

THE FARMERS.

What we have done for the education of the working classes we are also anxious to do for the farming class, and consequently, if they wish it, we shall give them night schools, too. As there is a complaint that a large number of the sons of our farmers do not follow the courses of our agricultural schools, because they have not the means to pay their board, we will also give them free education in order to increase the number of model farmers. We have placed at the command of the Council of Agriculture, a certain number of bursaries to be distributed among the most qualified candidates. These societies will recommend the pupils and the Government will pay their board in our agricultural schools.

With this increase of resources we shall assure to the devoted men, who are at the head of our agricultural schools, the means of accomplishing all the good which want of means has hitherto prevented them from doing. And the brave people of our rural districts, will thus get their fair share of the sacrifices which we are thoroughly determined to undertake for the spread of technical education everywhere and among all classes.

NO MORE MONEY—RUIN—BANKRUPTCY.

But what do our adversaries' papers say ! Take care ! Mr. Mercier has precipitated the elections because he has no more money. (Laughter). And, once the elections are over, he will contract a new short loan. He will have five years before him, he will spend as he pleases, and all you will get for your trouble will be an additional debt.

Those who say this are the same men who created a debt of twenty-two millions in the space of ten years without consulting the people, despite the people, and against the people. Those who say this, are the same men who built a railway at a cost of thirteen millions and sold it for seven millions. (Applause).

Those who say this, are the same men who, in 1881, presented themselves before the people suddenly and under false pretexts, obtained a crushing majority, and declared at the beginning of the session—those who were present will remember the fact—that, in selling the North Shore Railway, we would have no need to borrow a cent, and who, on the day after the sale of the North Shore Railway, asked leave to borrow four millions. (Laughter and applause).

It is the same men, gentlemen, who two years later asked to borrow three millions and a half. Seven millions and a half in the space of two years ! Is not this nice ?

Those who tell you that if you give us your confidence again I will take advantage of it to contract a fresh loan, are the same men who are working to prevent the conversion of the debt, a financial operation which would have the effect of saving us a large sum of interest every year. But, in the idea of those men, the conversion of the debt should be prevented, because it is the salvation of the Province of Quebec and its institutions.

It is also the same men who are telling you : "If Mr. Mercier is re-elected he will contract a large loan and take advantage of it for himself and his friends." Just as if the law permitted me, gentlemen, to give a single cent of the public money otherwise than with its sanction and authorization and by special vote of the Legislature !

But I desire to take no one by surprise on this head : I do not want to be maintained in power under false pretences and by subterfuges, and I will now state what I intend to state everywhere throughout the campaign.

Our adversaries left us a floating debt of seven millions and a-half ; we have borrowed three millions and a-half and we have paid all that has fallen due to extinguish this crushing debt, left us by our adversaries. Since then we have contracted new engagements in the shape of subsidies to railways. We have settled and paid to the Bishops and colleges \$400,000 for the Jesuits' estates and in a few days we shall pay the part coming to the Protestants, \$63,000. Our adversaries have left us law suits involving several millions and we soon shall have to pay. We have an asylum at Montreal, which has been destroyed by fire ; an asylum has been built for the Protestants to which we have made a loan ; and we shall probably have to make one also to the Catholics ; it is inevitable.

We have also other railways requiring subsidies ; we have institutions which are suffering, and we must maintain our night schools for the men and we must establish some also for the women. We must endeavour to improve the condition of the poor women who toil in our factories, and to give to them the chance of becoming good mothers of families and to educate themselves in order to educate their children. (Applause.) When our adversaries were in power they enacted that the railway companies should get thirty-five cents for each