

# TO THE INDEPENDENT ELECTORS OF NOVA SCOTIA.

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GENTLEMEN:

The time is at hand when the people of Nova Scotia, in common with the rest of the Dominion, will be called upon to declare by their votes at the polls, not only by which of the two opposing parties they desire the country to be governed, but what is of far greater importance, to decide what is to be the policy by which its affairs are to be directed for the next four years. It cannot be without interest, therefore, at the present juncture, to direct public attention to the condition of things when the Government now in power took the reins in their hands, as contrasted with what it is and has been for the past three or four years.

## FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE PROVINCE WHEN THE "REFORM" GOVERNMENT CAME INTO POWER.

The Opposition, or Liberal party as they term themselves, came into power shortly after Confederation, and for more than ten years managed the finances and directed the affairs of this Province. During that long period they had many opportunities of advancing the best interests of the country and of guarding its rights and privileges. How they performed this duty, or rather how by mal-administration, by incompetence, corruption and partizan jobbery, they brought it to the very edge of financial bankruptcy and ruin, it will not be difficult to shew.

By the terms of Confederation, in 1867, Nova Scotia was allowed a debt due to her of upwards of nine millions of dollars, but after deducting obligations the amount to her credit at Ottawa stood at \$924,455, yielding interest to the amount of