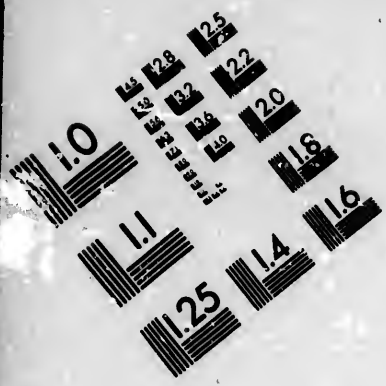

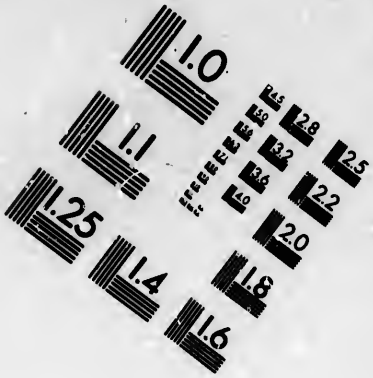

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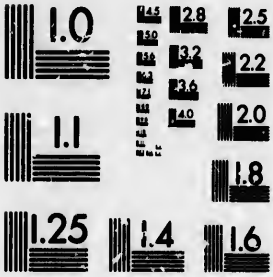

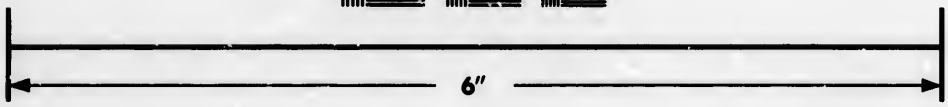

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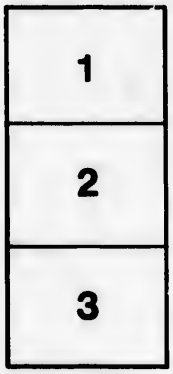

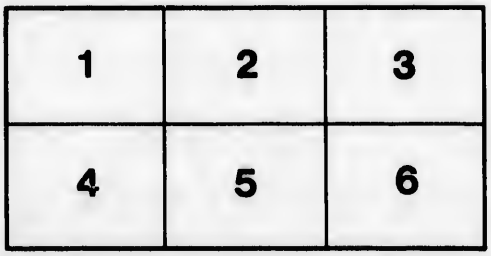

MONTREAL WEST.

HON. MR. McGEE'S SPEECH AT THE HUSTINGS.

[SLIGHTLY CORRECTED FROM REPORT OF MONTREAL GAZETTE.]

MONTREAL:
PRINTED BY M. LONGMOORE & CO.
1863.

THE NOMINATION.

At noon on Monday the nomination for the Western Division took place at the Weigh House, in Victoria (Haymarket) Square. When Mr. G. H. Ryland, Registrar and Returning Officer, arrived, about six or seven hundred electors and others had assembled at the hustings, and as Mr. McGee advanced, surrounded by a number of friends, loud cheers were given for the hon. gentleman. Hon. John Young arrived shortly after, accompanied by Mr. T. Cramp alone. The Returning Officer having made the usual proclamation, the writ was read by Mr. Johnson, when the electors were required to name whom they wished to represent them.

Mr. Walter McFarlane now advanced to the front of the hustings, and in a brief speech, highly complimentary to the Hon. Mr. McGee, proposed him as a fit and proper person to represent the Western Division of Montreal in the Provincial Parliament. (Loud and continued cheers.)

Mr. P. Brennan briefly seconded the nomination.

Mr. Benj. Holmes came forward to propose Hon. John Young. He expressed his diffidence and regret at the duty he had to perform, and stated that all Mr. McGee's acts, votes and speeches since his first election to Parliament had met with his approbation and support. He denounced the conduct of the Macdonald-Cartier Administration as corrupt, unconstitutional, and so forth, and was condemning their assistance to the Grand Trunk Company, when a voice from the crowd interrupted him thus—"Who was the greatest assistance to the Grand Trunk Company but Mr. Young"? which question was loudly cheered. Mr. Holmes now brought his speech to a hurried conclusion by proposing Hon. John Young as a Candidate for the Western Division. (Hisses and Groans.)

Seconded by Mr. Jas. McDougall.

Hon. Mr. McGee was called forward amid enthusiastic cheers and spoke as follows:—

Mr. Registrar and Gentlemen,
Electors of Montreal West,

Twice I have been indebted to you within three years for an unanimous election, and once before when I was a comparative stranger in the city, for a triumphant return, after a memorable contest. To-day we are challenged to a new contest by our old friends, who come against us at the eleventh hour with Mr. Young at their head, and we accept that challenge (Cheers.) I accept that challenge not only for my friends in Montreal, but for all my friends throughout the Province, whom this day's proceedings may reach. (Cheers). The new Ministerial party, not content with forcing in a manner, which I maintain to be inconsiderate, unjustifiable and unconstitutional, the retirement from office of the majority of the late Cabinet,—men of their own party, their own associates and old friends—demand that those men, so deprived of their constitutional and party rights, under the present dissolution should endorse all that has been done, and give the intriguers a bill of indemnity in advance of the election of the new Parliament. They have come to me, Mr. Young has come to me, Mr. Holmes has come to me, they have come singly and in deputations, to ask that I should endorse all that was done at Quebec during the late crisis, and that if so, I would have no opposition from them. Intimations of future arrangments, offers of lucrative office were not wanting, on the part of those who have the temporary disposal of office, if I would consent to endorse what had been done at Quebec. They received from me one invariable answer. I told them I would not depart from my position of entire independence; that I would not, however aggrieved, for the sake of *auld lang syne* move one finger, or utter one word against my old colleagues, unless in self-defence I told them I would not attempt to influence a single vote against them, in the East or Centre, unless the individuals came to ask my opinion on the recent changes, and then that I should tell them the truth. But this has not satisfied these exacting ex-allies. *Jacta alea est*—the die is cast by them. They will insist, notwithstanding all they know of the facts, and all they don't know, that I must hoist Mr. Sanfield McDonald's and Mr. Dorion's colors, and drag the flag of my own honor humbled in the dust. They have chosen their part—they have flung their challenge in our faces—they have left myself and my friends nothing else for it, but to oppose the opposers. (Cheers.) Gentlemen, there are some explanations which public men can only properly make on the floor of Parliament, *vis a vis* with the persons implicated; but there are others which the representative owes to his constituents, and notwithstanding the provocation of this eleventh hour, this twelfth hour opposition, I shall confine myself to those proper to this occasion. Twelve months ago I went to Quebec, clothed with your suffrages, as a member of the McDonald-Sicotte Cabinet, to assist in carrying on the Government of this country, on the principles then made public. I look back now with con-

fidence to that twelve months' administration, and I assert, that its sins of commission and omission, were as few as those of any Government that preceded it; I say that it was a year of office marked by the inauguration of a genuine system of retrenchment; that both, with the Imperial Government and with our own people good faith was kept; that in our official correspondence, our Orders in Council and our Commissions of Inquiry, broad and just principles were asserted, deserving the approbation of the people of Canada. (Cheers.) It may suit the exigencies of the moment for our successors in office to assail us, as it suited our predecessors to do so the other day; but with all its faults and short-comings—and it had them—of course, it had,—I assert that the Macdonald-Sicotte administration has left behind it the most honest chapter which has for years been written in the annals of Canadian government. Now, we knew, right well, gentlemen, when we accepted office, in May 1862, that we could hardly expect the support of a Parliament elected in '61 under the auspices of our predecessors, who for seven years previously by a succession of coalitions, had controlled the government and patronage of the country. We knew as well last year as this year, that a vote of want of confidence was possible—was probable, and we should last year as well as this year have gone to His Excellency in such circumstances for the constitutional resort of a dissolution. But certainly we should have asked a dissolution for our own policy not for another,—for our own government,—not for another. We should have asked for a dissolution not as a pretext for dropping our programme, but as an occasion for taking the sense of the country, for or against, that programme. (Cheers.) Other counsels, however, prevailed at Quebec, during the late crisis, other men now represent those counsels, and it was really asking a little too much,—it was it seems to me hardly decent, hardly delicate to ask the authors of the rejected policy to endorse its rejection, and to swell the chorus of the new programme retaining so far as we yet know, hardly a vestige of our platform. You will observe, gentlemen, that I stand here as an independent candidate, on no personal ground whatever. All the personal inducements for me, are on the side of the present Ministers. Almost all my personal and political friends are in that camp,—and some who, perhaps, would not be there, if they knew all the facts of the recent change. It would be, I say, unfeignedly, far more agreeable to my feelings, if I were supporting at this moment, Messrs. Holton and Dorion, as I always have done,—always have faithfully done,—since our joint contest, in 1857. (Cheers.) They have sent here Mr. Young to force me from my position of independence, and to drive me into opposition, but they will fail (cheers). I will oppose the opposers, but I will stand on my old platform of liberal and national opinions, from which it is not in the power of any person or persons, or clique to drive me. (Cheers.) How have they sent Mr. Young here? how has he allowed himself to be put forward here? He, and Mr. Holmes and Mr. Cramp offered on Friday last—an intimation which was a polite method of intimidation—that I should have no opposition from them, if I allowed three members of my committee to serve on their committee (groans), and three members of their committee to serve on mine (groans). I refused—because that would be playing false to my Address, which they had read before they saw me. (Cheers.) Then, if I would promise to declare publicly that I would vote for Mr. Holton as an elector of Montreal Centre, I could have purchased their forbearance, but I refused, because that too would be departing from my declared independence. I repeat, I think it was not delicate, it was not decent to urge me to these conclusions; but the last menace is now resorted to, and I take up the gauntlet. (Cheers.) How is Mr. Young here? On a requisition from this division? No. At the nomination of a public meeting held in this division? No. By address of this division? No. With a committee of this division? No. He is here by the appointment of a committee in another constituency—he is here the delegate of Mr. Holton, to punish me for my independence—he is here as Mr. Holmes avows, as part of a general Ministerial understanding—and because I would not consent to be a party to my own, and to my late colleagues' dishonor? Well, gentlemen, this new fact determines my duty, and as Mr. Young's prompters would not have my neutrality, they have chosen to force me into open antagonism. The responsibility be upon them and their advisers—I am not answerable for their acts. (Cheers.) And now, gentlemen, what have they compelled me to do? They compel me to defend the Government of which I was a member, and the programme of that Government, against an intrusive Government and an unknown programme. (Cheers.). I do not say, and did not here, last 5th of June, that the programme of the Macdonald-Sicotte Cabinet was, in all respects, my own *ultimatum*, but it had been adopted as the possible best, by all those who in '62 were known in Parliament as the Liberal members, whether from Upper or Lower Canada. I need not say, situated as we are, that there is always great difficulty in forming any definite programme for a new Administration, while there is on the other hand great danger of deception and misrepresentation, if the programme be not definite. (Cheers.) I have twice had an humble share in Cabinet-making I remember the scandals which followed—the conflicts and controversies which arose—from the Brown-Dorion programme of 1858 not having been definitely understood, on the seignorial question, on the representation question, and the school question. We had in Parliament and in the press, Minister flatly contradicting Minister, as to what was really the policy of that short-lived combination. I don't know how it is at present, but at all events, the programme of May '62, was honest, explicit and above-board; at all events it was found not to be impracticable at the Council table, and I do not think it was fair or wise to assume, that it could not have the support of a new Parliament, merely because it was not sustained in the old one, from which we never expected at any time, on any programme, to have a majority. (Cheers.) We saw that the representation question,—though based on a principle of justice as far as regards the taxing and popular branch of the Legislature

be settled, and we said so. We saw that the sense of self-preservation,—that instinct which penetrates communities,—had been roused in Lower Canada, and was stronger while it lasted, than the next strongest principle of our nature, —the sense of justice. We desired at this juncture in American affairs to quiet the agitation, to allay the sectional conflict, but these gentlemen have reopened it again, and have given a premium on the renewal of a perilous agitation. What is their policy upon it? Mr. Dorion says here, he and his colleagues will never submit to it, Mr. Brown says at Toronto, these are the only Lower Canadians through whom it can be obtained. Either there is "a whopper" at Toronto, or "a whopper" at Montreal. (Laughter.) Under our programme we settled the school question, (Cheers) which vexed and distracted Upper Canada since 1855; under that programme the magistracy was no longer the reward of partizanship; under that programme we embodied and armed 25,000 volunteer militia in six months; under that programme, the representation question which it was agreed could not now be settled, was by common consent not to be agitated; under that programme it was believed by all our party one brief year ago—when Mr. Brown, Mr. Holton, and Mr. Dorion w re all out of Parliament,—that the country could be honestly and efficiently governed,—and it is believed by many of us still, now that all those three gentlemen are back again in active public life, exercising their great and paramount influence, in the councils of their party. (Continued cheering.) These three gentlemen are the architects of the new policy, whatever it may be; no one has yet told us how far it goes or what it includes; no one can tell whether it is verbal or written. Mr. Dorion is answerable for it. Mr. Holton, with his firm tenacity of will and great deliberative power, is answerable for it, and Mr. Brown, with his large and loose vigor, with a manliness which it is impossible not to respect, whatever one may think of his policy, is answerable for it. But what is it? No one can tell. We do not want an answer at second hand, and the principal artificers of the new arrangement are discreetly silent. Does Mr. Young know it? Does Mr. Holmes? Will either of them tell us? (Laughter.) What, not a word. We are told the school question is settled—that is old news. (Laughter.) We are told the Intercolonial road is abandoned—that western extension is abandoned,—that I consider bad news. (Cheers.) But was it delicate—was it decent—to urge me to endorse a policy I do not know, and to condemn a policy I do know, which was adopted by the whole liberal party except Mr. Brown and Mr. Holton, and which never has been, that I have heard of, condemned by the liberal party. (Cheers.) I turn now, gentlemen, to the McDonald-Sicotte policy so far as concerns the present and the future. From my own mind, without compromising others, let me offer you, with all possible deference, a few general ideas as to the description of policy we endeavored to make conversant to the people of Canada during our term of office. (Cheers) We found the index to that policy in our geographical situation, in our connexion with the greatest commercial Twice 1 L[illegible]al power the world has ever within three years fo[illegible]

seen; in our own domestic circumstances, and in those of our neighbors. We found the data on which it is framed, first at our own doors, and next beyond the lines, beyond the Rocky mountains, and beyond the Atlantic. We found expression for that policy in two words —economy and enterprise; or in two other words if you prefer them, retrenchment and developement. These two words do not at all represent hostile ideas; we must be economical, that we may be enterprising; we must retrench, if we would develope. Economy is a good horse, enterprise is another; yoke them and drive them kindly, and they will carry you to the goal. (Cheers) I am as much opposed as any man living to the false retrenchment which would deprive a deserving public servant of his due, or cripple an important public service of its sustenance;—but of the retrenchment which cuts off excrescences and drives out drones,—I avow myself the partizan. This is, however, a retrenchment quite consistent with developement, for it is one by which it is possible to economize far more than the £60,000 a year asked for the Intercolonial road, and the $50,000 a year needed for the Western extension. A commission on Departmental and Financial reform appointed by our Government has issued on this subject, a most valuable report founded on highly instructive evidence. I have carefully examined that report, and I find in it no evidence whatever of an *animus* to convict individuals of departmental mismanagement. I have no hesitation in saying that, I think, it effectually blows up our present departmental system. (Cheers.) The Commission proves little or nothing against individuals, except in one or two minor instances,—it proves little or nothing against members of former Governments individually—but its testimony is all the more complete and crushing against the system. (Cheers.) Besides, the inquiry, it must be observed is only in progress; is only half or hardly half way through, and let what Government will come into power, the people will insist that the errors and abuses, so clearly exhibited, shall be corrected, not for the session or the year, but by remedial Legislation, which shall be as immutable as the first principles of our common law. I have just mentioned in connection with the uses of economy, the two great projects of eastern and western extension, which were favourably entertained by the late government, and which are not now, I regret to say, before the country, on their merits. What I complain of, as their advocate, is not so much that some of our journals and orators will come to that discussion, without trying even to possess themselves of the facts, but that, richer in imagination than in industry, they will create for themselves fanciful wildernesses, and throw up impassible barriers, which never existed in nature, all which they oppose as unanswerable objections to a policy of national development. The peninsula of Nova Scotia — more than half the size of old Scotland — rich in fisheries, in coal, in gypsum, and in its command of the Gulf, of our own Gulf, is dismissed as an insignificant tract of sea shore, unworthy of consideration. The immediately adjoining territory of New Brunswick, nearly as large as

Ireland, with more than half its area within the isotherm of wheat production, is dismissed with equal confidence and equal folly from the consideration of our British American future. It is a wilderness of wood; it is a wilderness of rock; it is, at all events, a desert. (Laughter.) Well, sixty years ago, Upper Canada was a wilderness, and a large part of it, now well peopled, was pronounced uninhabitable. But human energy, impelled by human necessities, triumphed over the ignorance of the many and the ignorance of the few, over unfounded fears and false science; and we see what Upper Canada has become under the magic hand of associated industry. (Cheers) But if the sister Provinces between us and the Atlantic are little known, the country which lies west of Lake Superior and north of the United States boundary line, is *terra incognita* indeed. What is that "north west" of which Montreal knew forty years ago, but of which so little that is explicit or tangible is now known? If we define it as the region westward from Lake Superior to the Rocky Mountains, and northward from the boundary to the 60° parallel, it includes five hundred thousand square miles of this continent; a territory equal to the British Islands, France, and Germany combined. And from this vast region, one-half to two-thirds is reported habitable. We know that maize will ripen to the 50°; and potatoes, oats, and barley to the 54° parallel, over nine degrees of latitude in our territory. We know that wheat requires a summer temperature of 62° to 65° Fahrenheit, and that the mean temperature of the Red River Valley is from 65° to 67°. It is this immense region, the only prairie country of British America, capable, according to Lord Selkirk, of containing thirty millions of inhabitants — that we affect to pooh, pooh! that we affect not to be conscious of its existence! (Cheers.) It is this country, rich in hides, in coals, in furs, in salt; this country originally, and in my opinion still, of right belonging to Canada, that we do not think worthy of entering even as an item in the new programme of the new Government. Not so the shrewed business men and statesmen of Washington and Minnesota. I have lately read a report on this country, prepared by Mr. Taylor of St. Paul's, and published by Congress—a report remarkable for the fullness of its information and the largeness of its views. But this report is a mere brief of the American design—it refers to other representations addressed to the American Government, and not made public. What are those representations likely to be? If I had the gift of clairvoyance, and could look into Mr. Taylor's desk, or Mr. Lincoln's closet, I venture to say I should find there political as well as commercial considerations for exciting the attention of the American Government to our North West. (Cheers.) We will not think, we will not discuss, we will not entertain the questions of our relations to this territory—yet if the American Union goes to pieces—if as is openly avowed in Congress and out of it, the North Western States separate into a third confederacy, in what direction must they extend themselves, if not into that very region? Give them the Red River and the Saskatchwan, let them make Lake Superior a *mare clausum*, a greater Michigan—let them bar you out at the Sault Sainte Marie, as they have bared you out at Mackinaw, and where is the future of British America? Gone forever out of your control—gone forever into their custody. I beg you, gentlemen, not to consider this a chimerical or a remote contingency. I speak of that people, who, in three years, advanced their flag from Arkansas to the Californian gulf—the same people who forty years ago, in their comparative infancy, compelled Russia to make the North Pacific an open sea—civil war has distracted, but it has not destroyed, the energies of that fearless race of colonizers and pioneers. (cheers.) Let me say a few words more here in Montreal, for the youngest born of what I must call our common political family,—British Columbia. Now what are the main facts as to that territory? There are at most points ten degrees of longitude, between the Rocky mountains and the Pacific, and between the Russian and United States boundaries, six degrees of latitude—giving a country of 500 miles of coast, within an interior of 600 miles. The climate immediately under the mountains is compared to that of the North of Scotland—as you descend to the sea it is said to resemble with a little more rain, the southern countries of England and Ireland. Its great arterial river, the Frazer has a safe harbor, and water for ships drawing 18 to 20 feet—the depth we have now obtained in our own river by artificially deepening Lake Saint Peter with which my hon. opponent has been so long and so honorably connected. The only practical pass into central North America—the Vermilion Pass—forms as easy a road towards us, as the passage of the Alleghanies at Altoona, on the Pennsylvania and Pittsburgh railway. Captain Synge has demonstrated that by this route Hong Kong will be brought nearer to London by 2,000 miles than by any other, and Mr. Kelly, in a paper read before the Geographical Society, has established that Sydney is 900 miles nearer to London via New Westminster than it is via Panama. Here is a country, (I embrace Vancouvers with the main) rich in soil and fortunate in climate, with valuable woods, gold, silver, cinnabar, plumbago and coal. Here, is a land, with as yet not more than 20,000 inhabitants, well capable of subsisting 10,000,000; here is a pass cleft by nature through the maintains—a river navigable for ships of 1000 tons flowing down to the sea—a way to China, shorter by 2,000 and to Australia by nearly 1,000 miles than any other which can be found on the globe—trifles, trifles, Mr. Registrar wholly unworthy of the attention of our new Canadian Administration. (Cheers.) I confess I should be sorry for my country, I should be ashamed of my order—if the people and Parliament of Canada permitted the pooh! pooh! policy, to overcome the policy of national developement of which I am and always have been since I resided among you the advocate. (Cheers.) Admitting we have the initiation of this great future now in our keeping, how are we to make use of it for ourselves, and for our children. I answer, by

for ourselves and for our children, on British principles, a stable form of mixed government, as distinguishable from a poor parody of unqualified democracy. I answer, by discharging our duties—all our duties—cheerfully by the Empire, and inducing our fellow-subjects in England to feel, and to act on the feeling, that their capital is as safe in Canada as it would be in Middlesex. (Cheers.) Our own arms are as yet too weak for the work—we must borrow the aid of the Empire,—they have bridged the Ganges and the Nile, and they will find no insuperable obstacles in the St. John, or the Saskatchewan. I desire above all things, gentlemen, to see a policy maintained by this country which shall win us respect in England. But how shall we win respect in England? Not by always saying *ditto* to Downing street (laughter); not by our embassadors acting Sir Pertinax's part—who "never could stand straight in the presence of a great man" (laughter). We shall win respect in England by maintaining our credit, by paying our debts, by turning out, every man of us, to defend our homes against all comers; we shall win respect in England by steady proofs of our attachment to our own good government, by loyalty to the laws, by the decorum of our assemblies, by understanding, mastering, and putting boldly forth, the outlines of a national and Imperial policy, as applied to the whole congeries of the British American provinces. (Cheers) It has been alleged that the Government of which I was a member did not, in one instance—that of the Intercolonial road—act in entire good faith by the Imperial authorities. I solemnly declare that I never saw and never heard of any design to embarrass or protract that negotiation on our part, and I must say that, as against our Government, I think any imputation of bad faith, coming either from England or the Lower Provinces, wholly unfounded by the facts. (Cheers.) I am told now, however, that the negotiations concluded at Quebec in September, 1862—including Intercolonial free trade—are abandoned. I am sorry if it be so; I believe it a wretchedly retrograde step, taken in submission to an ignorant clamour about wildernesses which do not exist, and jobs which could easily be prevented. If we are to be a nation we must have that road, if we are long to be connected with Britain we must have that road—if the British communities left on this Continent are ever to stand together, helping each other, we must have that road. I must for my part declare that I shall never abandon the advocacy of that road, unless, as I said in my address, "it should be proved by actual survey to be an undertaking beyond our strength." I have been told, by a gentleman who ought to know, that I was premature in concluding, from the Ministerial announcements, that the project has been wholly abandoned, and that Western extension has shared the same fate; they certainly have been abandoned according to Mr. Dorion's address, on the basis proposed at the Conference of Quebec, in September last, and as no other basis was indicated among the possibilities of the new programme, I think I was justified in concluding that [illegible] twice [illegible]—sizes were unconditionally dropped. within three years for

I understand Mr. Young to say they are not dropped. (Hear, hear, from Hon. Mr. Young.) Well I should like to see that, not at second hand but in the addresses of the New Ministers. (Cheers.) I am sure if my hon. opponent was a Minister he would speak out on that subject; but if Mr. Sandfield Macdonald's new colleagues will not let him speak—if Mr. Dorion will not speak—what are we to conclude, but that they have no policy whatever on those subjects. (Cheers.) I beg to apologize to you, Mr. Registrar, for detaining you so long, but before I close you will permit me to say a few words, as to the actual state of parties, both in Upper and Lower Canada. (Hear, hear.) We are told, there are but two parties to this contest, the old Coalition party which we outsted in May '62, and the present Administration party. Mr. Holmes has talked of the jobs of the coalition, and I unite with him in pronouncing them infamous. But who inaugurated the system of public jobbing in this country? Why Mr. Hincks, of whom Mr. Young was a colleague, and Mr. Holton a supporter. (Cheers.) The jobbing commenced with the railway era, and the grand jobber was the leader of both those gentlemen. (Cheers.)

Hon. Mr. Young—Name the jobs.

Hon. Mr. McGee—Oh! it would take me a week. (Laughter.) I shall give the first chapter to-morrow night at Chaboillez Square, the second on Wednesday in St. Lawrence Main Street, the third on Friday at Wellington Bridge, and the fourth on Saturday, here, in the Haymarket. (Cheers.) I invite Mr. Young to attend those meetings, and if he is not heard, I shall not speak. (Cheers.) Well, gentlemen, I shall say frankly as an independant member, that if it turns out to be the case, on the meeting of the new Parliament, that if any vote or voice of mine should be instrumental in bringing back the old Coalition party to power, they of course, cannot have it They had seven years trial as a party, and the record is heavily against them. I will say now—what no possible pressure would have forced from me, till I had this day vindicated my own position,—that, rather than suffer the restoration of the greater evil, I would vote confidence in the present Administration, though believing it to be formed in an irregular, inconsiderate, and very unconstitutional manner. But I am not convinced that the people of this country are reduced to the bare alternative of the present *replatrage* or the old Coalition. I know that every election brings into Parliament from 50 to 70 new men,—I know there are liberal conservatives as well as illiberal reformers—that there are men, unstained by complicity in the old Coalition, who will be as unwilling to shoulder its sins, as you, or I, or any one can be. (Cheers.) I believe the number of independant members at the meeting of the new Parliament will be large,—and it will include, I have reason to think, all the Lower Canada section of the McDonald-Sicotte Ministry, who are now candidates for re-election, with other liberal members, who equally disapprove of the method and the example of the late *replatrage*. (Cheers.) I do not apprehend, therefore, that I shall be myself forced into any position either isolated or inconsistent with my antecedents. My friends need have no anxi-

ety for me. I shall know how, I hope, to vindicate my own honor, and to maintain in every situation my own principles. I have now no leader but my own conscience, and if ever I follow any one again, it shall be a man with a head and a heart, not a potter's vessel that may be moulded to-day into one shape by one dominant influence and to-morrow into another. The political potter knoweth his own vessel—but I know him not. (Laughter and cheers.) It is amusing to hear, as I am told people do hear the Committee, of Mr. Holton and Mr. Dorion talk of my deserting them—as if I destroyed their old platform—as if I thrust them out of office. (Laughter.) Among other slanders against me it has been again circulated that I am hostile to my fellow-subjects of French origin. There never was a more wanton falsehood. Last summer I remember I had the pleasure of pronouncing the panegyric of Samuel Champlain, before 7,000 of the children of the Puritans, at the mouth of the Kennebec. Never did I feel more pleasure in illustrating the character of Saint Patrick or King Brian, or any of the heroes of the history of my own fatherland, than I did in doing justice to the illustrious founder of Quebec, and first Governor of Canada. I know too much of the early hardihood and enterprize of the French race in these regions, long before our English tongue had sounded so far North, not to respect their descendants sufficiently, not to flatter them to their faces. (Cheers.) And now, gentlemen, come what may, out of this general election, I intend to adhere to the national policy, I have always advocated and acted upon, since I have been in public life, in this country,—the policy which embraces British Connexion (Cheers.)—the assertion of the monarchical as against the democratic principle. (Cheers.]—the policy of conciliation between our different creeds and classes [cheers] —the policy off internal reform, and *parri passu* with that reform, a great series of internal improvements stretching from the frontier of New Brunswick to British Columbia. (Cheers.) It is this public works' policy which made the United States the poor man's country—it was this policy that converted shoals of day laborers into resident cultivators. Look at the interior of New York. The Erie Canal is the marrow in the backbone of its population. Thousands of men who worked at digging "DeWitt Clinton's big ditch," as it was once called, lived to freight its barges, as resident proprietors dwelling on its banks. If it is mortifying for us to hear of tens of thousands of natural born British subjects preferring that country to this, we must remember the cause,—the ready wages on public works,—and the easy terms on which they could procure a portion of the public lands. (Hear, hear.) This policy is the only true basis of Colonial defence —for it is a policy of new settlements, of increased population, of diverse employments, of a new northern nationality, subordinate to, helpful to, and helped by the Empire to which we belong. It is a policy for our old men—a policy of peace and security; it is a policy for our young men—a policy of promise and expectation—it is a policy for our merchants of more consumers—for our farmers of new markets. (Cheers.) It may be thought at this moment by some of our politicians visionary and unreal; but when were enterprise, increase, extension, and development, unreal or visionary to our race on the American Continent? We are of the race that forced the icy barrier of the North West passage, after two centuries of desperate adventures—we are of the race that blasted a channel for their ships with English gun-powder, through Arctic ice. (Cheers.) Shall we not have our triumphs on the land as well as on the sea? Shall we not establish the North West passage where nature laid it, though the Vermillion Pass, and down the Valley of the Frazer to the Pacific? That way lie Japan, China, India, Australia, the countries whose trade has always enriched, whatever power knew how to grasp and handle it. That way lies the future fortune of all the Eastern British provinces, including Canada, and Canada's chief city, Montreal. I do not believe notwithstanding all that has been written in England of Colonial reform, that the mother country is tired of her colonies with their £60,000,000 sterling of annual imports of her goods, and their £50,000,000 exports to her of their produce. The maritime provinces and ourselves taken together tax her treasury just about one-fourth more than Malta, or Gibraltar, and about double the Ionian Islands. I have no fear that England will abandon one-seventh of this Continent, to save an ordinary military expenditure of half a million a year. She will place against that charge and its responsibility, the pride of empire, the proprietorship of so large a scope of the continent, and the only feasible northwest passage; the commerce of great communities, dwelling under her own flag in North America, and of the older and greater communities easiest to be reached through our territory. Under that flag of the triple cross of St. Andrew, St. Patrick, and St. George, encircled with the native maple-wreath, I desire to labor for—I have labored for making and keeping as one united people (cheers), and my name shall be remembered for those labors when all these petty intriguers are forgotten. (Cheers.) If we adopt Nelson's motto, that every man and every colony should do its duty, we may rest well assured, England will not withdraw her capital from us in peace or her armies in war. [Cheers.] But we must do our duty, our whole duty, at once and cheerfully. If Canada can bear fifty thousand men under arms, and fifty thousand reserve, England's ultimatum, Canada must provide them. If not, then forty thousand of each force; if not forty thousand, then thirty-five thousand, or thirty thousand active, and as many reserve, men. [Cheers.] It is clear, we cannot have the connection for nothing; we cannot be without it for anything; and that we must be prepared to do and to suffer for it—and I think we all are—some thing. [Cheers.]

After again returning thanks to the Returning Officer, his proposer, and seconder, and the electors, the hon. gentleman withdrew amid loud cheers.

The show of hands, after a few words from the Hon. Mr. Young, was declared in favor of Mr. McGee, and a poll was demanded on behalf of Mr. Young.

Cheers having been given for the Queen, the Governor General, the Registrar and Mr. McGee, the large crowd quietly dispersed. The proceedings passed off without disturbance, a portion of the Police under sub-chief Flynn and the Water Police under chief McLaughlin, preserving order, a task, fortunately, by no means difficult.—*Gazette.*

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within three years