

In consequence of this subdivision, there are no less than 14,009,779 properties without buildings in that country, and the owners of these properties are estimated at nearly 8,500,000, and the remarkable conclusion is reached that, personally or jointly, more than eight Frenchmen out of ten have some share in landed properties. These statements are not surprising to those who are familiar with agricultural France, but they show an astonishing distribution of property, and they indicate the immense force of conservatism at the heart of France. The Socialists succeed in the towns, but against this immense landed proprietorship, made up for the most part of very small owners, they are practically powerless. No country which has such a distribution of landed properties is likely to be, for any great length of time, dangerously radical.

The Newfoundland Legislature lately adjourned, after a session just one week long—the shortest in its history. Every measure of indemnity, revenue-supply, road-loan, or of any financial character which the late Whiteway Government had refused was passed, though in some cases forced through by a majority of one. In the closing speech from the throne it was declared that nothing in the Colony's record had been more creditable than the promptness with which this legislative business had been accomplished. Fisheries and crops were reported as in a prosperous condition, and recommendations were made for the survey of the Labrador coast, for the promotion of fish-culture, and for the colonization of government lands adjacent to railways. The triumph to the Goodridge Government of this legislative week is emphatic indeed when we consider the recent decision in the Newfoundland courts. After a three months' trial, the late Premier, Sir William Whiteway, and Mr. Robert Bond, his Colonial Secretary, were recently found guilty of securing elections by corrupt practices. They have accordingly been sentenced to be unseated from their places in the Assembly, and disqualified from contesting any election during the four years' continuance of the present Legislature. This verdict has naturally caused a great sensation. Sir William Whiteway has long been by far the most prominent man on the island, and Mr. Bond is the statesman who negotiated the convention with Mr. Blaine for the free admission of Newfoundland fish into American waters.

GENERAL NEWS.—Further reports about the reoccupation of Bluefields by Nicaragua confirm the statement that there was no bloodshed; the United States and British ships properly refused to intervene; many refugees were taken to Port Limon by a British cruiser; Captain O'Neil, of the United States cruiser Marblehead, told the Americans who had been engaged in the anti-Nicaraguan insurrection that he had no power to give them protection if they had violated the laws of the country in which they resided. —Anarchists' plots to assassinate M. Dupuy, Premier of France, and Signor Crispi, Premier of Italy, were, it is asserted by the police, discovered and thwarted last week. M. Dupuy is seriously ill. —The report of the death of the King of Siam has not been confirmed. —A single death from cholera has occurred in London; the German Emperor has countermanded army maneuvers in East Prussia on account of the prevalence of cholera in Dantzic and other towns. —The Cunard steamship Campania reached New York last Friday after a passage made in five days, nine hours, and twenty-seven minutes, thus beating the record by three hours and eighteen minutes. —It is reported from Rome that the Pope will shortly make Archbishop Satolli's delegation to the Church in the United States

absolute and sovereign; that is, no longer subject to the Congregation of the Propaganda, but to the Pope alone. —Charles Robinson, the first Governor of Kansas, died in Lawrence on August 17, at the age of seventy-six. —It is reported from the South African Republic that the Kaffirs have defeated a force of mounted police sent against them from Transvaal.



William L. Wilson

From the heated and prolonged legislative combat which has just closed at Washington no man emerges with higher personal credit or more general respect than William L. Wilson, of West Virginia, whose portrait we place this week on our cover page. While the air has been filled with assertions of inconsistency, charges of insincerity, and even suspicions of dishonesty, none of these accusations have fallen upon the head of the Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee and author of the original tariff bill which now in such maimed form has been approved by both Houses of Congress. It is true that Mr. Wilson has been forced, by superior force of opposition combined with desertions from his own ranks, to accept a bill which differs widely from his own, but even in the minute of this partial surrender he reaffirmed—and never more strongly—the principles for which he had, as leader, contended, relaxing not at all the claim for truth and justice as he understands them in this matter, and declaring with emphasis: "Nothing which is not done right ever lasts. No work that is not thorough ever remains undisturbed. You can settle no question like the great question of taxation permanently and safely except upon the eternal basis of right and liberty." His most strenuous opponents would not to-day accuse Mr. Wilson of standing, either at the beginning or end of the struggle, for anything else than what he holds to be the highest and best general good of the whole country.

Mr. Wilson's personal history is an interesting one. When only eighteen he entered the Confederate Army; having served with credit, though without special distinction, he returned in 1865 to the Columbian College (in the District of Columbia), whence he had been graduated in 1860. Here he filled the Latin professorship for six years, at the same time studying law. He then engaged in the practice of the profession in Charlottesville, W. Va., and gradually became interested in political matters. His first appearance in National politics was in 1880, when he served as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention and was one of the representatives of West Virginia on its list of Presidential electors. Mr. Wilson's interest in educational matters had not lessened during his legal and political career, and in 1882 he was offered and accepted the presidency of the University of West Virginia. Only fourteen days after his assuming this position, however, he was nominated for Congress, and in less than three months took his seat as one of West Virginia's Democratic Representatives. He has been re-elected every two years since that time. Thus, of Mr. Wilson's public life he has spent four years as soldier, six years as teacher of Latin, ten years as lawyer, three months or less as college President, and twelve years as Congressman. The cheap sarcasm of the detractors who are wont to speak of him as a school-teacher out of place in politics hardly needs confutation, but it is certain that Mr. Wilson's experience as student and teacher (though actually small as regards its duration in comparison with his political and legal experience) must have been of great value in broadening his views and enlarging his knowledge. He has been the

better, not the worse, political leader because of his reading and study. That he was graduated from a college President's chair into a Congressional seat is quite as much to his credit, to say the least, as if he had been the most finished product of the political machine.

Mr. Wilson's career in Congress is too well known to require extended description here. From the first he has ardently devoted his energies to the cause of tariff reform, and that, it is worth noting, while opposed by very strong industries in his own State, and sometimes while opposed by his own State Legislature. His belief that special local interests should give way to the general industrial welfare, and that the National policy of his party should not be thwarted by State political and industrial combinations, has been supported by his constituency at the polls in six Congressional elections. And it is not at all necessary to agree with this belief to understand the high view of statesmanship which, having formed it, maintains it unswervingly. Twice Mr. Wilson has readily given way on points of personal precedence—when Mr. Mills became the candidate of the tariff-reform advocates for the Speakership, and was defeated by Mr. Crisp, and again when Mr. Crisp was re-nominated for the Speakership—but in his views of the political duty of Congress he stands to-day where he stood six years ago. As Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee he has had the most difficult task imaginable, and has combined firmness with discretion. As a speaker, no one in either house is more attentively listened to, and his speeches always contain substance as well as eloquence. In the very crisis of the struggle over the Wilson Bill, the man who drew it and from whom it was named was stricken down by serious illness, in part due, no doubt, to his overwork and anxiety. The expression of sympathy by both political foes and friends was unmistakably sincere. His resumption of his task when barely off his sick-bed was characteristic of the man. Tenacity and modesty are prime qualities in his mental constitution.



Lynchings in the South

Our correspondent in another column, in dealing with this theme, raises two issues. The social issue can be disposed of in a few words. Whether whites and blacks shall ride in the same cars, sit at the same table, and worship in the same churches, may be left for them to settle for themselves. All that justice requires is that men and women shall not, because they are black, be turned into second-class or smoking cars, or be given at public hotels inferior food or inferior rooms, or find their children put into poorer schools. In the mere fact that negroes and whites generally worship in separate churches there is nothing more iniquitous than in the fact that Germans and Americans generally worship in separate churches. The social relations of separate races may be safely left to self-adjustment.

But our correspondent's defense of lynchings appears to us lame and impotent. Lynch-law is better than no law. When a community has lapsed into barbarism, as had California at one period in her history, the temporary organization of lynch-law is justifiable. But it is never justifiable except as a temporary and local expedient; and the necessity for it is an indictment of the community in which it exists. Our correspondent's argument involves a justification of conviction and execution without trial. There are better ways of making it safe for a "six-year-old girl to go from her own home to the nearest neighbor's house" than the use of mobs and mob lawlessness. If a

public trial is torture to the innocent witness, it is possible by law to exclude the public from all trials for rape. If the lawyer is insulting, it is possible for the court to put a prompt stop to the insults. That the passion of the populace should be aroused by some of the crimes against womanhood which have been perpetrated on Southern soil, we can well understand. But to defend the passions of a mob as the basis of justice, and the uncontrollable revenge of a mob as a method of justice, we do not understand. Our correspondent ought to comprehend Southern public sentiment better than we do; though we hope he misinterprets it. But it is certain that the public sentiment of Christendom will never justify a community which in this close of the nineteenth century, and with all the light thrown by the history of the past upon the best methods of preventing crime, can find no better way to prevent it than to let loose a mob to catch, convict without trial, and execute, sometimes with added torture, the first person on whom suspicion has fallen, and against whom, in some cases at least, the chief evidence has been the color of his skin.



The Power of the Novel

The interest excited by books of such substance and quality as Mrs. Ward's "Marcella" shows very clearly that the attractive power of fiction, after all these years of immense productivity in that department, is still unspent. Mr. Crawford, who is one of the most widely read novelists of the day, is of the opinion that the novel has passed its prime, but neither the quality of work in fiction nor the popular interest in it shows as yet any evidence of decrepitude. On the contrary, at the close of a century which has been dominated by the novel as a literary form, fiction still remains, on the whole, the most real and vital of all the forms of expression which literary men are using, and is probably the form which exerts the widest influence upon the reading public. It would be unwise to predict the form of literature for which the men and women of the close of the twentieth century will care most; but the prediction that a hundred years from now the novel will still be universally read would be perhaps less rash than most literary predictions. In this country it cannot be said that we have produced any novelist of the first rank since Hawthorne, but we have produced a goodly number of novelists of high rank and a multitude of short-story writers whose work betrays the presence of both nature and art in very uncommon and delightful combination. The fact that we have produced no great novelist, and that the novel is still so widely read, shows that its charm resides in some element aside from the individual power of the writer, and that there is in the novel, as a form of literature, a charm which the men and women of these days feel very deeply.

That charm, unless we are greatly mistaken, resides in the force, the directness, and the delicacy with which fiction has interpreted and portrayed human life. The human drama in these later days is engrossing to all serious-minded people, and wherever the moral or spiritual fact or experience is dramatized by the novelist with even a fair degree of power, the novel which results is certain to have a wide reading. The world-wide movement which has already made such modifications in the social conditions, and which is silently effecting such a revolution in the relations of men with men and of class with class, finds its way into art through the insight, the observation, and the skill of the great novelist; and such a book as "Mar-