

# Montreal East.

To the Electors of the Electoral District of Montreal East:

GENTLEMEN.—

The admirable system of Constitutional Government under which we live, whilst making us the arbiters of our destiny, imposes upon us responsibilities of the gravest kind. The fate of the country is in our hands, and it devolves on every citizen to accomplish what circumstances may require of him. I appear before you to-day in, for me, a new and serious position, because I consider that, in so doing, I am but performing what my country requires of me as my share of a public duty. If by coming forward I have been too presumptuous, you, gentlemen, will say so unhesitatingly. I rely on your judgment and wisdom, and I will thank you for a frankness that will ensure for me during the remainder of my days, the repose of private life.

GENTLEMEN, witnessing the painful spectacle of our interminable financial crisis, of our numberless misfortunes, and that universal feeling of distrust that is paralyzing our courage and our activity, I felt it to be the duty of every worthy citizen to make an effort to ward off from our families and our firesides the merciless scourge of poverty. The evil is, beyond doubt, a public and general one, and by public influences alone can it be combated. Private rivalries must sink into utter oblivion; it is to the civil power, to the hand of the statesman, to the penetrating glance of the political economist that we must apply for the remedy. You, gentlemen, make and unmake ministers and governments, and the general elections are neither more nor less than a Grand Court of Assizes, where you are the judges. The ministers of to-day may not be the ministers of to-morrow, and now is the time for you to praise or to blame, to strike down or to render permanent—it is for you to lay down your conditions. What shall they be? I shall endeavour to assist you in your serious deliberations, and in a few weeks you will let me know whether I have struck the true note.

Our Government has now ruled us for five years. They took charge of a prosperous country; they now return it to us exhausted, nearly ruined, deprived of its capital and hampered in its labour. What have they done with our prosperity? That is the question they must answer unequivocally!

GENTLEMEN, I have always belonged to the grand Conservative school of politics. How could I have chosen any other, having spent my early manhood in intimacy of that great and noble patriot Sir L. H. Lafontaine and of the Honourable Morin? Having spent many years, at the call of my country, in the calm retirement of the magistracy, I owed it to my conscience to raise myself above party strife, without, however, remaining indifferent to the interests of the commonwealth. Governments succeeded one another without its being my privilege to judge them. I witnessed the advent of the Mackenzie Government, and, if it had not my sympathies, at least it enjoyed my respect, and I cannot reproach myself with having in any way trammelled the liberty of its action. If I to-day interfere, it is because I cannot any longer remain an unmoved spectator of our ruin. I feel myself called upon to strike the warning note, and without a pang of regret I quit the honours and peaceful tranquillity of a seat on the judicial bench to assist, if it be not too late, in saving our common country.

You know it as well as I, what we are in need of is native industry; for our industries are the representatives of our capital and our toil. Men will speak to you of commerce and the restrictions placed upon it as though it sufficed for a country to purchase in order to boast of its commercial enterprise. Do not forget, gentlemen, that foreign goods simply represent foreign labour, no matter to what extent we may flood our country with them. A country grows rich out of the product of the toil of its children. An article manufactured by a mechanic during his day's labour forms part of the wealth of the country, and nothing is lost in its production; it is so much net gain. If we rest satisfied with importing foreign products we shall be obliged to give in exchange for them their equivalent in money. Thus we might import unceasingly, and never do a sound commercial business unless we ourselves are manufacturers. Had we manufacturers, had we the means of giving employment to the strong arms that are outstretched for labour, we should see the raw material around and about us developed into products that would add largely to our wealth. These products would in their turn develop a commerce far more stable, more enduring and remunerative than that which drives our capital out of the country. Every year there is sent out of Canada over twenty millions of dollars for the purchase of articles, the greater part of which could be manufactured at home. We must endeavour to retain the money in our own land—it is necessary for the support, the education and the comfort of our families. To secure this I now come before you, soliciting your aid in the accomplishment of my task. I appeal to you as the advocate of Protection, which the Mackenzie Government openly denounces.

PROTECTION is the main plank of my political platform; by it alone can our manufactures be revived, and labour be given to the willing hands of the people. I desire Protection sincerely and frankly;

it shall be the special object of my political career, if your votes secure me a seat in Parliament. This question I shall deal with irrespective of men or political parties. I wish to see the Mackenzie Government overthrown, because they are ruining the country by a contrary policy, and no future Administration shall obtain my support, unless its policy be one of Protection to our native industries. I am anxious for such Protection as will be reasonable and just, such as can be applied, as every one knows, without increasing the taxes that are imposed on the people. Such a policy of Protection, instead of increasing the cost of articles of prime necessity, would necessarily decrease it; for after a time, our manufactures having acquired strength and perfection, we could manufacture as cheaply as our foreign competitors, and would thus save the cost of transportation and customs duties, which represent at least a quarter of the value of imported goods.

GENTLEMEN,—I oppose the Mackenzie Government for other reasons as well. I oppose that Government because they have taken from Montreal the terminus of the Pacific Railway. By changing the route of that railway, and locating it in the south of Lake Nipissing, they have deprived the Province of Quebec of the means of direct communication with that great artery. They have placed us at the mercy of the Canada Central, over which we can only reach the Pacific Railway through a tortuous and lengthened route, and thus the distance from Montreal to the Provinces of Manitoba and British Columbia is increased over that from Toronto by 220 miles, whilst by the plan of the former Government the difference in the distance was only from 60 to 80 miles.

These, gentlemen, are the views I intend to lay before you during the present campaign; you will decide whether they are sound and in harmony with your interests. I claim your suffrages, feeling convinced that in their realization we shall find the true welfare of our common country.

Your obedient servant,

C. J. COURSOL.

Montreal, 26th August, 1878.

# Montreal West.

To the Electors of Montreal West.

GENTLEMEN,—

At the request of a large number of Electors of Montreal West, belonging to the Liberal Party—I have consented to offer myself as a candidate for that constituency.

I do so because I believe the Government deserves the continued support of the country, and for these reasons:—Because it has purified our political life, so far as that can be done by legislation, by a series of enactments which make it almost impossible for the poor elector to be seduced or coerced by the wealthy or powerful, thus putting an end, to a very great extent, to bribery, intimidation, and the trickery which attended our former elections, extended in each constituency through two days, and in the entire country over several weeks.

Because ever since Confederation there was a constant yearly accession of enormous amount to our governmental expenditure, which in six years added \$10,000,000 annually to the demands made upon the people, whereas, notwithstanding the obligations created by the former Administration, the present Administration have in four years of office added hardly anything to the annual expenditure, though they have had to pay more than \$1,000,000 for interest on the outlay for public works in excess of their predecessors. They have, therefore, saved this \$1,000,000 a year in the ordinary expenditure within their control, an economy of first rate consequence in times of difficulty.

Because in the administration of Public Works under the late Government, while the greatest amount of money went to contractors who were not the lowest tenderers—the present Ministry awards its contracts almost without exception to the lowest tenderer, thereby abolishing political favouritism and corruption, and saving vast sums of money to the public.

Because the alternative of sustaining the present Government is the acceptance of another Government under a leader who did not, when in power, govern the country with purity.

It has been alleged that the present Government has been, in some way, responsible for the depression under which we are suffering. If so, its influence must have been very wide, since we see the same distress in all trading and commercial countries of the world without any means having been found to obviate the evil of legislation. While, however, they have made no alteration in the tariff, except in the sense of what is called protection, they would, had they followed in the footsteps of their predecessors, have reduced rather than increased the supposed advantages of the classes interested as producers. In a few years the late Government took off the protective duties on sugar, on coal, on breadstuffs, and on salt, and diminished the rate of duty on unenumerated articles from 20 to 15 per cent. If, therefore, I was of opinion that an increase of taxes could in any way, except when demanded by the public revenue, augment the prosperity of those who pay the taxes, I should on this ground hesitate to place the Government again in the hands of men, whose present professions show that they have no settled opinion on the

subject. The tariff, as it has existed since Confederation, contains many anomalies which need revision, and it is very probable that such a revision will be rendered necessary by a demand for a larger revenue. In any case, it is certain that we shall want a high tariff in order to obtain sufficient money for the prosecution of the public works; and, as the same cause will make impossible a prohibitory tariff, since that would destroy the income from Customs, and throw us back upon the undesirable expedient of direct taxation, whatever changes are made, must avoid interference with the great interests of the country.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient servant,

W. DARLING.

# Montreal East.

To the Free and Independent Electors of Montreal East.

GENTLEMEN,—

Designated at a large assembly of the electors of the Eastern Division of the City of Montreal as the Liberal candidate, and encouraged by the support of many influential citizens, I have felt I could not decline a testimony of your esteem and confidence so spontaneously proffered. Such an honour makes frankness imperative and without any preamble, I shall point out the line of conduct I intend to follow, if elected.

INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE.

The City of Montreal is the centre, the metropolis of the industry of Canada. Owing to the great and fruitful activity of its factories, merchants, capitalists and workmen, Montreal has obtained on the American continent, a prominence almost equalling that of New York. Situated at the junction of the sea navigation and that of the canals and great lakes, the port of Montreal exchanges the Canadian products against those of foreign countries. To the interior and foreign trades, as well as to the mercantile navy of the Dominion, the numerous factories of Montreal, employing a considerable number of operatives, give life and activity. Therefore, Montreal has two very important interests to protect, industry and commerce. On their combined and simultaneous development rests its future prosperity. It cannot be denied that, for a few years back, both industry and commerce have suffered from the crisis that has sadly affected not only Canada, but much more so the United States and foreign countries. Many factories and workshops are shut up, building operations are at a stand still, and a great many families attracted to cities by an alluring prosperity, are now idle and destitute. Poverty, felt more acutely in the States, has brought back many hands, and induced speculators to flood the country with goods sold below their cost price. Fortunately, we have seen the worst of the crisis, foreign imports diminish considerably year after year, and we may already foresee the day when things shall resume their level and progress its triumphal advance.

The Government took the right course when they raised the tariff from 15 to 17½ per cent. Yet my opinion is, they should go further—they ought to study the question again, and after a searching enquiry, give to the suffering manufacturing interests enough protection to secure them development and prosperity.

It has been proposed to inaugurate a prohibitive system, to build a new Chinese wall, to isolate Canada, with no other prospect than to cut off half its commerce, destroy the navy, deprive the country of the benefit of millions of dollars spent in the construction of our canals, in the deepening of the St. Lawrence River, and in a few years bring this city down to the level of a country village. It is useless to tell you, gentlemen, that I do not uphold such impracticable opinions, no more than I approve of a free trade having, as a consequence, the ruin of our industry, the draining of the source of public revenue, and the recourse to direct taxation.

The first consideration in elaborating a tariff must be the national interest. This interest will be better protected by a judicious and sufficient protection, allowing to factories the progress without interfering with commerce. Under the working of such a system Montreal has grown prosperous, and the adaptation of the same system to present circumstances should procure to our city a future commensurate to its past.

This additional protection must go along with the completion of the great works of public improvements commenced some years ago, I mean the widening of the canals extending from Montreal to Lake Michigan, the deepening of Lake St. Peter, and the building of the Georgian Bay, connecting our system of railways with the great national line. This branch line, which we owe to the patriotism of the present Ministry, is of a capital importance to the Province of Quebec, and is, in fact, a part of the North Shore Railway. It secures to our port the monopoly of the enormous Western traffic and of the countries on the Pacific. No doubt that before long the Government shall feel the necessity of buying the North Shore road, and assume the debt of the Province of Quebec has contracted for its building.

This I shall call a truly national policy, having all interests equally at heart, and granting to every interest what its prosperity requires: Sufficient protection to national industry, and prompt and easy ways

of transportation to commerce. Such a policy I shall unwaveringly uphold if I secure your confidence.

COLONISATION.

The factious prosperity and the wild speculation during the past years have taken from the fields many hands needed by agriculture. All trades have been overcrowded, and where ten operatives might have made an honest living, twenty more came from the country to compete for the work and the salary they were so legitimately entitled to. This agglomeration of people, and the reduction of labour, have brought on the state of things we witness now. But the suffering workmen have found a remedy to the situation; to give back to agriculture the unemployed hands, to return to the country the surplus of city population, and to open to colonization our enormous forests; such is the idea their patriotism has brought forth. This project, originated in generous minds, deserves the support of all patriots. It ought to call the kind attention of the Government, and I shall do all in my power to ensure its success.

LAWS CONCERNING INSURANCES.

The laws regulating insurance on life or against fire, have been much improved of late; yet they are far from being perfect. Every day the Courts have to decide on just claims contested on the most futile grounds, or in consequence of informalities imputable to the agents of the Companies. Time has come to put a stop to these abuses, in imposing uniform conditions of insurance on the Companies, and making illegal all the conditions actually written on the policies, and having no other object but to evade payment of right claims.

The most severe guarantees ought to be demanded from foreign Life Insurance Companies, to secure the Canadian insured against loss by failure of these institutions, the law ought to compel them to invest in Canada the amount of premiums received in the country to the exclusive benefit of Canadian policyholders; in that way, all possible guarantee against fraud, mismanagement or accidents would be given to the insured.

Such are the most important measures on which I intend to call the attention of Parliament and that of the Government, if you honour me with your votes.

Holding the interest of the country and that of my electors far above all other considerations, I shall give to the present Ministry an independent support, but I shall part with their policy any time your interests may demand it.

If these principles meet with your approval, I shall feel happy to obtain your suffrages and to represent in Parliament the District of Montreal East.

I remain, Gentlemen,

With due consideration,

Your most devoted servant,

F. X. ARCHAMBAULT.

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