

THE PUBLIC V. C. H. LUGRIN.

We comply with the request of Mr. C. H. Lugrin and publish his defence in regard to the official report of the debates of 1885, and also as to Mr. Lugrin's relation to the *Gleaner* newspaper. Mr. Lugrin seems to be angry and his remarks are of a somewhat threatening character. This *Sun* begs leave to inform Mr. Lugrin that he has no malice against him, and does not wish him any harm. The account is not between Mr. Lugrin and this *Sun* but between him and the public, whose paid servant Mr. Lugrin is. And we propose that the public shall know about this matter whether Mr. Lugrin likes it or not.

We charge that Mr. Lugrin made a contract with the government, by the terms of which he was to perform a certain service and to receive therefor the sum of \$850. He has received the money, but has not performed the service. On page 15 of the *Gleaner*, the public does not know the agreement is stated. This contract provided that Mr. Lugrin would furnish 300 copies of a synoptic report of the proceedings of the assembly in book form. It also set forth that Mr. Lugrin was to be paid \$850 for a season of forty days. The season did not exceed forty days. The public accounts (page 59) state that during the year Mr. Lugrin received for "reporting and publishing debates house assembly \$850." But the 300 copies of the report of the proceedings of the house of assembly have not been furnished.

It will be seen that we have complied with the request of Mr. Lugrin and have stated the facts. We had stated them before.

Perhaps it is true that the non-furnishing of these reports is due to causes beyond Mr. Lugrin's control. The public does not know the extent of his control over the business which he undertakes. But surely he had power to refrain from demanding his pay in the meantime, and he did not. The government had power to refuse it. The publishing house which Mr. Lugrin mentions is well equipped, and if the publishers were furnished with the copy and sent they could turn out the job in a day or two.

Mr. Lugrin says he is not the editor of the *Gleaner*, but he writes the *Gleaner's* political articles, and he is not the editor of the *Sun*. This *Sun* has never said or hinted that Mr. Crockett had anything to do with publishing the debates. The committee on the debates were not published at all.

Let this *Sun* be accused of withholding any facts, it may be as well to state that in addition to his salary of \$800 received since his appointment as secretary of agriculture, Mr. Lugrin has received the following sums of public money during the past two years. In 1884, "for provincial and local book \$225." This book was intended for circulation at the Forestry Exhibition, Edinburgh, but the exhibition passed off and the book had not appeared. In 1885 Mr. Lugrin received an additional sum of \$125.25 on account of the hand book. The provincial hand book has not yet appeared. In 1885 Mr. Lugrin received \$850 for reporting and publishing the debates, and these of the past year. In 1885 he received \$75 "to pay messenger." There are several bills for travelling expenses which we pass over.

The public interests require that these things should be made known. The people provide this money, and Mr. Lugrin and the government which employs him and which he serves must understand that the people shall be told where their money is spent.

THE LUNATIC ASYLUM.

It is not true that the local government have been more economical than their predecessors in the management of the lunatic asylum. In 1880 the cost per bed for maintaining the patients was \$102.61; in 1881 it was \$106.96; in 1882 it was \$110.83. In 1883 the rate was \$124.07; in 1884 the rate was \$107.20 and in 1885, \$102.84. It will be seen that the average rate for the past three years is higher than that of the last three years of the late government's management. The number of patients has increased at the rate of twenty-five a year and the larger the number is the cheaper the rate of maintenance per head should be. Moreover the price of provisions and clothing have greatly declined since 1881 and 1882. How much money would a man make who had a contract to supply the four hundred patients at rates prevailing four years ago, if he could buy the goods at the present prices? So much money the government seem to have wasted in some fashion, since no reduction has taken place.

It must be remembered that the price of the new buildings and new farms is not included in the expenditure account for 1885. They were paid for by borrowed money, not only the farms but the cost of the provincial secretary and Messrs. Turner and Harrison for looking after the farms, and those of Dr. Steeves in connection with the farms. What is still more singular, the price of a span of mares, bought for \$375, is charged as "farm and new buildings" and is not in the current account. The government and their supporters have been making a good deal too much money for themselves out of the lunatic asylum.

A LUCID INTERVAL.

The press supporting the local government has been regenerated. It sees things in a new light. It finds virtues in the Liberal Conservative party. The word "tory" has disappeared from the editorial columns. The late Tories are now Conservatives and are spoken of with reverence mentioned. Mr. Everett and Mr. Barker are no longer the representatives of the contractors' party, Mr. Foster has ceased to be a land grabber and a traitor to the temperance cause; Mr. Wallace has been forgiven, and Dr. Steins Mr. Wood and Mr. Landry are without guile. There is no abuse even for Mr. Costigan. Dominion government employees are no longer magpies in a feathering mess of political putrefaction.

To keep up appearances an occasional shot is sent in the direction of some far away Liberal Conservative, say Mr. Dwyer or Mr. Royal, or some senator from the far west. But for New Brunswick Liberal Conservatives there are unlimited soft words and daily blood-curdling.

Our friends of the other party have come to woo. They want local government candidates to be returned unopposed. They think it safer to go begging from the enemy than to fight the enemy.

In a few days it will be over. Then the friends of Mr. Blair will return to their congenial occupations. Then we shall see again. Those who are now asked to support the editor of the *Globe* will again be maggots in a festering mass of political putrefaction.

The supporters of Sir John will become corrupt, contractors, bribers, plunderers, and be filled with all carnal lusts. When Liberal Conservative elections are next held to tolerate a little longer the local government, they will cease to be angels of light and will become tenfold more the children of sin than before.

It is pointed out that if the government candidates should be elected in Sunbury, the whole representation of the county in the two chambers at Ottawa, and the two at Fredericton—five members in all—will be in the hands of two families. Mr. Charles Burpee represents the house of commons and Mr. John Glazier in the senate. Mr. Harrison, the legislative councillor, is a nephew of Mr. Burpee, and Mr. Charles Harrison, one of the candidates, is another nephew. The other candidate, Mr. Arthur Glazier, is a son of Senator Glazier.

Mr. GEORGE J. COLTHER is again a candidate in York, in opposition to Mr. Blair and his ticket. The opponents of the government in York will make a mistake if they do not nominate two candidates to form a ticket with Wetmore and Colther. They can scarcely expect many of the electors to be content with voting for two men when four are to be chosen. The people of York must elect four representatives and no person has a right to ask a voter to abandon half his privileges.

THE OPPOSITION.

Discounting the Effect of Mr. Gladstone's eloquent speech.

LONDON, April 10.—It would be useless to attempt to disguise the fact that the last forty-eight hours have worked a great change in the prospects of Mr. Gladstone's scheme. The more it is looked at by the public the less it is liked. The destructive force of criticism directed at it on Friday by Mr. Chamberlain and Lord Hartington necessarily produced an immense effect, and staggers many who were previously disposed to support the measure. It is now a question of whether the measure will be turned against the measure by Lord Hartington's speech, which was undoubtedly the ablest he ever delivered in the house.

Never before has a liberal press throughout the country been so hostile to Mr. Gladstone's measure. Not a single public meeting has been called in support, and no speaker on the liberal side has raised his voice in approval. These are ominous signs, and the Irish leaders have cannot fail to see their great importance. One tremendous disadvantage Mr. Gladstone now labors under is that no first rate man on the ministerial benches will back his party. All his old supporters having power and authority in the country are in opposition.

JOHN MORLEY was put forward on Friday night by general consent and made a ludicrous fiasco, although he had his speech written out. He could not deviate from the text, and he was without without getting into a muddle, and the laughter of the conservatives and the contemptuous coldness of the liberals completely up him. He lost his head, and he was not able to deliver a single sentence without making a blunder. He was not able to deliver a single sentence without making a blunder.

It is a very foolish policy to attempt to manage the house by threats, and the longer Mr. Morley and the ministerial party persist in this policy, the more damage will be done to the Liberal cause. A prominent radical came down the floor of the house, saying loudly, "Morley has knocked himself into a cocked hat!"

There are two opinions in the whole house of the mischievous effect of this unfortunate harangue, forming in all respects a pitiable contrast to the child and his cause. There are no two opinions in the whole house of the mischievous effect of this unfortunate harangue, forming in all respects a pitiable contrast to the child and his cause.

Added to all this is the dread, and even horror, with which the radicals look forward to the introduction of the income tax. The scheme on Thursday, involving a vast outlay of money for the purchase of Irish land. They fairly groan at the prospect, and go about crying piteously, "Nothing is to drop part two altogether." Nothing is more certain than that the constituency will never submit to be taxed, directly or indirectly, for the purchase of Irish land. They say that if anything of the kind is to be done, do it for the benefit of the English and Scotch farmers and laborers. I have given you this view from the first, and I depend upon it to be fully justified by events, for I could not find a baker's dozen of men on the liberal side of the house who will vote for the purchase scheme.

This will infinitely wreck the entire project unless it turns out to be a very different character from what it is generally anticipated. We know from Mr. Chamberlain's speech, and from the account given by a few weeks ago, that the scheme is a vast one, involving a vast outlay of money for the purchase of Irish land. They fairly groan at the prospect, and go about crying piteously, "Nothing is to drop part two altogether." Nothing is more certain than that the constituency will never submit to be taxed, directly or indirectly, for the purchase of Irish land.

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members are discussing how the next ministry will be formed, and conjecture puts Lord Hartington at the head with the secessionists, the conservatives agreeing to stand directly out, unless the aid of one or two are specially desired. Therefore, although not a formal coalition, party differences will be cast aside, the conservatives giving a tacit support to Lord Hartington. This is now looked upon as the most probable result of the tremendous strain that Gladstone has thrown upon his party. This news may be unsatisfactory to many of your readers, but I am bound to give you the facts without prejudice on one side or the other.

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE.

Letters to the Editors.—III.

To the Editor of the *Sun*.—Sir—An experienced hand, attempting to unravel the difficulties presented by an investigation into the revenue and expenditure of the province, small as they are, it is sometimes perplexing, but I have endeavored by taking the figures exactly as they are given in the official journals of the house of assembly, to present at your feet a correct statement of the country's finances. The chief sources of revenue are Dominion government subsidies, which amounted to about \$490,000 last year, but formerly averaged \$450,000 per annum, and the provincial revenues, which fell from \$1,100,000 in 1880 to \$900,000 in 1885. Its average for former years having been \$1,000,000. Before putting the revenue under the microscope for the different years before you have only two observations to make, first, that for the years 1880, '81, '82, '83, and '84, I take the figures from the official journals above referred to; and second, for the year 1885, which was composed of fourteen months, during four of which Mr. Hanington was Premier, and during the remainder, Mr. Blair.

Revenue.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.
Revenue.	\$1,100,000	\$1,000,000	\$900,000	\$800,000	\$700,000	\$600,000
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