

ELEVEN YEARS OF ROBBERY AND RUIN

From the Morning Herald

THE CROWN LANDS.

The Local Government of Nova Scotia, through its present nominal head, Hon. P. C. Hill, has dared once more to solicit the confidence of the people of this Province. We say "dared" because we can hardly conceive of a more impudent and unreasonable request. For the thief who has stolen nearly all your property to ask you to retain your confidence; for the servant who has embezzled all your fortune to ask to retain his place; or for the scoundrel who has brought indelible shame upon your family to still expect your esteem; might each be regarded as somewhat presumptuous; but we undertake to show that the claim put forth by the present Local Government of Nova Scotia surpasses all combined in effrontery and brazen mendacity. The men who now form that Government, and those who were the predecessors, and whose policy and sins they became responsible for, have brought upon the people of this Province both disgrace and ruin, and that in their deepest and most dangerous character.

The electors of Nova Scotia have only to look at the history of this country for the past eleven years in order to discover the extent of the dishonesty and incapacity of Hon. P. C. Hill, his colleagues, and predecessors. It becomes our duty, as it is the duty of every citizen, to scan that history, and in answer to Mr. Hill's misleading and

untruthful statement, to show that the rule of "evil only, evil, and the evil only" which is the rule of the corrupt and dying Government which it is his fate to lead.

There is no part of their disreputable record that reveals their anti-national rule more strikingly than that which relates to the wholesale squandering of the public domain. It is almost beyond belief that any body of men could be found so wanting in patriotism as to wilfully, and corruptly, dissipate and destroy one of the principal sources of their country's revenue, and yet that is precisely what these men have done. In 1867, the amount of Crown Lands which this Province possessed was (*vide Assembly Journals, app'x No. 5*) 7,315,212 acres. This was certainly a goodly domain, being within a few hundred thousand acres as much Crown Lands as New Brunswick possessed, and owing to its proximity to the sea, much more valuable. Yet strange to say, while New Brunswick was able, in 1877, (while still retaining by far the major portion of its original domain) to receive a revenue of \$76,047.47 from its Crown Lands, our revenue for the same year from that source was only \$7,715.38, or only \$1200 over the working expenses of the Department. At the same time we retain (*vide report of Comr. of Crown Lands for 1877, p. 5*) only 2,487,413 acres! What has become of the balance? What has pro-