Malmesbury, that peace is but the sickly exhibition of an exhausted civilization.

Look at the smaller countries with a diminutive population. Look at Belgium with her army, although her neutrality is guaranteed by the other powers. Look at Holland with hers. Look at little Switzerland with her army, although her neutrality is also guaranteed.

And gentlemen, in our case we are compelled to have an army, a navy, a diplomacy; we should have the enormous cost of walking alone. Independent, and yet we never could be certain but that at any moment a convulsion or fit of emotion in the neighboring Republic might absorb us into the great republican net.

Where would then be our country, our independence, the glorious state of order and prosperity we have now? Here we are, free from all the complications of Europe. England will never go to war unless she is obliged to in defence of her own honor, and if England goes to war, we can defend our own shores, and as experience has proved, the young men of this country, and the Parliament of this country, the representatives of the people, will vie with the whole of our people in coming to the support of the Mother Land.

The history of Europe has shown, that by slow degrees the nations are growing larger, and that England is circumscribed notwithstanding her great power and wealth by the territorial limits of the British Isles.

Which her enormous energy has been able to do, and to overcome any nation in the world. We have enemies in our camp. It is not an enemy that has done Canada such dishonor, but it is her own family friends, those with whom we have taken counsel, those of her own lineage, those living in this country.

These are the foes of Canada who have offered the insult and maligned her climate, the friends of every country but their own. The present opposition by every falsehood, every insinuation, have attempted to divert immigration to other countries than Canada.

The Death Struggle.

In the subsidized organ's powerlessness to defend the Government against the charges of maladministration we preferred on the eve of the Sunbury election, it worked itself into a frenzy, and not only ran riot with every species of etiquette and courtesy, but also with every precept of morality.

It was presuming, however, too much on general ignorance, for it to think it necessary to say it spoke "with the full approval of the Government," since it is well known that the organ in question is a mere automaton, ever and only registering the thoughts and wishes of the Blair Government.

It is being the case, we are not the least surprised at finding it unable to exercise the possibility of the editor of this, or any other paper, discussing the political questions of the hour without consulting previously, some political leader. A long service of mental servitude has been attended by the usual consequences. In justice, however, to the gentleman whom the subsidized organ was respectfully informed the latter, that neither Mr. E. L. Wetmore, the "new man," nor any other of the unnamed political gentlemen to whom it referred, had, or could have, any knowledge of its articles until they appeared in print.

However, much the announcement may shock the servile quill driver of the subsidized organ, we assert that the FARMER expresses its own views, openly and fearlessly, little knowing or caring whether it is in harmony with those of any man.

This being the case, we are not surprised at finding the organ committed a breach of journalistic courtesy, as well as of justice to Mr. Wetmore; and did we know less of his character, we would request it to make the amende honorable; but such cannot be expected.

The desperate nature of the defense it undertakes can be best learned through the means it employs. It is aware the Blair Administration is fast becoming a farcical combination of cowardice and corruption, crowned with a weakness that excites public contempt and ridicule, and so it does not hesitate to descend to low devices, and violate what gentlemen prize, in order to bolster it up.

After making light of our remarks on political morality, it shows its contempt of the truth, by asserting that "a special edition of the FARMER was issued and circulated in every nook and corner of Sunbury." It is wholly impossible it could have been ignorant of the fact, that no such edition was struck off or sent forth. The people of Sunbury, especially, will know how to discount its assertions in a future.

It drags in the name of the Hon. W. E. Peley, but evidently feels very uncomfortable at the fact that Mr. Morrow polled a majority of the votes cast in Gladstone and Bisville, where the Hon. gentleman has used its utmost efforts, but in vain, to destroy, seems to gall it to the heart.

We charged the Government with having practically sold the timber lands of the Province for ten years to a few wealthy firms, as a bid for their support, crushing out the small operator, and placing these rich speculators in a position to traffic in the country's resources and the poor man's labor.

Mr. Blair's subsidized organ does not attempt at denial, but offers the following miserable excuse for an unjust and oppressive measure, which is grossing the honest indignation of all fair minded men, "that physical conditions rendered it necessary for small operators to give place in a great measure to those who have capital at their command."

It is necessary "to furnish inducements for the investment of capital." The profitable investment of the small operator's limited means and his labor, on which depended the support of himself and family, is a matter of little concern to Mr. Blair, provided he can retain the corrupt friendship of these wealthy firms, and "furnish them good inducements for the investment of their capital." Unable to defend this gross outrage on popular rights, he pretends to find in the result of the election in Sunbury an endorsement of these regulations. Referring to the returns, he has previously said, that "in those Parishes which may be called purely agricultural, and consequently when the voters find employment at home, the Government made large gains."

The italics are ours, and are significant. In discussing his lumber policy farther on, he adds, "the County of Sunbury, the home of many small operators, has given it the warmest approval." He purposely conceals the fact that outside the purely agricultural parishes, and where lumbering is carried on by small operators, that is in the Parishes of Bisville, Gladstone and Northfield, the Government lost heavily in the late election; its majority having fallen from 125 in December, 1883, to 87 in January, 1885. Mr. Blair begins to see the handwriting on the wall. We shall leave the subsidized organ to turn over the Government's reflections on this evidence of "warmest approval."

We condemned the Blair Administration for squandering \$45,000 of the limited resources of the Province, in subsidizing fifteen miles of useless railway in Northumberland, when the same length of line was being built by the Dominion Government, in a more suitable place, and not costing the Province one cent. This was charged as a corrupt bargain. Scarcely any defense is offered, for it admits of none. A weak silly excuse is put forward, at which all well informed business men must laugh. Like the doctors well known black bottle, the Sunbury election is a universal panacea for all the disorders of the Gov't especially in the hands of one who tries, but at the expense of the essential, to make "the worse appear the better reason." It is labor hard to show that the waste of these \$45,000, which it practically admits, did not cause the people most directly concerned in the Central Railway, to lose faith in its early construction, for its says, "the parishes most interested in the Central, give Mr. Glazier an increased majority." Margerville and Northfield are the two most interested, and the Government's majority in the two combined fell from 101 to 57. When such reckless disregard is shown of facts and figures, with in every one range of knowledge, the public can easily see to what desperate straits this subsidized organ is driven in its hopeless attempt to prolong the corrupt power of a moribund Administration. But its perversion of facts does not end here. Referring apparently to our charges against the Gov't for the severe blow dealt our teachers and public education, by withdrawing \$20,000 per year from these teachers, and placing this additional burden upon already heavily taxed Districts, as well as by shutting out all our common schools from participation in the Superior Allowance, and dividing it among fifty or sixty favoured schools in towns and villages, when the rate of taxation for school purposes, is a mere fraction of that borne by country Districts, it says "an issue was raised on the abolition of the ranking system, and the new provision for Grammar and Su-

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We shall make his docile servant, the temporary Chief Superintendent himself, bear unwilling testimony to the nature of the measure. In his Report of 1883, he tells us they were employed in the County of Sunbury, during the Winter Term, ending April 30, 1883, two first-class male teachers, four second class do, seven third class do, fifteen second class female teachers, and eleven third class do. Mr. Blair reduced these teachers' allowances to the following extent: first-class males, \$15 per year, second class do, \$12; third class do, \$10; second class females \$10, third class do, \$7, making a total annual loss to the teachers and extra district tax on the whole County of \$548 per year, a very heavy proportion of which must be borne by the poorer districts employing 3rd class teachers. But this is not all. The Grammar School grant was also cut out to the extent of \$200 per year. Moreover, he took away from the Common Schools the privilege of sharing in the Superior Allowance according to the work done by the teachers and efforts made by the children and districts, and divided it in the manner stated above. Sunbury County received from this fund the following: in 1879-80, \$100.82; in 1880-81, \$101.92; in 1881-82, \$130.74, or an average of \$104.10 per year. To sum up, Mr. Blair and the temporary Chief Superintendent robbed the teachers and schools of the following amount per year:—

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Levi Tuck has been appointed postmaster of Gasquetown Queens Co., in the place of the late Edward Simpson.

Friends of Hon. John Costigan are to present him with a furnished residence on Feb. 1st, his fiftieth birthday.

P. T. Barnum has offered General Grant one hundred thousand dollars for permission to exhibit his trophies and relics.

The city of Rome is threatened by floods. The Upper Tiber has risen forty feet and vast tracts of country are inundated.

Hon. Peter Mitchell has taken charge of the Montreal Herald. The purchase price is believed to be twenty thousand dollars.

A conference of the friends of King's and Dalhousie colleges recently passed resolutions affirming the principle of amalgamation.

A set called the anti-Deists has been founded in Paris for the purpose of suppressing the name of the Deity in all languages.

Wm. F. Best of St. John, has been appointed a commissioner to obtain evidence in the Italian case, and are significant.

In discussing his lumber policy farther on, he adds, "the County of Sunbury, the home of many small operators, has given it the warmest approval." He purposely conceals the fact that outside the purely agricultural parishes, and where lumbering is carried on by small operators, that is in the Parishes of Bisville, Gladstone and Northfield, the Government lost heavily in the late election; its majority having fallen from 125 in December, 1883, to 87 in January, 1885.

Mr. Blair begins to see the handwriting on the wall. We shall leave the subsidized organ to turn over the Government's reflections on this evidence of "warmest approval."

We condemned the Blair Administration for squandering \$45,000 of the limited resources of the Province, in subsidizing fifteen miles of useless railway in Northumberland, when the same length of line was being built by the Dominion Government, in a more suitable place, and not costing