

THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.



Vol. II—No. 4.]

HAMILTON, C.W., SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 1863.

[*3 PER ANNUM IN ADVANCE. SINGLE COPIES 7 CENTS.]

HON. LUTHER H. HOLTON,
MINISTER OF FINANCE.

THE absence of a personal memoir is a disappointment in presenting Mr. Holton's portrait. It was expected through a friend, but has not arrived in time. As the new Minister of Finance, who has taken office in the reconstructed Cabinet of Mr. Sandfield Macdonald, Mr. Holton's address to the electors of Montreal possesses matter of public interest. It is here subjoined. Mr. Holton is a Montreal merchant and financier. He was a member of the Brown-Dorion Cabinet, which by an unconstitutional shuffling of political cards in August, 1858, was permitted to hold office only two days.

Montreal city is, for electoral purposes, divided into west, centre, and east. Mr. D'Arcy McGee was member for the west, in last parliament, and Mr. Cartier—formerly Lower Canadian Premier—represented the east, where he is now opposed by Mr. Dorion, the new Attorney-General, whose portrait and biography we have now in hand. Mr. Rose, who like the other two, is a lawyer, represented the centre division, in which merchants and bankers chiefly have their places of business. Mr. Holton, as a merchant and Minister of Finance, has opposed him. He addressed the electors, thus:

GENTLEMEN,—His Excellency, the Governor General, having been pleased to appoint me Minister of Finance, an office the duties of which can only be appropriately performed by a member of the Legislature, I have resolved, on the advice of many among you, to invite you, as forming the portion of my late Constituency—whose interests are most closely identified with commerce, and are consequently, most liable to be affected by the fiscal policy of the Government—to provide me with the parliamentary position, which is essen-

tial to the retention of my present office.

Beset as the finances of the Province are known to be with formidable, though, I trust, not with insuperable difficulties, I need hardly assure you that the office I hold was neither sought nor desired by me; on the contrary, I would have gladly declined it if I could have reconciled that course with my sense of public duty; but since in obedience as I believe to a plain call of duty, I have accepted the momentous charge confided to me by the representative of our Sovereign, I return to claim the support and co-operation of this great, commercial community in an

earnest attempt, by means of a sound system of taxation on the one hand, and of economy and retrenchment on the other, to restore the equilibrium between the annual income and the annual expenditure of the Province.

In considering the financial requirements of the country, two things must be kept distinctly in view; we must not suffer our public credit to be impaired, and we must discharge manfully our obligations to the Empire with respect to the public defences. For the accomplishment of these indispensable objects, additional taxation must be resorted to. How this additional taxation must be

levied without bearing oppressively or unequally on particular branches of industry, or on particular classes of consumers, is the problem to be solved, and to the solution of which I propose, if honored with your confidence, to devote, with unceasing energy, such humble abilities as I possess.

I have the honor to be,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient servant,

L. H. HOLTON.

Montreal, May 19, 1863.

At a meeting of electors the Hon. John Young, an eminent merchant, said he thought it of the greatest importance to the interests of Montreal that Mr. Holton should represent the Central Division of the city. He had great respect for lawyers and their talents, but the interests of a commercial city should be represented by a commercial man. He had knowledge of no other man—having been his colleague for years in the representation of the city—so capable of fulfilling the duties of Finance Minister, as Mr. Holton. Certainly none among our members was more fit to represent us. He desired to say nothing against Mr. Rose, but he thought it the duty of every man who has a regard for the interests of Montreal to vote for Mr. Holton. Mr. Young then retired, amid cries for Mr. Holton, which were responded to by the appearance on the platform of that gentleman.

Mr. Holton, in reference to his having resigned his seat in the Legislative Council to which he had been shortly before elected, said he was a poor canvasser for himself. He had no taste for electioneering. The position in which he found himself was not of his own seeking, and it was with great reluctance he had accepted the post assigned to him. His experience of administrative responsibilities and struggles had



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