

TO THE FREEHOLDERS
OF THE
FOURTH RIDING OF YORK.

GENTLEMEN:

I understand Dr. Baldwin has or is about to introduce to you Mr. LaFontaine as a Candidate for the Representation of the Fourth Riding of York. It is right you should know the course which Mr. Robert Baldwin, the Doctor's son, aided by the French party, of which he is the head, has pursued with regard to your internal improvements; and if, after being informed of it, you choose to add to the strength of that party by electing Mr. LaFontaine, you have only yourselves to blame.

You are aware that measures have been taken by the Board of Works to ascertain what lines of Road would be most beneficial to the inhabitants of different parts of your District as well as of other Districts.

The roads recommended in your District were—

1st. The continuation of the Yonge street road where the Macadamization ends to the Holland Landing, thence on to the Barrie and joining the Penetanguishine road.

2d. A road from the Holland Landing to the Nottawasaga Bay.

3d. A road from between King and Newmarket leading to Owen's Sound.

4th. A road a little West of Toronto, to intersect the new line leading from Owen's Sound to Oakville, in a direction of the Saugie on Lake Huron.

By referring to the Map, it will be seen that these roads would so completely open the whole District that there would be scarcely a single township through which a good Plank or other Road would not pass, and which would lead to the best market and the best harbor in Upper Canada.

It is understood that these main branches have met the entire concurrence of the Board of Works.

Mr. Robert Baldwin, aided by the Lower Canada members, voted that £500,000 should be taken out of the million and a half which the Government propose to advance in the first instance, for the completion of the St. Lawrence Canal. This, with the other first class of improvements as submitted to the House by Government, would more than exhaust all the disposable money; thus leaving out, and putting an end to all the anticipated internal improvements, not only of your District, but also of the whole of the western part of the Province.

But, Mr. Baldwin did still worse. Mr. Harrison, in common with many other members, saw the injustice of this; and Mr. Hincks proposed a tax upon Banking Capital; and other gentlemen suggested other means of remedy, to make up the amount necessary to remedy the evil; when Mr. Baldwin declared he was not prepared to vote another shilling, and further increase the debt of the Province; thus putting an end to all hopes of the internal improvement of the Province.

It is perfectly well known that till now Mr. Baldwin never advocated, but always condemned, the outlay upon the St. Lawrence: it is equally certain that he has been induced thus to sacrifice the interests of the Province, as well as of his friends and neighbors to whom he owes so much, to merely party purposes, and with a view to embarrass the movements of the Government, and please and conciliate the Lower Canada members for the unworthy purpose of making use of them.

Now, Gentlemen, if you wish to strengthen that party whose objects and whose interests many of them have shown to be wholly at variance with your own; if you would lose all hopes of seeing your internal improvements carried out—send Mr. LaFontaine to Parliament as the nominee of Mr. Robert Baldwin.

If, however, you value the future prosperity of your District, send a man from amongst yourselves, a liberal, enlightened, sensible man, as little connected with political parties as possible; and you will see your beautiful part of the country flourish.

I assert, and I do it boldly, that I am prepared to prove these statements at the Hustings. I can prove them by the testimony of every member of the House (not of Mr. Baldwin's own party); and I challenge him to deny a word of them.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A FREEHOLDER.