

To the Free and Independent Electors of the County of Ottawa.

GENTLEMEN,—On the unanimous nomination and at the urgent request of the delegates assembled in convention at the city of Hull, to select a candidate opposed the late Mercier administration and in favour of the Boucherville Government, I have, although reluctantly, accepted the position, and am now a candidate for your suffrages at the present election of a representative of the county of Ottawa in the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Quebec.

If, as I have stated, I was unwilling to accept the nomination, it was not because I was insensible to the great honour conferred upon me by the choice, but for personal reasons which it is not necessary to state, I could have preferred that some other standard-bearer should have been chosen; and were this a mere party contest I would have probably persisted in declining the honour. But on the result of this election the welfare of the Province, and particularly this district, so largely depends that I felt it my duty to my country required me to accede to the large and influential delegation who considered that under the present circumstances I was the person most likely to obtain the support of the majority of the electors of this large and populous constituency.

The astounding revelations which have led to the dismissal of Mr. Mercier and his colleagues, the appointment of a new ministry, and the present appeal to the people are too well known through the length and breadth of the Province to require recapitulation here, and have roused feelings of indignation and dismay, not only amongst Conservatives, but also among those Nationalists and Liberals, who had put implicit confidence in the honesty and integrity of Mr. Mercier and his associates, but who are shocked and repelled by the frightful and increasing list of boodling and lavishment which the records of every department of the Government are publishing against him. To this is due the support which the new Government is re-

ceiving from thousands who were formerly adherents of Mr. Mercier. And to this I owe the declarations which many Liberals and Nationalists in this county have already made in my favor.

And I now take the opportunity of saying that on this occasion the electors will be divided by lines broader than those of party, namely, the line which separates those who desire an honest and economical government and those who are willing to have a continuance of the extravagance and boodling which have characterized the administration of Mr. Mercier. Between those who desire such strict and honest administration of the finances of the Province as will reestablish the balance between revenue and expenditure and those that are willing that the same lavish course which occasioned, in the last year, a deficit of two million dollars, and in four years has added thirteen millions of dollars to the debt. And in the midst of all this excessive expenditure and the boodling by which Mr. Mercier and his friends have enriched themselves, he found it expedient to reduce by six thousand dollars a year the grants to colonization roads in this county nor could he afford one cent to our cheese factories although he made grants to those in other counties. And upon these grounds I call upon the honest and intelligent electors in this county, without distinction of party, to assist, by electing me as a supporter of the deBoucherville Government, in bringing about that retrenchment necessary to save us from bankruptcy and heavy direct taxation to which we were surely and rapidly drifting.

With respect to myself I have only a few words to say, for I feel that with the tremendous issues involved in this contest, personal qualifications must be of small account, and should my opponent, be he who he may, be in many respects superior to me, that circumstance should have little weight with the voters if he favors Mr. Mercier.

But this without vanity, I may say, in the day of trial and in the day of triumph, in storm or in sunshine, I have been and I am a staunch though moderate Conservative, but if elected to represent you I shall always remember that I owe my duty to my country first and to my party after. My home and all I possess in the world are in the city of Hull and county of Ottawa; therefore the electors of that county need no assurances from me that I will do my best to promote our common interests. And in this respect I can assure the electors that from declarations made by members of the Boucherville cabinet that Government if sustained will so amend the tariff of timber dues as to reduce them at least to an equality with those of the Province of Ontario; and will so change the laws with respect to mines and mining as to afford proper encouragement to prospectors and remove the present heavy burdens on the trade. And the people of this county should remember that these taxes, although nominally imposed on the lumberers and miners affect indirectly, the farmers and the working men for the more the manufacturers have to pay the government, the less they have to pay for labor and supplies.

I think I should here allude to a report which was circulated some time ago, and will probably be revived by my opponents, to the effect that I had signed the requisition for the calling out of the militia during the strike of the mill men last autumn. I give that statement my most unqualified denial. I never signed any such document nor took any part in invoking the aid of the military. Far from being opposed to the working men, I am and have always been their sincere friend and if elected will do everything in my power to promote their interests, and will assist in repealing the harassing law passed by the Mercier Government, and supported by the vote of our late representative. I mean the law which allows the seizure of unearned wages, and obliges the employer to go every month to court to make a new declaration so long as the defendant remains in his employ, and the debt and costs are not entirely satisfied.

In conclusion I must solemnly pledge myself if elected that I will honourably and conscientiously, to the best of my ability do my duty to my country and my county.

Yours truly
N. FETTERAU.