

J.J.S Pamphlet Box 56

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# TO THE ELECTORS OF THE COUNTY OF HALIFAX.

FELLOW ELECTORS,—

The time is now rapidly approaching when you will be required to elect members for the Dominion Legislature.

In order that you may be the better prepared to perform this duty, allow me to place a few facts before you.

Though it is perfectly true that a Government can do very little towards making its subjects prosperous, yet it is equally true that their rulers can do much towards preventing the progress of the people in material wealth. When a Government performs efficiently the purpose for which it is constituted, in securing the lives, liberty and property of its subjects, leaving each individual free to pursue the business or occupation best suited to his circumstances, the prosperity of its people will depend upon their own intelligence, industry and frugality. When, however, a Government fails in those all-important particulars, the arm of industry becomes paralyzed. When the rulers are extravagant in their expenditure of the public funds, supporting a host of useless officials, or wasting them in public works of but little utility; or when by ill-advised legislation it tempts or forces the people to embark their capital, or employ their labor in enterprises unsuited to the circumstances of the country or the character of the population, it retards the accumulation of wealth.

Before the Confederation of the Provinces we electors had only to consider the political questions presented to our view in one aspect, as to the influence of the measures advocated upon the destinies of this Province; now, however, we must also trace their effect upon the Dominion.

In think, however, you will agree with me, that we ought in the first place to look to our own interests. We must not follow leaders but measurers. We must not support McKenzie, because he is representative of the Grit Party, nor McDonald, because he is the representative of the Liberal or Conservative Party; but support that party, whatever its name, which will best promote the interests of the Dominion, and which will give us that justice which has so long been denied.

The question which most interests us is the tariff. Shall there be a revision of the tariff or no? That is the question to be determined at the polls. It is not a question of protection, or not. Neither of the opposing parties are free traders. McDonald preaches a protection policy, but McKenzie puts it in practice. The present tariff is not a revenue one, but one highly protective in its operation. While the oil pressed by the forces of nature out of coal pays 50 per cent. duty,