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PUBLIC ARCHIVES

# To the Electors of the Tecumseth Division.

GENTLEMEN,

The time is now fast approaching when you will be called upon to exercise the privilege of Electing your Representative for the Legislative Council of the Province. And in the fulfilment of that duty, to select a man in whom you have full confidence that he will use his best exertions to promote your interests, at the same time that he also fulfils the high claims which, in his Legislative capacity, the country at large will have upon him.

Twenty-nine years' experience, and the best portion of my life devoted to the settlement of these Counties, and the promotion of their interests, added to an intimate acquaintance with every individual amongst the older settlers, whose advance in worldly prosperity, from year to year, I have watched with interest and laboured to promote—have, I think I may, without presumption, say, qualified me for that position. These facts, with your own intimate knowledge of them, and of the measure of ability with which those important objects have been carried out, will enable you to determine how far your interests are likely to be promoted by placing me in the high position of your Representative in the Upper Chamber of the Legislature.

My politics, which have always been moderate, are equally well known to you all; and it is therefore hardly necessary for me to refer to them in this address, since they have undergone no other change than such as the progressive legislation of the country—both Imperial and Colonial—have induced; and which, I may be allowed to say, have removed for ever the grand distinction hitherto existing between Whig and Tory.

The only questions of a political character now appearing to claim special attention, are, Education, Representation by Population, and the Hudson Bay Territory.

In reference to Education, my conviction is, that it is for your interests, and for the welfare of the United Provinces, to allow the present Common School Act to continue in full force and untouched, for it appears to work well, and as I believe, gives very general satisfaction; but should the question be brought up for discussion, and any amendments be proposed in that Act, I shall then, as on every other question, be prepared to give them that consideration which the great importance of the subject entitles it to.

The principle of Representation by Population shall receive my warmest support, for it has my unqualified approval.

And in regard to the Hudson Bay question, I shall be prepared, when it is brought forward, to support the interests of Canada to the fullest extent.

I am now, as I have hitherto been, a man of progress, and I shall ever, to the best of my ability, advocate judicious improvements for the benefit of the country. I shall endeavor to promote all objects in which your real interests are involved, and shall always be found advocating a wise economy in public expenditure.

In conclusion—my long connection with the Counties of Huron and Perth—the belief that I understand their interests, and a determination to promote them to the best of my ability—embolden me to solicit your suffrages to place me as your Representative in the Legislative Council, and should I succeed in obtaining that great object of my ambition, I shall ever look upon it with pride and satisfaction, as an acknowledgment on your part that my past labors have merited approbation, and as an assurance of your confidence in my continued devotion to the furtherance of your welfare and interests, and which, as one of yourselves, are identical with my own.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your very faithful servant,

THOMAS MERCER JONES.

Goderich, February 16, 1858.