

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND.

FELLOW COUNTRYMEN,

Dr. Tupper is riding round among you, endeavoring to persuade you to confirm him in the appointment of Provincial Secretary, which he has accepted in the new administration. You and I know the Dr. pretty well, and, judging by the absurd mis-statements which he has damaged his character by hazarding on the floor of the House of Assembly, I can form a pretty good estimate of the misrepresentations and mis-statements which he will make on the hustings, and in your village School Houses, if there should happen to be no one there to confront and bring him to book.

There are a good many things that I know he will tell you, and a good many more that he will find it convenient to forget. If you keep this letter by you till after you have heard him, you will be able to form a pretty good estimate of my knowledge of character and of the Dr.'s regard to truth.

I. He will tell you that our Railroad Policy has created a financial crisis. That the Treasury is empty—the credit of the Province exhausted, and only a few miles of Railroad finished. That he and Mr. Johnston are going to save the Province, restore the finances, and make Railroads everywhere.

Tell him—

That he opposed our Railroad Policy at both the Elections that I ran in Cumberland. That Mr. Johnston opposed it. That, of the men who are now associated with them in political fraternity in the Lower House, I opposed it, to wit:

Killam	J. Campbell
Brown	Thorne
Ryder	Hent
Bourneuff	Marshall
Johnston	

Show him this passage, from the card of Mr. Marshall, a member of the new Government, and ask him to explain it in any other way than that Railroads are to stop, if the new Government get the power to stop them.

At its inception I steadily opposed the construction of railways at the expense of the Province, well knowing that they would involve a vast outlay of public money, and the creation of an unmanageable debt; and I regret that my anticipations have been realized, and that a very large sum must be provided to meet the interest on the sum expended. It shall be my object, as far as possible, to economize the resources of the country, in completing the obligations already incurred, and so direct the future progress of our public works, as to prevent intricate financial difficulties.

Tell him, that because you elected Mr. F. and me in 1851, the Government were enabled to commence Railroads in 1854. That when we defeated me in 1855 he was powerless to stop them, because my friends were strong enough in the Legislature to protect our policy.

Tell him that there are now 22½ miles of Railroad in working order, and 54 more nearly finished.

That the whole road to Windsor will be completed next summer, and that, when it is, a Cumberland man may come to Halifax from Amherst, Advocate Harbour, or the Two Islands, in a day. That he can come from Parrsboro and go back on the same day.

Tell him that the road to Cumberland and Pictou is located to Truro, under contract to Stewiacke, and nearly finished to Nelson's on the Shubenacadie. That before the end of this year we shall go by Rail to within 17 miles of Truro, and that those seventeen miles will be opened, (if the enemies of Railroads cannot stop the work), in the spring of 1858.

That, when they are, Cumberland men from all the Gulf and Mountain settlements, can come to Halifax in one day, and return the next. There will then be no part of Cumberland, from which good stage lines, and the Rail, will not bring you and your wives and daughters to the metropolis of your own country in a day. Another year or two will carry it to your county line, and enable me to go to Westmorland to breakfast, and return to Halifax to dinner.

Remind Dr. Tupper how he used to frighten you about the Tax Gatherer coming round the country to

gather money to build the Railroad. Ask him where he is? Tell the Doctor what you know to be true, that £400,751 have been expended on Railroads since 1855, and that you have not seen the Tax Gatherers yet. Tell him that, in the three years that Railroads have been building, the increase of Revenue over the previous three years, has amounted to £98,481, as you shall see by the following statement:

Revenue—			
1851	£107,014	1854	£157,179
1852	108,413	1855	108,423
1853	124,512	1856	138,883
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£339,939		£438,780	
		339,939	

Total increase, in three years £98,481

Tell him that, while these Railroads have been going on, you have had more money expended on your Roads and Bridges than, during any three years since the Province was settled:

Road Votes in—			
1851	£30,000	1854	£43,000
1852	32,500	1855	45,000
1853	32,000	1856	42,000
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£95,000		£130,000	
		95,000	
		£35,000	

Tell him that, this very year, while he is getting up a cry about a "Financial crisis," and trying to frighten the country by declaring that the Treasury is exhausted; the House has voted £42,000 for Roads and Bridges, the same sum that was granted in 1856.

Tell him that the ad valorem duty of New Brunswick is 12½ per cent.—that of Canada 15 per cent. That, at both sides of the House, it is freely admitted that, by raising ours from 6½ to 10 per cent., revenue enough can be raised in the ordinary way to meet the interest on our Bonds, even if the Railroads should never pay. If they do, the duties will come down again. But, whether they do or not, you will never see the Tax Gatherer, unless the Doctor sends him under the Municipal Incorporation Act.

Tell him that, over the road between Halifax and Shultz's, in the last month of midwinter, 3075 passengers, 522 horses, 809 barrels, besides a great deal of other freight were carried.

Tell him that the old story about Railroads, in this Country, not paying working expenses, has been exploded, every mile yet opened in Nova Scotia having paid them from the first day.

Tell him that the other old story, about Railroads being closed up by the climate in winter, has also been exploded; the Locomotive having been upon the track every day this winter, and, with the exception of two or three days (when ordinary travelling was interrupted by freshets or deep snows,) neither mails nor passengers were delayed.

By the time you have beaten all these facts into the Doctor's head, he will imagine that a good deal of his eloquence may be profitably turned into some other channel.

He will then begin to entertain you about the extravagance of the late Government, and tell you how they created pensions, and perpetrated jobs of various kinds. He will not repeat to you the triumphant answer given to these charges on the floor of the Assembly, when made by his learned leader.

Mr. Johnston charged upon the late Administration that they had perpetrated Jobs, and created Pensions. I answered him, as you can answer the Doctor, by showing:

That the only Pensions, created by my friends, and now paid out of the Public Treasury, are

Pension to HENRY CRAWLEY,	£300
J. S. MORRIS,	300
Hon. ALEX. STEWART,	400
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	£1000

While we have saved, by reducing the salary and allowances of the Secretary of the Province from £1980 to £850, enough to pay the whole of these three Pensions, and have £155 to spare.

The saving then in this single Department, you will see, covers all that we have agreed to pay.—Let us start with that.

Saving in Secretary's Office, (over and above all the Pensions,)	£155 0 0
Saved by abolishing the Chancery Court. Judge Stewart's salary,	700 0 0
Saved by consolidating two Land Departments,	1000 0 0
Saved by consolidating two Revenue Departments,	6610 0 0
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	£8405 0 0

Deduct the salaries of the Financial Secretary and his Clerk, (the only new Offices created by the late Government,

850 0 0

£7615 0 0

To this will be added (when the Pensioners die)

1000 0 0

£8615 0 0

with this statement before you, my friends, you need not be much frightened with the Doctor's alarming stories about the Jobbery and extravagance of the late Administrations. You can shew him that, since Mr. Johnston retired from the Government in 1848, an annual saving of £7615, which will by and by be swelled to £8615, has been effected by certain beneficial changes in the Public Departments. This saving would make more than a mile of Railroad a year, to the end of time, let the Doctor say what he will.

But what else has been saved that the Doctor's friends would have paid?

Arrears claimed by certain Public Officers, but refused

£3907 6 3

Royalty on Slack Coal, which Mr. Johnston would have given up

£3152 0 0

£7059 6 3

Besides the annual savings effected, and explained above, here is £7059 6 3 a good round sum which this country would have lost, had the Doctor's friends had the management of our Public affairs.

The Dr. will, probably, by this time, find that you know rather more about financial affairs than himself, and will get upon other ground. He will tell you that Mr. Johnston was enabled to overturn the late Government, because eight Roman Catholics, in the most innocent and natural way, went over and joined him, without any other reason than regard for the good of this country. He will not tell you the reasons that induced them to go. These you will find, in my letter, addressed to the People of Nova Scotia, on the 2nd of March, to which I refer you. You will also find them explained at large in an address put forth by 22 Protestant gentlemen, members of the House of Assembly. You will find that Dr. Tupper received the appointment which he asks you to confirm, because his leader and himself defended, in the courts, and in the Legislature, the destroyers of Goulay's shanty. Because they defamed a person, detected in correspondence with banished traitors during the late war, and because they denied to Protestants the right to retaliate upon those who "scold at and revile" every thing that Protestants and loyal British subjects hold dear.

With these facts before you, it will be for you to say, whether riot, blood shed and disloyalty, shall be justified and screened in this country; whether a Roman Catholic minority, who have protected rioters and co-operated with England's enemies, shall rule the Province, or whether an Administration shall be formed in which Protestants and loyal subjects of the Queen can have confidence.

In the meantime, believe me,
Your Obedient Servant,
JOSEPH HOWE.

HALIFAX, March 10, 1857.