

THE DAILY EXAMINER

MARCH 23, 1899.

THE MEDDIE GALLANT CASE.

We have neither time, space, nor inclination for a discussion of this matter. Upon the announcement that Meddie Gallant had been disqualified from the exercise of his civil privileges we felt pity for the man; and we are not disposed to dispute the conclusion of the judges who have reversed the decision of the lower court in this regard.

The Guardian says that "the judgment now rendered makes it quite clear that an evening newspaper was wrong in assuming that a full Bench would necessarily confirm Mr. Gallant's disqualification." Our contemporary omits the important words "provided that a case be made out." Two of our judges have found that the case was not made out. That is to say they have reversed the decision of Mr. Justice Hodgson, who heard the evidence in the case and observed the demeanour of the witnesses, on a question not of law but of fact. In such a case, as a rule, the judges of the higher court invariably sustain the verdict or verdict is contrary to reason and could not have been arrived at in a reasonable way. The position, then, is this: The judges who did not hear the witnesses, or observe how they gave their evidence, have by reversing Mr. Justice Hodgson's decision upon a question of fact, taken the responsibility of declaring that their *confere's* judgment could not have been arrived at by any process of right reasoning. Will the public, who know Mr. Justice Hodgson for a shrewd and keen man, a man who has all his life been accustomed to observe the demeanour of witnesses and weigh evidence, believe this?

It is admitted that Meddie Gallant negotiated with Colo Arsenault on election day, and immediately proceeded to Colo's house to give three dollars to his wife by the hands of a third person, while he remained in the wagon at the door; and then Colo (who was a Conservative) didn't vote. Arsenault swore that the money was given to keep him from voting; Gallant swore that it was given as a loan. Mr. Justice Hodgson, who heard the evidence, accepted Arsenault's statement of the transaction and decided that there was personal bribery; the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Fitzgerald have taken the responsibility of saying that the decision was not consistent with reason, and that the money paid was "a loan." We have no doubt that the consciences of all are clear about the matter, and we know that reasonable men will differ. It is, perhaps, hardly necessary to add that this is a case of which any intelligent man, conversant with election methods, is competent to judge.

SIR WILFRID AND THE PLEBISCITE.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier asserted in Parliament a day or two ago, that the Liberal party never had "any intention of adopting prohibition unless a majority of the electorate pronounced in favor of it." That is to say, Prohibition was to be submitted to a test which has never, in Canada, been applied to any political party or any political proposition. A majority of the whole electorate of the country has never yet pronounced

in favor of Liberals or Conservatives or on any question which either party has proposed or carried out. Yet, Sir Wilfrid Laurier now says that the Government "never had any intention of adopting prohibition unless a majority of the electorate pronounced in favor of it." This is not what Sir Wilfrid said before the Plebiscite was held. Speaking to a deputation of prohibitionists who waited upon him previous to the general election, Sir Wilfrid said:—

"He would pledge his honor that, as soon as the Liberals came into power at Ottawa, they would take a plebiscite of the Dominion, by which the party would stand, and the will of the people would be carried out, even were it to cost power for ever to the Liberal party."

These strong words of the Premier were reported and quoted all over Canada, and were accepted in good faith. The Montreal Gazette in its edition of the 6th of September, 1894, published this statement with the following comment:

"This declaration carries the Liberal party further than they have ever gone before." Mr. Laurier has now promised that if a majority can be obtained in support of prohibition all over the Dominion prohibition will be granted. This is one of the largest promises ever made by a political leader. To bring a country, nearly the size of Europe, under prohibition would be an achievement which should satisfy the most extreme of temperance enthusiasts.

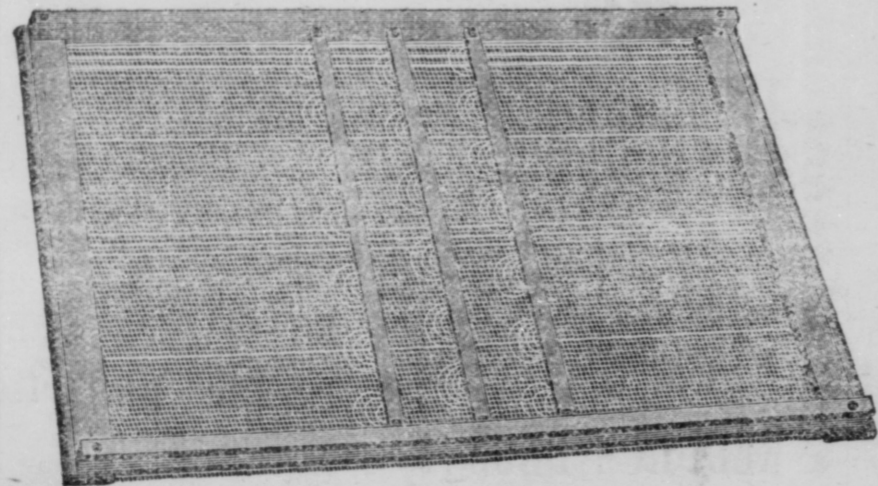
There was no hint then about "a majority of the whole electorate." The prohibitionists and their opponents alike understood that by the plebiscite the "will of the people" would be expressed in the customary way—by a majority of the voters.

A DISTINCTION—BUT A LITTLE DIFFERENCE.

We confess to a misapprehension, in the first place, of the terms upon which the law-breaker at Cardigan obtained his bonded warehouse. It appears that he was not directly appointed by the Dominion Government; he was only permitted to have it. The permission could have been refused. Mr. Scrimgeour, living in a Scott Act county, has obtained from the Government the advantage of being able to take to his premises thousands of dollars worth of alcoholic liquor, to have it there at hand, and to pay the duty on it only as it used by the customers of his illicit trade. From a temperance and moral point of view the Government's granting of his application for a bonded warehouse is more injurious, and more to be deprecated, than his appointment as a bonded warehouse keeper would have been. The best sentiment of the community has condemned the liquor traffic; the law forbids it. But the Government of the country permits Mr. Scrimgeour to import liquor by wholesale into the midst of the community and allows him to have a bonded warehouse upon his own premises from which he can draw it as he sells it, and pay the duty by retail. This a scandalous fact. We have no doubt that the Patriot was actuated by right motives in correcting The EXAMINER'S misapprehension. But certainly it has not bettered the position of the Government in respect to the matter.

Read the very fine concert programme in another column. It is brimfull of highly interesting musical matter.

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FRUIT GROWER'S MEETING.

Mr. Stewart's Paper and Mr. Dickie's Address.

SOME THINGS ESSENTIAL TO SUCCESS IN FRUIT GROWING.

Mr. H. A. Stewart here read a paper bearing upon the question under discussion. After a few introductory remarks he said:

What are some of the essentials underlying the successful growing of fruit? The first, I would say, is the proper preparation of the soil. This is a foundation as necessary to the orchard as one of stone to our dwellings. It is so necessary, that I would say, "Don't order your trees until the land is properly prepared." Too many have the habit of ordering trees at haphazard, trees which they have no intention of buying when they awake in the morning, but were persuaded into doing so by some oily-tongued tree agent, who, perchance, had come from abroad to sell his wares, irrespective of their adaptation to our climate, and then go, probably never to return. The soil should receive a thorough cultivation the year previous to the setting out of the trees. I think that is a good plan not to grow any mature crop. Plough and cultivate the land several times during the first part of the summer, each time going deeper. This will cause the weed seeds to germinate and save much labor in after years. About the middle of July, buckwheat can be sown thickly, and when it comes into blossom, turn it under. This will leave the soil in excellent tilth for the next spring's planting. When swamp muck is available, it is well, at the same time, to work a considerable quantity into the soil, as this adds humus and also helps the soil mechanically. Having properly prepared our land, we can proceed to plant with the consciousness of duty done. The soil prepared, the next essential is the suitable selection of varieties. Here a difficulty confronts us. A mistake made here, will effect, not only one, but many years. For a commercial orchard, we must plant, not only what will succeed here, but also what will suit the taste of the English buyer.

Do not pay much attention to the beautiful pictures shown by the tree-agent, but look around and select those kinds which do best in your vicinity, under similar conditions, as regards soil and exposure. At the same time get all the information you can from the officers and reports of the experimental station, not forgetting to become a member of the Fruit Growers' Association, and attend its meetings. Even this, in our present condition as an apple-growing country, is not sufficient. The apples grown by our limited number of growers may not be the best; and those recommended by the Central Farm and that of Nappan, because of their adaptability to those places, may not succeed here.

I have had an instance in my experience with the Gideon, an apple highly recommended by Professor Craig, late of the Central Farm. While it is a fine showy apple and a good bearer, our soil does not seem to suit it, as it becomes watery in the heart, which destroys its keeping qualities. Upon asking Professor Craig, when here some two or three years ago, as to the cause of this, he said, "that, while at Ottawa and many other places it was a success, in other soils it was not." I would say, from my experience, and from that of others, don't plant the Gideon. I have been planting the Wealthy and I think a good deal of it. It is a showy apple and a prolific bearer, which may be one of its faults, but this can be overcome by judicious thinning. Another fault claimed for it, is, that it prematurely falls owing to the length of its stems; but I have not been troubled with it in this way. In Ontario it is classed as a fall apple, but in our climate it may be placed as a winter one. Of the Alexander I have only a few trees and find them somewhat shy-bearers, although in other orchards I have seen this tree well loaded with fruit. There seems to be no apple, at the present time, to take the place of the much-abused Ben Davis. It is true, that, as a dessert or cooking apple it is not of the best, but it bearing and keeping qualities will class A 1. It is a vigorous upright grower, and the fruit will color well in our climate. The Spy and King are better apples; but what is the use of planting if you never expect to reap? And even if you do, it will be after many years of waiting and then with very small returns. For early apples, I think we have no better than the Duchess, Yellow Transparent and Red Astrachen. This question of variety brings before us an interesting subject for discussion. How are we going to decide which is the best? True, we can experiment. But who are going to experiment. All who grow fruit can, to a certain extent. But experiments in fruit take many years. I believe that those which are carried on for the public good should be at the public expense. Seeing that the fruit industry is, as yet, in its infancy, and a very large majority of our farmers did not know what to plant, the government should come to the front and establish Fruit Experimental Stations or stations. Stations similar to those in Ontario could be cheaply worked, and would be a great boon to our farmers.

The intending fruit-grower having, after very careful consideration, decided as to varieties, the third essential to success will be the proper planting and after-care of the young orchard. As an observant fruit-grower travels through the country he will notice that but few trees are properly planted. They are set as delivered from the nursery, without any attention to pruning. In many cases they are planted, one might say, with the understanding that they were to take care of themselves. As to distance apart, there is quite a difference in opinion, but I think that they should be at least from twenty-four to thirty feet each way, according to variety.

I planted a small orchard in 1890—18 feet each way, which is entirely too close, as some of the branches are already, al-

most touching. Since that time I have planted 24 feet each way. I have trees which were planted twenty-six years ago at 24 feet, with the branches entangling. In the discussion, this afternoon, I would like to hear the opinion on this subject of the fruit-growers present. The orchard should be kept cultivated at least for six or eight years after planting, some growers advocating the cultivation for even many more years. This can only be done when the trees are planted a good distance apart. After the orchard comes into bearing, fertilizers must be applied, to take the place of those exhausted in fruit production.

The ploughing under of soiling crops will help to add humus to the soil. The grower will find that it is useless to try to raise fruit without several sprayings each season. The formula and time for doing this can be had by referring to the Experimental Farm Reports. I have jotted these few rambling thoughts, not for the purpose of imparting information, for I am well aware that I am addressing men who are well up in the fruit business, but for the purpose of opening up a discussion, believing that, in considering those matters much information will be communicated to the society. In conclusion, permit me to say, that there are reasons, other than the money consideration, which should lead us to plant orchards. They tend to beautify our homesteads. Nothing tends to make our homes more attractive than trees or flowers. Early associations have an influence in moulding character. How important, then, that where our children spend their most impressive years, should be bright and attractive. As our young people leave the parental home to make one for themselves, perhaps in some distant land, their memory will often revert to the old apple-tree under which they played as children.

CRANBERRY CULTURE.

Mr. C. R. Dickie then delivered a very interesting and instructive address on Cranberry Culture. He said that about twenty years ago, when clearing a piece of land, he noticed on one spot a little plot of cranberry vines. The land had been occupied by stunted spruce. Its surface was covered with a few inches of black mud, moss, etc., under which was a white sandy loam. After clearing, he ploughed it and sowed oats. The next autumn he found that the cranberry vines were spreading and seemed to be thrifty and strong. He ploughed the land again, and sowed it down; but still the vines came up. Hay was cut the following year. Seeing, then, that the cranberries were worth picking, he had the plot upon which they grew fenced in. The vines spread and flourished. Three years later, nineteen quarts of cranberries were picked. The following year there were two bushels, and the next year seven bushels. Soon he obtained twenty bushels. He showed his cranberries at the exhibitions in Summerside and Charlottetown, and obtained prizes. They are of the Bell and Cherry varieties. He enlarged his cranberry borders, ploughing and harrowing the land and planting the vines. On the old bed, in one year, he picked sixty bushels, which were sold at \$2.50 per bushel. Since then he has obtained from the enlarged plot 100 bushels in one year. In 1893 he began shipping to England. There was much difficulty in making the shipments and the conditions on board the steamers were such that they could not reach the market in good condition. Still they have sold in England at 2s more than those of Cape Cod, and 7s more than those of Holland. It has thus been proved that we can grow, in P. E. Island, cranberries of extra good quality. A few years ago a doctor from Massachusetts, greatly interested in cranberry culture, came to see his plants. On approaching the plot, he enquired "Where's the bog?" when he saw where the cranberries were growing and what crop there was, he would hardly believe the evidence of his senses, and exclaimed, "You've knocked out all my theories." On three square yards, a half bushel of cranberries had been picked. This was at the rate of \$08 bushel to the acre; and Mr. Dickie did not think it impossible that an acre would produce that quantity. The point is, for our farmers to utilize the land at the bottom of valleys at the edges of brooks, in the cultivation of cranberries. Such low swampy land is of the best quality for cranberry culture. Have the land cleared, prepared and sanded so as to level it up. The brook may be straightened and a dam thrown across it so as to raise the water high enough to cover the plants well in the winter. It would be well to regulate the dam so that the height of the water may be regulated as required. The next point is to plant the vines. As many as 42,000 vines may be planted on an acre. They should be planted 1ft by 2ft apart; for if so planted they will bear longer. The next point is to raise the water to a height of about two feet above the surface until about the tenth of May. Then let the water off and the plants will grow. If the weather should be hot in summer the water should be raised a little and it will do the plants good. They will yield nicely in four or five years. As an illustration of the extent to which cranberries are cultivated in the States he might say that Mr. J. J. White, grew last year, 15,000 bushels, which, at \$2 came to the tidy sum of \$30,000. Other individuals had grown 20,000 bushels. In the States there were grown about 800,000 bushels a year off 43,000 acres of land. If we would but put all our waste swamp under cranberries, a considerable amount would be obtained for those engaged in the work and for the province at large. He had taken \$300 net off two acres of land; and the greatest trouble was to see that the fence was all right.

The President asked, "how about weeds?" Mr. Dickie replied that there was no need to bother about them. Moss is injurious; but sanding will kill the moss. As to prices, the quotations were in

November, 10s, 11s, 13s, per bushel. The berries are put up in one bushel boxes. The freight and charges, per box, amount to 70 cents.

Mr. G. G. Goff—How much sand is used in dressing?

Mr. Dickie—Three, four or five inches. Mr. J. A. Ferguson—Is shore sand good?

Mr. Dickie—Shore sand is best.

The President—When do you begin to pick?

Mr. Dickie—About the 20th of September.

Question—When do you set out the plants?

Mr. Dickie—We begin setting out in the spring; and they may be set out till July. They may also be set out in the fall. Cranberries may be propagated from the seed. But it is better to get vines and plant carefully.

After some further conversation, Mr. Dickie took his seat amid applause.

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