

A PLOWING MATCH THAT DID NOT COME OFF.

During twenty years of active platform work I met many able speakers. I used to keep a list of those who opposed me, but it grew to such proportions that I dropped it. During my numerous campaigns advocating a stringent license law against prohibition, it was no unusual thing for half a dozen clergymen in one night to accept my invitation to discuss the question, and fierce though the fight was in many counties of Ontario I am pleased to record the fact that I have only pleasant recollections of my intercourse with my clerical opponents.

In politics I met many hard fighters, but to my mind the most formidable of them all was the late Hon. Archibald McKellar, Minister of Agriculture in the Mowat Government. He was not an orator, but was one of those fluent speakers, full of force and possessing a clear, pleasant voice which made every word sound clear and distinct. In addressing an audience of farmers he was particularly strong, and being himself a practical agriculturist he spoke with authority on farming subjects.

I have alluded to the above facts so that my readers can understand and appreciate that it was no easy task to hold your own in an assemblage of farmers against such an experienced member of their own class.

The circumstance I am about to relate took place at Flesherton, in Grey county, during an election for the Ontario Legislature in which the late A. W. Lauder was the Conservative candidate, and Nathaniel Dickey, the standard-bearer of the Reform party. Mr. McKellar was representing Mr. Dickey on the occasion, and I was acting in a similar capacity for Mr. Lauder. The hall was filled to the doors with farmers, and Mr. McKellar