

# ELECTORS

OF THE

## COUNTY OF GLENGARRY



SIRS,—

As the time is close at hand for the general elections of the Province of Ontario, and I had the honor of representing you in the Legislature for the past four years, I take this opportunity of returning you my sincere thanks, not only to my friends, but to those who opposed me; to my friends who assisted so much to secure the splendid majority which was obtained at my last election; to my opponents for their respect and dignified tone accorded to me at all public and private meetings held to discuss the merits and demerits of the different opinions then extended to you. I shall ever remember with deep respect and gratitude my opponent, Mr. Geo. McGillivray, who treated me and my friends during the whole campaign with great courtesy and friendly rivalry.

Having received many urgent entreaties to again enter the field as a candidate for re-election, and believing that the majority of the electors of the County approve of my return to the Legislature, as evidenced by the numerous signed requisitions presented to me from all parts of the County and the strong confirmation of these by the convention of the electors held in December last, I have consented to meet their wishes, and I am therefore before you as a candidate, seeking your suffrages and presenting my claims for your support and vote and also assistance to do what you can to secure my election.

During the first session of my Legislative experience, I stated on the floor of the House, to the members present, that my position in the House was clear to me and could be explained in a few words, which were: I accepted the position as a candidate to give the Mowat Government or its successors my support, but reserved to myself that consistent independence of action which, in my opinion, was conducive to the best interests of the people at large; but the special interest which it was my purpose to become most familiar with and take the most active part and devote myself as a specialist was agriculture, while other members might devote their special attention to other matters as it suited them. Yet when agriculture was in question before the House it was there that I would be found doing the best for the promotion of the farming interests of the province. I was willing to spend time, money and energy at all times and places, and under all conditions, to assist in making the farming profession on a parity with other professions as to profit and dignity. I should specially study and strive to discover such means as would best conserve and develop profitable agriculture, and would also strive to discover the best means to put into execution such effective methods as would enable all farmers to secure greater remuneration from their labor and investment and also added value to their land.

In addition to the above and in the same connection I would support and assist to promote all honest and fair legislation for the purpose of opening up and developing the mineral resources of our province (which it is a great source of gratification of late to know that we have in our province almost unlimited resources in gold, silver and other minerals)—all we want are favorable conditions provided to induce foreign capital to come in and develop and make it available. Profitable mineral production and food production are twin industries. The farmer is a producer of food and a consumer of money. The miner is a consumer of food and a producer of money, all at the same time; hence they both support each other, and it is wise legislation which promotes and liberally encourages to the fullest extent both industries at the same time. I should also take an active interest in promoting temperance, virtue and the higher education of our people in every department of life, and would resist all dishonest and personal legislation.

This is the course I staked out for myself during my previous election campaign and four sessions in the Legislature, and have rigidly adhered to it to the best of my humble ability.

I am strong in the belief that much more can be done for agriculture in general than is being done, without being too paternal or going too far in the line of personal effort, nor even spending any more public money than is now being spent; but if it can be proved by demonstration that great advances can be accomplished even by the greater expenditure of public money then I would by all means support the spending of a larger amount of public money than is now being spent. To accomplish greater results a full and proper understanding must be acquired to know the wants and deficiencies of the present methods which are practised. In this

connection theory and practice were and are considered the completion of the farming profession. This would be all right providing the theories propounded were correct and true; but in most cases the theories advanced are false and deceptive. My own idea is that the main deficiencies of the present, which can be removed by legislation, are want of correct business skill and ample capital—business skill which affects the proper direction of employed capital and labor, and ample capital to carry on skilful labor. Business skill of this kind can be best promoted by practical demonstrations and object lessons under governmental direction in each county, and ample capital can be easily secured by a liberal assistance of the government to promote and establish a suitable system of farm banks specially adapted for the use of the average farmer, the same as the present commercial banking system is specially adapted and devoted for the business man, to purchase and handle the farm products after they are produced and ready for sale. I say let us have banks to assist the business farmer as well as the business trader. I here say candidly that such deficiencies as above named do retard and operate against the success of the average farmer at the present time in a great many ways, and feel confident that such legislation can be effected which will provide a remedy for these deficiencies and thereby greatly promote the welfare of all farmers who wish to take advantage of same. It would be the means of placing farm work on a profitable basis, and then the young farmer beginning to practise his profession, as well as the immigrant, would have ample inducement to remain in our province, to thereby assist in increasing population, profitable trade, values and wealth, and these acquired also would be the greatest means of making our people as a whole, independent, progressive and intelligent—accomplishments which are the forerunners of the great active aim of man—which is domestic happiness. I am confident and inspired with the belief that great advances can be accomplished for the public good, by strong and vigorous action by the Provincial Government in the direction referred—and I ask you, the electors of the County of Glengarry, to support me in my endeavor to accomplish these reforms. I might also here say, that I have partially succeeded in enlisting a number of members to support the scheme proposed and some advance has been made on the lines indicated; yet, the progress is slow and must necessarily be slow until the scheme is proved and tested. When once this is accomplished I have no fears but rapid progress will be made, and will be epidemic in effect; the infection will then be easy to spread and become contagious.

Should it occur that the electorate refuse to assist me in my endeavors to promote and successfully carry into effect this public good, and transfer their allegiance to a new hand; then it will be evident that the last four years' work already spent would be comparatively lost; as a fresh, inexperienced representative would have to pass the same period of general initiation in the Legislature as I have done for the past four years. By my returning to the Legislature no lost time will be effected, as I could then push on with greater vigor and confidence to acquire the essential legislation so as to obtain the desired aim, in the lines above indicated.

I might here say that I have given these matters my life's study and feel assured of the soundness and ultimate success of the schemes propounded. By giving me your confidence and vote at the coming election, I am confident you will not be disappointed in the realization of your expectations and my promise in part or whole at no great distant day.

The opposition to me, as shown by all the local papers, seems to be uncalled for and unfair, but to meet this I have the support and sympathy of the Hardy Government and all their supporters, as well as the majority of the fair minded electors of the County, and further warm assurances of support from many—not hitherto my political friends.

My life-long residence in the County and my extended acquaintance therewith, through both personal and business relations, warrant me in the assumption that I am familiar with the public wants, and legislative requirements thereof, and justifies me in asking for your support, active co-operation and vote to secure my return at the coming election.

Yours ever faithfully,

D. M. MACPHERSON.

Lancaster, January 5th, 1898.