

Mar
1896



Your VOTE and INFLUENCE
Is Respectfully Solicited for the
Independent Candidate
for Lennox.
CHAS. STEVENS

1896.

To The
Free and Independent

ELECTORS

 **OF THE RIDING OF LENNOX** 

GENTLEMEN:

I herewith submit you my platform as an Independent Candidate for the next Dominion Parliament, my motto being

“Equal Rights to All--Special Privileges to None”



Remedial Legislation

If elected as your representative I will oppose any **Party** that will introduce legislation into our Dominion Parliament with the object of coercing the Province of Manitoba to re-establish separate schools within her borders, believing, as I do that every Province of the Dominion should have the right to manage her own educational affairs in her own way. In other words “Hands off Manitoba” is my motto. I am decidedly opposed to the aggression of the French Canadian Hierarchy, first, last and all the time, and will support an independent Parliament and entire separation of Church and State. I am a firm supporter of non-sectarian National Schools giving equal rights to all and special privileges to none.

.. The Tariff ..

On this question that since the introduction of the Protective System sufficient time has elapsed for the establishment and development of such manufacturing industries as under the existing conditions can be successfully carried on in Canada; that the existing tariff, defensible only as a protective measure, has proven in many instances oppressive and burdensome to the great mass of the consuming classes **and especially to those engaged in agricultural pursuits**, and that it ought to be amended in respect to the matters indicated, and by a substantial reduction of customs duties in favor of the United Kingdom-- in whose markets all Canadian products are admitted free - and all those nations which under Treaty obligations with Great Britain would be, by virtue thereof, entitled to the same advantages, granted, however, so as not unnecessarily to prejudice the business of the country.

This, I should point out, would require a change in the tariff, which, while leaving it unaltered so far as the United States and countries that maintain a high scale of duties against us are concerned, would provide for a

LOWER TARIFF

in favor of Great Britain and such other countries as are willing to reciprocate with us on the principle of a fair trade, in fact a maximum and minimum tariff.



.. Official Language ..

I am of the opinion that, except where permitted by the terms of the Confederation Compact there should be but one official language in Canada. To me it seems as unstatesmanlike as it is unpatriotic for the sake of a temporary peace with our French Canadian fellow subjects to foster the spirit of French Nationalism a hope which can never be permitted to attain fruition so long as Canada remains a part of the British Empire.

Public Debt

Is it not true that we are adding to our debt by leaps and bounds ; that our expenditure has increased and is increasing, while regard being had to the condition of the country it ought to be diminished, but that dishonesty is rampant in the great spending departments in spite of the Audit Act and every check that has so far been devised to prevent it.

Civil Service Superannuation

On this question, Gentlemen, I am most emphatically opposed to the present iniquitous system. There is no more reason why the well paid civil servant should be made the recipient of a fat allowance after he has ceased to be useful in his position, than that the state should extend the same privilege to you and I, and I think you will agree with me that this system in the past has been anything but fair to the tax payer, and is simply the result of

Partizanship on the part of Both Political Parties.

It is a well-known fact that many civil servants have been pensioned off while still in the prime of life, simply to make room for clamorous hangers-on of the existing governments.

In conclusion permit me to say, that if elected I will oppose Jobbery of whatever kind by any Party. Most of you are conversant with my record for some years past which I trust is not an unfavorable one and if elected, I promise to use my utmost endeavors to carry out the promises herein made.

Trusting that the above independent platform will meet with your approval, I beg to solicit in the present contest your support

I have the honor to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

CHAS. STEVENS.