

HINCKS.

HIS ADDRESS TO THE ELECTORS OF NORTH RENFREW.

The following is Sir Francis Hincks' address to the Arcadians of Renfrew:—

I beg to offer myself as a candidate for your suffrages, for the seat in the House of Commons which your late representative has most generously vacated, in order to afford you an opportunity of ratifying at the hustings—if you should be pleased so to do—my recent appointment as Finance Minister of the Dominion.

I have never ceased to remember with gratitude, that at the most important crisis in my political career the electors of the county of Renfrew returned me to the Legislative Assembly of Canada by a large majority, and without any solicitation on my part. Then, as now, I had few personal acquaintances among you; but I enjoyed the advantages of having been recommended to you by my lamented friend and countryman, Mr. Egan, who was well aware of the deep interest which I felt in the prosperity of the Valley of the Ottawa.

In the ensuing session of the Legislature, it became my duty to resign office, owing to the state of political matters in Western Canada, although I had the support of a greater number of members than any other leader in that section of the Province could claim. The necessary result of such a state of parties was the formation of a Coalition Government, of which the present Premier of the Dominion Government was a distinguished member; and to the Government I gave a cordial support during the remainder of the session. Soon after its termination I was very respectfully offered an important Government situation in the West Indies, on the express ground of the distinction which I had attained as a Canadian statesman, and from that Government I was transferred to another of still greater importance, where the responsibility for managing the finances, as well as other public affairs, were devolved on me.

I have the gratification of knowing that, in the performance of the duties confided to me by her Majesty, I gave satisfaction both to every official superior, and to the people of the colonies. I rely with confidence that you will, in my case, establish as a principle, that a Canadian statesman who may be selected by our Sovereign for honorable employment in other portions of her dominion shall not be held to have forfeited, by his acceptance of such high trust, the confidence of his countrymen.

The important office which I have now the honor to hold was neither directly nor indirectly sought for by me; and those acquainted with the facts must be well aware that, in accepting it, I have made a considerable personal sacrifice. When it was proposed to me by Sir John A. Macdonald to join his Government, I had to consider the offer on public grounds alone.

I was unemployed, and with no certainty, though with a fair prospect of re-employment in the Imperial service. I considered, however, that if my adopted country desired my services, it had the strongest claim on me; and as I cordially approved of the manner in which Sir John A. Macdonald had constructed his Government,—as I should have considered it my duty to have supported that Government, had I entered Parliament without office,—I felt that I could not properly refuse him my humble aid in the position when he required it.

As I propose visiting the Riding with as little delay as possible, I shall merely observe, further, that your late member, Mr. Rankin, has, by vacating his seat on this occasion, conferred an obligation not merely on me personally, but on the entire party which supports the present Government. Such sacrifices must occasionally be made under our system of government, which renders it necessary that the responsible ministers of the Crown should be largely represented in the House of Commons. They have been frequently made in England, and are far from uncommon in this country, though here alone they subject individuals to such reproach from the opponents of the Government as to enhance the obligation to those in whose favor they are made. I feel assured, therefore, that Mr. Rankin will be raised in your estimation by the sacrifice which he has made in order to support the Government.

CAPTAIN JINKS' ADDRESS TO THE ELECTORS OF RENFREW MADE EASY.

I am Finance Minister. I want a seat. A generous friend says I may sit down in his,—that is, if you allow it.

You once elected me before. I brought a letter of introduction from the late Mr. Egan. The prosperity of the Valley of the Ottawa has always been the subject of my studies by day,—my dreams by night.

In the ensuing session I resigned. Matters were getting too hot. No statesman in Canada, however, was, either then or since, so popular as I was. A Coalition Government was formed. John A. was in it. I supported him, and he has not forgotten me. Shortly after, the Queen treated me in a very respectful and satisfactory manner. My name was celebrated in Europe. I was known there as a distinguished statesman, so I was sent to Guiana, the neighborhood to which the French send convicts. The weather was very hot there, but politics were cooler. I managed the finances there with my usual great success.

Her Majesty was much pleased with me, and has given me a retiring pension, which is not enough to keep me from starvation. All the big bugs of Demerara liked me. Claret is good there, the people are hospitable, and my social geniality is well-known. The negroes and coolies absolutely worshipped me. Now, I wish to establish a great principle of politics. I feathered my nest well when I was here before. I feathered another in the Windward Islands; but is that any reason why I should not return to Canada and feather a third?

I have made a dreadful "personal sacrifice" in accepting office. I shall lose a great deal of money by it; but I care not for myself, if I benefit you.

I was out of a berth, but I might have got another one, perhaps, from the Queen, if that Gladstone were not so stingy.

John A. was hard-up for a Finance Minister. Mr. Rose was too honest for this country. A change was needed, and Reiffenstein not being immediately available, the post was given to me. I shall endeavor to reform matters.

Mr. Rankin deserves to be considered a hero. I must endeavor to find a nice little situation of some kind for him. The sacrifice he has made should raise him highly in your estimation. Think what you have gained,—you have gained me! and, besides, I was getting so misrepresented by designing men, that I could not find a seat anywhere. This thing used to be done often in England before the Reform Bill of 1831, in the days of Gaiton and Old Sarum. Why should we not emulate the wisdom of our ancestors?

I shall come and see you shortly.

Au revoir.