

May, 1949

DECLARATION OF POLICY

by the
PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE
PARTY OF NEWFOUNDLAND

Freedom - Opportunity - Security

FOREWORD

Since 1934, the people of Newfoundland have been without a voice in the management of their own affairs. The coming election will restore to the voters the right to name their own government and dictate the policies of those who govern them. That is something that we ask you to remember because it is a very heavy responsibility to assume.

In this election, the past must be forgotten. The old division between those who wanted Confederation and those who wanted Responsible Government has ended. We have to keep uppermost in our minds the fact that this is our Newfoundland, that our Island needs the best government we can give it, and that the kind of country we have will chiefly depend upon the people who live in it.

We believe that the Progressive Conservative Party, associated with the great National Party of the same name, has much to offer the people of Newfoundland. The Newfoundland Progressive Conservative Party was formed with the ideal of good government before it. It believes in progress. It believes in Conservatism in the sense of keeping the things that are worth holding on to. We do not hold out any fancy promises, but we have got a policy that has been carefully thought out with the interests of all the people of this Island in mind. We pledge ourselves, if you honour us with your support, to put into force immediately all those promises that can be made good at once. We pledge that we shall strive our utmost to make the remaining pledges come true as quickly as possible. **We have been assured by the National Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party, Mr. George Drew, that he will give his full support to our programme in Ottawa.**

Since it is now a foregone conclusion that Mr. Drew will become the next Prime Minister of Canada, a programme of improved social security will be given first attention. He has promised us also, that he will do his utmost to get better financial terms for Newfoundland to help the Island prosper under union.

We ask you to read carefully the policy we set before you in these pages. We ask you to weigh well not only the policy, but the characters of the men who advocate it, because no political programme is any better than the men who stand behind it.

We hope that as a result of what you read and know, and what you hear from the candidates in the field, you will believe the Progressive Conservative Party worthy of your confidence, and that you will mark your ballots for our candidates on polling day.

We ask this support with the sincere desire of serving the best interests of all the people of Newfoundland, and we pledge our sincere and devoted efforts to that great cause, if you affirm your belief in us at the polls.

OUR FOURTEEN POINT POLICY

The Progressive Conservative Party of Newfoundland pledges itself, when elected, to devote its efforts to the fulfilment of the Fourteen-Point Programme which is explained in the pages that follow:

1. Advancement of the National Welfare.
2. Greater Social Security
3. More Work and Wages Through Industrial Development
4. Progressive Road Policy
5. Expansion of Medical and Health Services
6. Fishery Development and Price Stabilization.
7. Agricultural and Forestry Development.
8. Adequate Mining Laws
9. Better Educational Services
10. Preservation of our Political Rights

11. Better Financial Terms
12. Progressive Labour Legislation
13. Civil Service Commission
14. Honest and Competent Government

These are the main points in our policy and we would ask you to consider carefully each point and the explanations to be found in the remaining pages of this little pamphlet. We ask this in justice to yourselves as voters since it is important to you to know what the Progressive Conservative Party has to offer you in the form of a sensible and practical programme for the greater welfare of our Island Home.

1. **ADVANCEMENT OF THE NATIONAL WELFARE :**

The PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE Party of NEWFOUNDLAND has for its objective the advancement of the general welfare of the people of this Island. **To the PEOPLE we pledge our most devoted service** to the DEVELOPMENT of their PROSPERITY, the SAFEGUARDING of their INSTITUTIONS, and the PROMOTION of their WELL-BEING.

2. **GREATER SOCIAL SECURITY.**

The PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE Party of Newfoundland pledges its active support to the declared policy of the National Progressive Conservative Party to extend the policy of SOCIAL SECURITY to include the following:

Equal payments at the highest monthly rate for all children eligible for Family Allowances.

Retirement pensions at age 65 for all persons without imposing upon them the indignity of having their means of livelihood or property holdings investigated.

Health insurance for all the people to take care of medical and hospital attention as required.

The Progressive Conservative Party of Newfoundland pledges unceasing effort towards the abolition of want by means of policies designed to provide complete social security on a contributory basis and to increase remunerative employment.

3. **MORE WORK AND WAGES THROUGH INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.**

We recognize the immediate need of a VIGOROUS AND CONSTRUCTIVE programme designed to EXPEDITE the DEVELOPMENT of all natural resources. The AIM must be to bring about a steady increase in the DEMAND FOR REGULAR WORKERS AT REGULAR WAGES so that much GREATER STABILITY may be brought into the economic lives of the people.

We pledge ourselves to employ every available agency to establish a **decent minimum standard of living** founded upon the

WISEST AND MOST EFFICIENT USE of the resources with which Nature has blessed our Island.

To achieve this end the Progressive Conservative Party pledges itself to :

1. Initiate a comprehensive survey of resources to reveal those industries which may be most readily and economically established through the proper application of capital and enterprise.
2. Devote special attention to the utilization for industrial purposes, particularly the pulp and paper industry, of the Bay d'Espoir water power on the South Coast.
3. Set up a special division of government to make loans to, and otherwise assist new industries which show reasonable promise of economic success.

4. PROGRESSIVE ROAD POLICY

The development of NEWFOUNDLAND'S prosperity largely depends on the opening up of the country by means of more and better roads. The National Progressive Conservative Party has pledged itself to immediate completion of a hard surface Trans-Canada highway. The Progressive Conservative Party of Newfoundland pledges itself, when elected, to proceed with dispatch to the construction of the Newfoundland section of the Trans-Canada highway in collaboration with the Federal Government.

We recognize also the importance of local roads in the lives of the people of this Island, and pledge our prompt attention to the construction of a number of important road links to include the following :

- a. Carmanville to Wesleyville with an eventual link up with Gambo.
- b. St. Anthony to Hare Bay, joining with the road recently built to Bay St. Genevieve, with the idea of eventually linking that section with Bonne Bay.

- c. Completion of the highroad from Deer Lake to Port aux Basques.
- d. Reconstruction of the road around the Burin Peninsula, and completion of the road from Terrenceville.
- e. Colinet to North Harbour.
- f. Trepassy to Peters River.

Coupled with these and other road construction and improvement plans, it will be necessary to give attention to the hundreds of public wharves in the country, particularly those which do not come under Federal jurisdiction, but are nevertheless essential to the welfare of our people.

5. EXPANSION OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES.

The PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE Party in Newfoundland pledges itself to the full maintenance of all medical and health services at present in existence and to the COMPLETION of such important projects as the expansion of hospital services at Corner Brook and the new tuberculosis sanatorium in that town for the effective servicing of the people of the West and South West Coasts.

We also recognize the great need of local doctors in many communities and pledge ourselves to put forth every possible effort to fill this special need.

We draw attention also to the section of the policy of the Progressive Conservative Party in which special assistance is advocated for all Provinces which may need aid of a special kind to build up their medical and health services to the desired national maximum level.

6. FISHERY DEVELOPMENT AND PRICE STABILIZATION.

The fishing industry is of paramount importance to the welfare of the Newfoundland people. We believe that fishermen must be given greater SECURITY by means of STABILIZED PRICES and we maintain that a guaranteed minimum price is as necessary to the fishermen of Newfoundland as to the farmers of the prairies.

The Progressive Conservative Party pledges itself to persistent effort to persuade the Federal Government to establish a **FLOOR UNDER FISH PRICES** to prevent recurrence of those disastrous declines which have occurred in the past to spread misery and depression throughout this Island.

We propose also to give prompt and earnest consideration to a progressive fishery programme to include:

- a. A Fisherman's Loan Fund to assist producers in modernizing and improving their equipment.
- b. A plan to assist fishermen to fish farther afield and for a longer season by helping them to obtain on easy terms of payment boats of from twenty to twenty-five tons.
- c. An improved plan of fishermen's insurance to cover men in all branches of the fishing industry.
- d. As part of the readjustment of the terms of union **adequate dollar exchange** so that we may continue to sell profitably to our present markets in Europe.
- e. We pledge our full support to the efforts of the Newfoundland Fisheries Board in its work for the general interest of the fishing industry.

7. AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT.

1. A farmer directed agricultural control system—a planned farm production.
2. Assistance in land clearing.
3. Transportation of farm produce at low rates, and refrigeration facilities.
4. Adequate storage facilities to offset selling at sacrifice prices.
5. Board of agriculture comprised of farmers to advise Government on farm policy.
6. Utilization of water power on South West Coast, and endeavour to establish another Pulp and Paper Mill, with use of timber on Labrador.
7. A planned systematic afforestation policy.

8. Encouragement to small saw mill owners as also to those desirous of establishing furniture, wall board and plastic manufactures.

8. ADEQUATE MINING LAWS.

1. A thorough survey of Mineral Resources in Newfoundland and Labrador, and encouragement towards development.
2. Protection of Newfoundland workmen in the development of mineral deposits already disclosed in Labrador.
3. Adequate mining laws in relation to compensation, health, and housing conditions in connection with mining operations.

9. BETTER EDUCATIONAL SERVICES.

In the field of education, the Newfoundland Progressive Conservative Party is pledged to a programme that will bring improved educational services within the reach of every boy and girl in this Island. This policy includes the assurance that the historic rights of the various groups within the population to have their children educated according to their approved principles will be protected.

In addition to safeguarding these rights, we pledge ourselves to:

- a. Raise the level of teachers' salaries to a point, in keeping with the dignity and responsibility of their profession and its importance to the general welfare.
- b. To support by every practical means progressive improvement in the construction and equipment of schools.
- c. To assist in every possible way the establishment of a degree-conferring university in Newfoundland.
- d. To promote technical and vocational education.
- e. To seek from the Federal Government additional aid in the promotion of educational projects of importance to the welfare of Newfoundland, a scheme to which the National Progressive Conservative Party has given its support.

10. PRESERVATION OF OUR PROVINCIAL RIGHTS.

The present Liberal Government at Ottawa has sought to concentrate more and more power in the Federal authority at the

cost of serious encroachment upon the rights and privileges of the various Provincial Governments.

We, the Newfoundland Progressive Conservative Party, in conjunction with the great Progressive Conservative Party of all Canada, will vigorously oppose such infringements of Provincial rights, for we believe that those rights which were guaranteed by the Constitution should not be altered without the full and free consent of the Provinces themselves. We believe it to be in the best interests of the whole Canadian Nation that :

- a. The rights guaranteed to the Provinces by the British North America Act should be fully restored and respected.
- b. That duplicate taxation must be eliminated.
- c. That the Province of Newfoundland should not be relegated to the position of Pensioner of the Dominion, but will have recognized and assured tax sources, which it may freely apply to the discharge of its constitutional responsibility.
- d. That the Province will seek Federal grants on the basis of fiscal need for such Provincial matters as education, health and welfare.
- e. That an equitable distribution of the burden of taxation between the Dominion and the Provinces may be accomplished.

11. BETTER FINANCIAL TERMS.

The present financial terms of union are founded on the use of almost our whole surplus of \$40,000,000 to pay capital costs and meet deficits during the first eight years. At the end of eight years, or earlier, if required, a Royal Commission will be appointed to make recommendations relative to financial aid.

BUT THE LIBERAL GOVERNMENT IN OTTAWA HAS REFUSED TO BIND ITSELF TO ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSALS OF THIS COMMISSION.

In other words, Newfoundland has no assurance at all that her financial needs will be adequately met, under a Liberal Government, after her surplus has been spent and the transitional grants have expired. This means that by 1957 no money may be left to build roads, bridges, hospitals and other needs, and even the cost of

maintaining existing services may be beyond the financial capacity of the Provincial Government, even if taxation should be greatly increased.

But that is not all. Newfoundland is bound by her financial arrangement with the Federal Government for eight years, and if the Liberal Government remains in power, cannot make a better deal, even if other Provinces manage to get same from Ottawa for their lease of their direct tax rights.

THE PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY IN NEWFOUNDLAND BELIVES THAT NEWFOUNDLAND MUST HAVE GREATER ASSURANCE OF HER ABILITY TO MAINTAIN THE HIGH STANDARDS OF PUBLIC SERVICES WHICH NOW PREVAIL AND DECLARES ITS INTENTION TO STRIVE WITH ALL ITS POWER FOR IMPROVED FINANCIAL TERMS, CONSISTENT WITH THE RIGHTS, DIGNITY AND ESSENTIAL NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE OF THIS ISLAND FOR THEIR PROPER AND PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT.

In this we shall have the backing of the National Progressive Conservative Party, which stands for financial grants to Provinces in proportion to their need, and has already voiced its opposition in Parliament to the arrangement that will prevent Newfoundland for eight years from taking advantage of better financial deals that other Provinces may make with Ottawa.

Mr. George Drew, the leader of the Progressive Conservative Party in the whole of Canada, has recognized the inadequacy of the terms of union on the financial side, and HAS GIVEN ASSURANCE TO THE PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY IN NEWFOUNDLAND THAT IMMEDIATELY HIS PARTY IS ELECTED, HE WILL INSTITUTE PROCEEDINGS TO REVIEW THESE TERMS IN SUCH A WAY AS TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE NEWFOUNDLAND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT TO CARRY ON THE AFFAIRS OF GOVERNMENT AND TO ASSIST IN RECONSTRUCTION WITHOUT NEED OF CONTINUAL SPENDING OF THE PRESENT SURPLUS TO MAKE UP FOR DEFICITS FROM YEAR TO YEAR.

12. LABOUR LEGISLATION.

In the field of labour legislation, we pledge our party to a definite labour programme, which will consist of amongst other things :

- a. Immediate setting up of a Labour Department.
- b. Measures to increase year round employment.
- c. Minimum wage schedules of a flexible nature and based on an adjustable purchasing power index that would be fair and equitable in relation to the industry and to the workers in them and where work is performed.
- d. Hours of work to be reduced to a minimum compatible with modern practice.
- e. Adoption of progressive trade union legislation.

Generally, our Progressive Conservative Party aims to secure for all workers in Newfoundland the best possible system of administration relative to the industry in which they are employed, and this includes an active department of labour.

This Party will also encourage the organizing of **bona fide** workers associations throughout the Island, without limiting their affiliation with workers associations in Canada or the United States whose objects are to promote the social welfare of the workers and to provide for collective bargaining between employees and employers.

We shall insist upon labour representation upon all government boards, commissions, etc., appointed to deal with matters affecting the workers interest.

13. CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION.

For efficient and economical government, it is necessary to have a strong CIVIL SERVICE fully protected against unwarranted POLITICAL INTERFERENCE.

To have an efficient Civil Service, the persons employed in the Departments of the Government must have full security against political injustice or intervention to enable them to perform their important duties as public servants without fear or favour. To assist in producing this atmosphere within the Civil Service of Newfoundland, the PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY pledges itself to the following programme :

- a. Establishment of a permanent CIVIL SERVICE COM-

MISSION to regulate appointments, wage scales, working conditions, etc., within the service.

- b. Establishment of a non-partisan Board of Review to which discharged Civil Servants may appeal from the action taken by their departments.
- c. Provision of equality of pay for Provincial Civil Servants with that of Dominion Civil Servants stationed in Newfoundland.

14. HONEST GOVERNMENT.

Finally, we give to the people of Newfoundland our **unreserved** pledge and promise that the election of a Progressive Conservative Government in Newfoundland will mean a vigorous attack on the high cost of living, and a definite assurance that the full benefits of all savings resulting from the abolition of duties and reduced freight rates will be passed on to the people, and further it will mean **HONEST GOVERNMENT**. To this end we specifically pledge the following measures:

- a. That all Government contracts will be awarded by public tender and that the well-recognized principle of "contract to the lowest bidder" will be observed subject to the usual qualifications.
- b. That the Civil Service will be taken completely out of politics as outlined above.
- c. That the number of salaried Cabinet posts will be reduced to the minimum necessary for the efficient conduct of public affairs.
- d. That the practice of the Liberal Government in Ottawa of spending public money by Order-in-Council without the consent of Parliament will never be introduced to Newfoundland by a Progressive Conservative Government here. All such expenditures will be fully debated in the House of Assembly and will be subject to the prior decision of that elected body.

THIS IS AN HONEST PROGRAMME BACKED BY HONEST MEN WHO HAVE THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE AT HEART. FOR GOOD, HONEST GOVERNMENT MARK YOUR BALLOT FOR THE

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATE