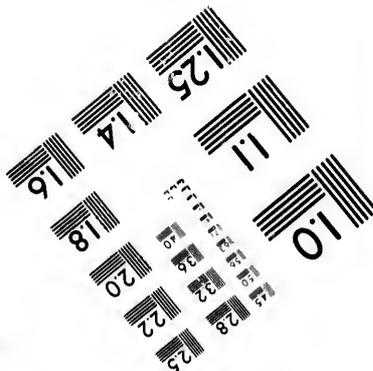
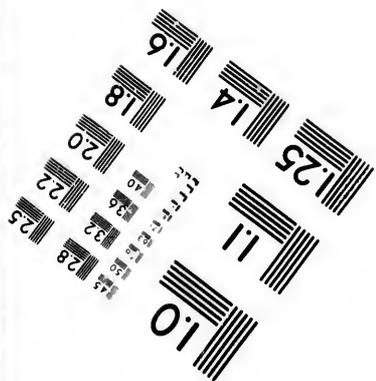
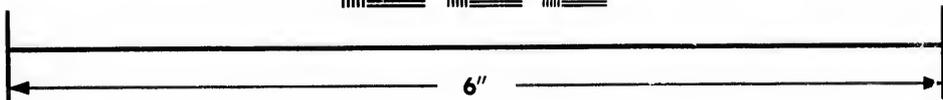
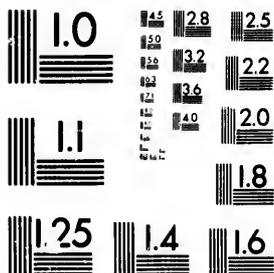
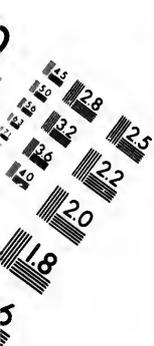


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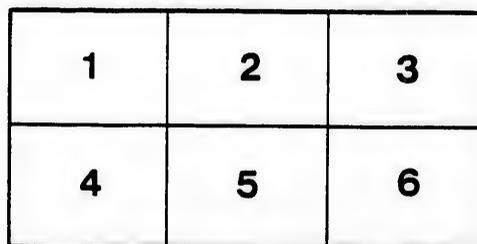
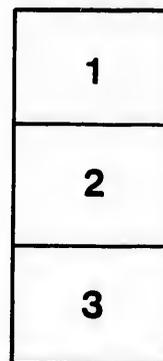
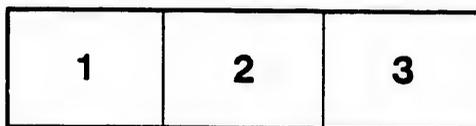
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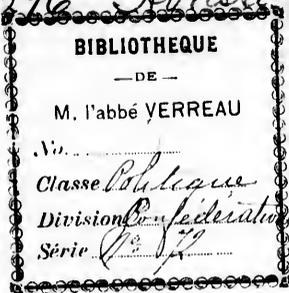
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276 Adresse aux électeurs, N^o 4



TO THE ELECTORS

OF THE

ELECTORAL DIVISION OF BONAVENTURE.

GENTLEMEN,

Since 1861, I have had the honor of representing you in Parliament. Together we have seen political events of the highest importance develop themselves. After years of struggling, too well known to be recalled here, political parties agreed to give us the Confederation Act of 1867, and unite under one Constitution the Provinces of British North America under the shelter of the British flag, preserving their autonomy to all and assuring them the exercise of those liberties dear to the people.

The general impulse towards progress produced by this new state of affairs has brought us :—

1st. The development and settlement of the North-West, which is destined to be for us what the Western Prairies are to our neighbors.

2nd. The great Pacific Railroad which will give us access to the rich Province of British Columbia, to the Pacific Ocean and to the commerce of China and Japan.

3rd. The enlargement and aggrandisement of our canals.

4th. The development of our manufacturing industries.

5th. The construction of numerous Railway routes in the different Provinces.

6th. The construction of the Intercolonial Railroad, thanks to which we have access to the Atlantic Ocean in all seasons,



thus rendering us independent of our neighbors so far as concerns our intercourse with the mother country and which by means of the Pacific Railway will constitute a complete chain of railway communication on our own territory from one ocean to another.

After this short sketch of political events which have happened since 1861, you will allow me to briefly review the result of the political position you made for me in July 1861, so far as concerns the local interests of the beautiful and generous county of Bonaventure.

When I arrived in your midst after having passed through the inconvenience and delay of a journey by sailing ship, you received me most warmly and soon sent me to Parliament. Since that time what great changes have taken place among you

1st. Steamships have replaced sailing vessels.

2ndly. Postal communication which was then weekly has become daily.

3rdly. Colonization roads which were so to speak unknown, are open to the industry of colonists, and agriculture has made great strides.

4thly. Your interests in the fisheries, which have not escaped my attention, have not suffered but on the contrary have been improved and promoted.

5thly. The pale rays of the moon alone protected navigators and fishermen from the dangers of the night, and to-day the numerous light-houses which illumine our coasts show you that your interests have not been neglected.

6thly. The delays, difficulties and dangers you underwent in crossing, whether by fording, or in scows, the numerous rivers of your beautiful county have been replaced by the ease and security afforded you by the construction of bridges across the greater number of them.

7thly. My efforts to give you a telegraphic line of communication are not unknown to you, and I recall with satisfaction

my presence in the public meetings when the advantages of the construction of a telegraph line were demonstrated. I will never forget your spirit of enterprise which impelled you to subscribe so handsomely to the accomplishment of a work so beautiful, so useful and so indispensable. Thus, you are to-day in instant communication with the entire world.

8thly. But with all these improvements one is yet wanting : the construction of the Baie des Chaleurs Railroad. In this, as well, you have shown that you understand not only your own interests, but still more the interests of the whole country, since you have offered gratuitously the right of way to assist in the construction of this iron road, which will be the greatest feeder to the Intercolonial Railway and which will necessarily assure the establishment of the shortest route between America and Europe.

Such are the principal measures to the adoption of which I have had the satisfaction of contributing. I thought I should have continued to represent you for some time to come, when I was chosen by His Excellency the Governor General to occupy the highest position in my native Province, that of Lieutenant-Governor. I believed it to be my duty to accept it, because in doing so, it seemed to me that the honor fell as much upon the county which has been faithful to me for so many years as upon myself who am the object of this honor. It is certainly not without regret that I see the termination of the intercourse which has been so agreeable to me and that I take my leave of you before entering on the charge I owe to the confidence of the Representative of Our Gracious Sovereign. Without suggesting to you by whom you ought to replace me in Parliament, I am convinced that you will choose one who will have your interests at heart and will be in a position to obtain their recognition before the representatives of the people. As for me, I think I am able to testify that during all the time I have had the honor of representing you, I have sought, without distinction of nationality or religion, to render to my constituents those services they had a right to require of me. It will be one of the most agreeable recollections of my public career to think that I have been able to obtain the support of the different nationalities and religious beliefs, which are to be found in the county

of Bonaventure and to unite them under the same flag. I shall always endeavour in the position that I am going to occupy to labor with all my strength to cement union and peace between the inhabitants of the Province of Quebec, of that Province in which no reason exists to prevent the most perfect union between all. It only remains for me in bidding you adieu to thank you for the loyal support, you have so constantly given me, and to assure you, that whatever may be the position reserved for me by Providence in the future, your interests will be always most dear to me. I will always pray for your happiness and for that of your families as well as for the prosperity of that beautiful county of Bonaventure whose representation I return to you in order that you may confide it to one who should hereafter command your entire confidence.

I have the honor to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

THÉODORE ROBITAILLE.

Quebec, 26th July 1879.

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