

Maritime Farmer.

FREDERICTON, N. B., July 14, 1886.

Mr. Wilson and the Organ.

Mr. Wilson, M. P., Secretary-Treasurer of the Municipality of York, finds himself in a very awkward position on the Scott Act Inspector business. The developments in the Council have somewhat shaken the confidence of the public in that class of politicians represented by Mr. Wilson, who could one day give his professional opinion, that the law was unconstitutional, and the next day, vote straight in support of the same law, solely to gain a political advantage. We observe that Mr. Blair's organ comes to the assistance of Mr. Wilson, but we scarcely think he will welcome support from that quarter.

The organ remarks:—
"Probably very few people believed that Mr. Wilson said about Mr. Wilson, but it is just as well to contradict these things at once. Some people are mean enough to set an untruth afloat in the hope that the object of it will not deem it worth contradicting. Then after a time they will declare their statement must have been true or it would have been denied when first made."

Now the FARMER claims to have always treated Mr. Wilson with great consideration. The FARMER never accused Mr. Wilson of such offences as "extravagance, maladministration, robbery, and fraud," because we do not believe Mr. Wilson capable of such things. But Mr. Blair's organ made these accusations against Mr. Wilson, when he was running for the mayoralty, and Mr. Wilson has admitted that they were the most disagreeable things he had to explain away during his canvass of the county in 1885. His bitterest enemies were within his own camp. Mr. Wilson never wrote to the organ that his scandalous accusations were untrue. We presume he didn't think it worth while, but according to the organ's logic in the extract we quote above, the fact that Mr. Wilson did not make a denial, is sufficient to warrant the organ in believing, that "its statement must have been true or it would have been denied when first made."

The organ lays this latter statement down as a general principle: as such it will apply to its campaign of abuse against Mr. Wilson, and the only possible deduction therefore, is that the organ still believes Mr. Wilson to have been guilty of "extravagance, maladministration, robbery and fraud," in the management of the water works business.

The FARMER does not believe such things of Mr. Wilson, nor will it permit its political hostility to Mr. Wilson, to interfere in the discussion of a matter of that kind. Mr. Wilson may say that the FARMER doesn't tell the truth, but the FARMER will not reciprocate in kind. It will not, however, on the other hand, reflect on Mr. Wilson as a lawyer and a politician, by putting forward the statement, that Mr. Wilson always tells the truth. That would form a very grave charge against Mr. Wilson professionally and politically, the responsibility of which the FARMER is unwilling to assume.

The Agricultural Bureau.

The FARMER last week contained the following letter:—

"Mr. Blair's editor, having relaxation from his agricultural duties, is amusing himself by writing letters to his own paper about the FARMER."
It was a harmless little statement, but it drew a funny letter from Mr. C. H. Lugin, who seemed to think the FARMER was hitting at him. Here is what Mr. Lugin wrote to Mr. Blair's organ the next day:
"I wish to say to the FARMER, and to everybody else, that I have only, to my recollection, written one communication to a newspaper without signing it, either my full name or my initials, and that one was a lengthy letter to the St. John paper. I state this fact here because the FARMER attributes to me the authorship of a letter in the *Gleaner*, and secondly that I may be relieved of the charge often made against me of writing this, that or the other letter in the papers. I have not written an anonymous letter to the press, or had a letter published without my signature or my initials, since the first school campaign, and I have no intention of writing any such letters. I have never yet had anything to say in a newspaper that I was unwilling to acknowledge."
Well now, who said that Mr. Lugin was writing letters. The FARMER said it was Mr. Blair's editor. Is Mr. Lugin Mr. Blair's editor? We are not concerned as to who is Mr. Blair's editor, but perhaps the public will be interested in Mr. Lugin's confession, that he discharges that important function. The FARMER will be excused if it declines to believe Mr. Lugin's story, that he hasn't written an anonymous communication to the press since the first school campaign. The FARMER has good reason to believe that Mr. Lugin, no later than last autumn, wrote a series of anonymous letters on the Scott Act question, and signed them "Common Sense," which, perhaps, Mr. Lugin thinks is synonymous with "C. H. Lugin."

This matter, however, is not particularly important, and the FARMER would not have referred to it, but to show how completely Mr. Lugin has given himself away. The FARMER gave him credit for more shrewdness, but it would seem that in this, as in many other things, the Agricultural Bureau has been overrated.

Canadians and other colonials visiting London this season, are meeting with a warm reception. They are being dined and wined by Royalty without stint, the Queen herself giving them such attention. A recent cable says that "the Queen's luncheon at Windsor Castle to the Colonials is reckoned in London society as the most surprising event of Her Majesty's reign. No precedent exists for such an invitation. No circumspect of splendor was wanting to enhance the impression. A special train took the guests from London to Windsor. The Prince and Princess of Wales, the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall, the Princess Louise and many other royalties and the whole royal household were present. Luncheon was served in the Waterloo gallery. Then the guests were presented to the Queen. The list of Colonials and Indians fills an entire column, and includes Sir Charles Tupper and other Canadians. The whole party came away charmed with the reception. London asks wonderingly, what will the Queen do next?"

Flogging for Wife Beaters.

Among the bills introduced in the Pennsylvania Legislature during the session of 1885, was one relating to the punishment of men who beat their wives.

The bill provided that "whenever any male person shall willfully beat, bruise or mutilate his wife, the court before whom such offender shall be tried and convicted, shall direct the infliction of corporal punishment upon such offender, to be laid upon his bare back to the number of lashes not exceeding thirty, by means of a whip or lash of suitable proportions and strength for the purpose of this act."

Mr. Adams the promoter of the bill, undertook to find out how many cases of wife beating had come before the courts of his State, and to learn whether the punishment provided by existing law was regarded as suitable and adequate by prosecutors and others. It appears that in the year 1884, there were laid before Grand Jurors in Pennsylvania 527 complaints against wife beaters; that 287 true bills were found, and that 211 men were convicted.

"Summary conviction before a magistrate and the whipping post within an hour would, in my opinion," says the District Attorney of Cameron County, "be a good way to prevent the constant occurrence of this crime." Other prosecutors voluntarily expressed their approval of Mr. Adams' bill. One said: "The whipping post is the only adequate punishment for the offense." Another asserted that existing law was "utterly powerless to prevent this crime." The District Attorney of Philadelphia, who had presented 308 bills for this offence in one year, declared that "the re-establishment of the whipping post or some mode of corporal punishment inflicted privately would be more effective to reduce the number of wife beaters than the punishment of incarceration." Three Philadelphia Grand Jurors asked the Legislature to pass the bill, and several Judges supported it, and it was defeated in the Senate by only a narrow majority.

Responses to a circular issued by the Home Office in London twelve years ago, showed a great unanimity of opinion in support of the proposition that flogging should be an authorized punishment for men guilty of assaults upon women and children. Among those who favored the use of this penalty were, Lord Chief Justice Cockburn, Justices Blackburn, Mellor, Lush, Quinn, Archibald, Brett and Grove, Lord Chief Baron Kelly, Barons Bramwell, Pigott, Pollock, Cleasby, and Ansell, 64 out of 68 Chancery and magistrates in Sessions, and the Recorder of 41 towns. The code of Delaware, which provides whipping as a punishment for so many crimes, does not impose it as a penalty for wife beating, but the Legislature of Maryland in 1883 enacted a bill providing that wife beaters should be whipped, and the District Attorney of Baltimore, Mr. Adams, that "after the first conviction the crime ceased as if by magic in that State."

Mr. Adams points out, that not until 1829 was the act embodying the old common law that allowed a man to "chastise his wife with any reasonable instrument" repealed in England. He asserts that, while women are protected in this country, by law so far as their rights to property are concerned, the remedy offered by law in cases like those to which his bill relates, is not available for the protection of the person, owing to the consequences attending a criminal prosecution. The punishment of a woman's husband by imprisonment deprives her and her children of needed support, and therefore she is restrained. The binding of her husband to keep the peace, has been found to be a futile proceeding with regard to the majority of wife beaters, and the exaction of a fine and costs simply takes from the family the money which it needs. The whipping post would certainly be the most effective form of punishment.

Mr. Blair's organ intimates that some other person than the editor of the FARMER, writes its editorial articles, and proceeds to attack a certain gentleman whom it accuses of doing that work. The charge is quite worthy of the source from which it emanates. The editor of the FARMER, we wish the organ to understand, writes the articles that appear in the FARMER, and assumes the full responsibility of them, and when he is unable to attend to that duty, he will not shoulder it upon a subsidized official from the public departments, who ought to be doing the work for which he is paid. The editor of the FARMER, we wish the organ to understand, writes the articles that appear in the FARMER, and assumes the full responsibility of them, and when he is unable to attend to that duty, he will not shoulder it upon a subsidized official from the public departments, who ought to be doing the work for which he is paid.

It must be galling to the Toronto *Globe* to admit, that the following percentages of increase in the railway system of Canada the last ten years, indicate very clearly the development of the country during that period. The miles of completed railway have in ten years increased 118 per cent., the amount of capital invested has increased 48 per cent., the gross earnings show an increase of 130 per cent. The number of passengers carried increased 76 per cent., the amount of freight 130 per cent., and the train mileage 70 per cent.

During May, 2,000,000 lbs. of sugar were shipped from Dartmouth, Nova Scotia refinery to points in Canada, outside of Nova Scotia. During the first eight days of the month of June, 1,000,000 lbs. of sugar were shipped. Twenty-one cars of binding twine have recently been loaded at the Dartmouth works for Manitoba, to be used for harvesting on the prairie. These cars will average thirteen tons of twine net weight. It does not look as if the national policy was a dead letter in Dartmouth.

During the elections in P. E. Island, some of the Grit papers made a great howl over a letter alleged to have been written to a number of people by Sir John A. Macdonald, to influence Conservatives to support the local government. It now turns out that the letters were written by Mr. John A. Macdonald, a local politician. Another Grit bubble burst.

The Newcastle *Advocate*, in remarking on Hon. Peter Mitchell's presence in Northumberland, says that he announces himself as an independent candidate. The talk in Newcastle, says the *Advocate*, is that if the Hon. Peter has come out in opposition to the Government, the Hon. Mr. Adams will probably be put in the field to oppose him.

PARNELL TO COSTIGAN.

The Canadian Minister Warmly Thanked.

When, last session of the Canadian Parliament, on motion of Hon. Mr. Costigan, the House of Commons by resolution recorded its continued adherence to the sentiments expressed in the preamble of the Scott Act, and passed in the session of 1882 and contented itself with that dignified reminder to Mr. Gladstone and his party that while his son of 1882 was not forgotten, his profession of conversion to the views he then presented was hailed with pleasure by the Parliament of Canada, the Grits were frantic with rage.

All at once the Grits became so enamored of Ireland and the Home Rule for Ireland, that nothing would do them but a resolution licking Mr. Gladstone's feet. And because Mr. Costigan would only agree to the passage of the diluted but emphatic resolution we have mentioned, they with one voice denounced him as a "traitor" and shouted with all their might that his resolution was not in favor of Home Rule at all, but was calculated to injure it. All at once it seemed as if the Grit party had become more Irish than the Irish themselves, and were more intense Home Rulers than Mr. Gladstone and his lieutenants. To Mr. Costigan and his friends, who knew these Grit demagogues thoroughly, this sudden manifestation of Grit eagerness to show that like Colin Clive they were not so much as a "traitor" and "traitor" as they were, was extremely amusing. 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