

Prairie Manifesto Project

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Province: Alberta Saskatchewan Manitoba

Party: CCF Election Year: 1944

AA = Alberta Alliance
CON = Conservative Party
LP = Liberal-Progressive Party
PC = Progressive Conservative Party
SKP = Saskatchewan Party
UFM = United Farmers of Manitoba

CCF = Cooperative Commonwealth Federation
LIB = Liberal Party
NDP = New Democratic Party
SC = Social Credit
UFA = United Farmers of Alberta
WCC = Western Canadian Concept

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Source: SK-PARC (pamphlets)

AB = Alberta
SK = Saskatchewan
MB = Manitoba

UofA = University of Alberta
UofC = University of Calgary
UofR = University of Regina
UofS = University of Saskatchewan
UofM = University of Manitoba
BU = Brandon University

PARC = Provincial Archives
LEG = Legislative Library
SPC = Special Collections
ULIB = University Library

6. A C.C.F. Government can obtain revenue from the wholesale distribution of other staple commodities, say food or machinery, along the lines indicated above for petroleum products.

7. A C.C.F. Government can raise money from the development of natural resources under public ownership, as outlined in the Section above. It might begin with the coal industry, and the lumber industry, and proceed to develop the other natural resources as quickly as the necessary information could be obtained and the necessary plans made.

The C.C.F. has always recognized that it is not constitutionally possible to set up a complete co-operative commonwealth within the boundaries of a single province. There are, however, certain very definite powers vested in Provincial Government by the Constitution of Canada. The C.C.F. in Saskatchewan intends to use these powers to carry the Province as far as possible forward to the realization of the aim set out in the Regina Manifesto of July, 1933:

"We aim to replace the present capitalist system with its inherent injustice and inhumanity by a social order from which the domination and exploitation of one class by another will be eliminated; in which economic planning will supersede unregulated private enterprise and competition; and in which genuine democratic self-government based on economic equality will be possible."

**Vote
C. C. F.**

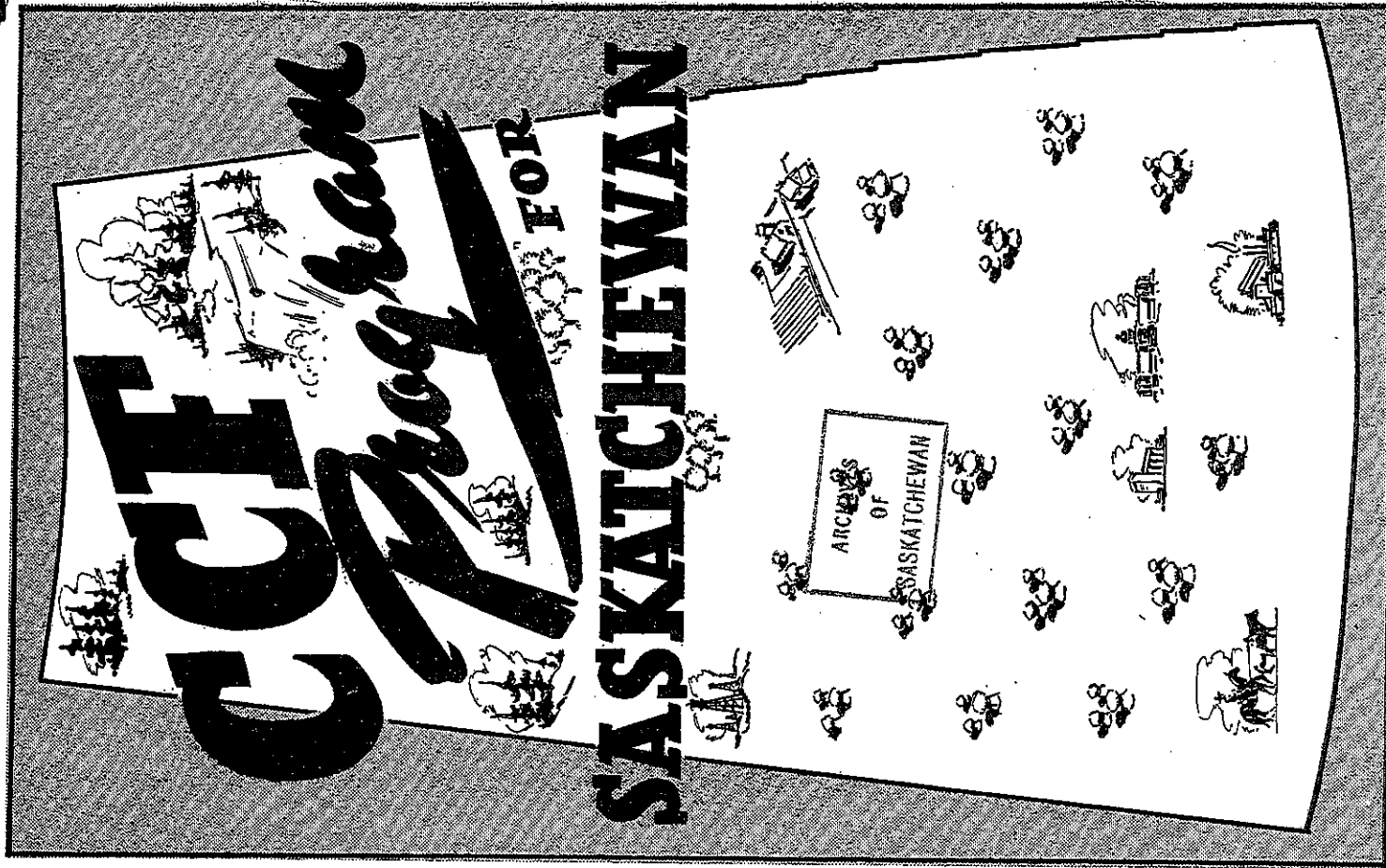
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(Sask. Section)

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Political Pamphlets - CCF Sask #10



A Condensed Summary of The C. C. F. Program for Saskatchewan

KNOW WHAT YOU ARE VOTING FOR

The Saskatchewan C.C.F. Provincial Program may be conveniently considered under the following four main heads: (1) Provision of Security for the People in their Homes and Jobs; (2) Provision of Social Services (Old Age Pensions, Health Services, etc.); (3) Provision of Educational Opportunities and Guarantee of Democratic Rights; (4) Public Ownership, Planned Development of Natural Resources, and Finance. While no aspect of the program can be rigidly separated from other aspects, and while all are equally important, the above is the order in which a C.C.F. Government in Saskatchewan might be expected to introduce its program.

Provision of Security

This problem has two main aspects: (a) Farm Security; (b) Urban Security. That means security for the workers on their farms and security for the workers in towns and cities.

FARM SECURITY

Insecurity for farmers in Saskatchewan may be summed up in two words, debt and eviction. That this is true, is shown by the fact that in 1940 the Saskatchewan Debt Adjustment Board permitted 753 foreclosures, in 1941 it permitted 830, in 1942 it permitted 741. The fact is that the farms of Saskatchewan are passing into the hands of mortgage and loan companies, and farmers are becoming tenants rather than owners. The C.C.F. is determined that this policy of making a farmer a tenant on his own farm, must cease.



To provide protection and security for farmers on their land, a C.C.F. Government in Saskatchewan will take the following steps:

(1) It will stop foreclosure and eviction from the farm home. One of the first acts of a C.C.F. Government will be to use its legislative power to prevent the eviction of Saskatchewan farmers and thereby give them security on their farms.

(2) It will introduce legislation to protect them from seizure of that portion of a farmer's crop that is needed to provide for his family.

A C.C.F. Government will consider it a first duty to pass legislation to provide that the farmer shall have enough of his crop to buy necessities for his family and pay his bills to his local merchant.

(3) It will use the power of debt moratorium (that is, of suspension or postponement) to force the loan and mortgage companies to reduce debts and mortgages to a figure at which they can reasonably be paid at prevailing prices for farm products.

The C.C.F. believes that every settlement of farm debt should take into account the years of toil that a farmer has put into his farm, and that this equity should be protected. A C.C.F. Government will call a halt to foreclosures while the settlements are being worked out.

(4) It will prevent the accumulation of new debt.

A C.C.F. Government will pass legislation to provide that all existing and new land contracts shall contain a crop failure clause stating that in any year in which the farm income falls below six dollars an acre (a) there shall be no interest chargeable; (b) there shall be no instalment of interest payable, and (c) the length of the contract shall be extended one year. In this way both debtor and creditor will share the burden of crop failure and loss, and the crushing weight of accumulating interest debt will be lifted from Saskatchewan farm homes.

(5) It will encourage the development of the co-operative movement.

The C.C.F. aims to establish a Co-operative Commonwealth and it has always recognized that the social and economic objective of the co-operative movement is the same as its own, namely to replace capitalism and the profit system by community ownership for the common good.

(6) It will press for the closing of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange and the setting of Parity Prices for agricultural products.

The C.C.F. believes that there should be no speculation in food, and for that reason it has consistently urged that the Winnipeg Grain Exchange be permanently closed. In its place, the C.C.F. advocates the setting up of appropriate Marketing Boards upon which the producers should have majority representation. Parity Prices will assure that the farmers receive their just share of the national income.

URBAN SECURITY

The C.C.F. believes that people who work in towns and cities should be provided with security in their homes; that they should be assured of steady employment with adequate wages, and that they should have a voice in determining the conditions under which they work.



A C.C.F. Government will provide against foreclosure and eviction of urban home owners, just as it will for the farmers.

A C.C.F. program of planned production (for use and not for profit) will assure every worker of steady employment with adequate wages. Planned production will proceed as rapidly as the economy of the province will permit, and as human needs demand it.

Union Organization: It is vital to the welfare of workers that they shall have freedom to organize in labor unions of their own choosing. A C.C.F. Government will protect the workers from interference by employers, with this fundamental right of union organization.

Collective Bargaining: The best possible working conditions should be obtained in shops and factories, and the workers should have the right to bargain collectively with their employers to assure these things. That is why the first clause in the C.C.F. Labor Policy says: "The C.C.F. will make it compulsory for employers to enter into collective bargaining with the labor union selected by the majority of their employees."

The Minimum Wage: The minimum wage is to urban workers what parity prices are to farmers. The C.C.F. believes that every worker is entitled to a decent standard of living, and for that reason a C.C.F. Government will "increase the rates of wages established by the Minimum Wage Board and will take action to enforce their payment and to extend the Act to protect the employees in low-paid industries."

Workmen's Compensation: If workmen in certain industries are injured in the performance of their work, the Workmen's Compensation Act provides that they shall receive certain benefits while absent from work. But it provides also that these benefits shall not begin until after an injured workman has been absent three days from his job, and that his compensation shall be only two-thirds of his regular wage. The C.C.F. believes that the three-day waiting period should be eliminated, that the compensation should be raised, and that all workers should be brought within the scope of the Act.

Labor Representation: The C.C.F. believes that workers are entitled to representation on all Boards and Commissions and similar bodies that deal with labor matters. It will therefore appoint workers' representatives to such bodies, after consultation with official organizations of the Trade Union Movement.

EDUCATION

Here are five things which are wrong with the Saskatchewan educational system, and following them ten things which the C.C.F. will do to remedy them:

WHAT IS WRONG?

1. An ever increasing number of school districts in Saskatchewan are unable to finance their schools according to any satisfactory standard of educational provision.
2. Many schools lack essential facilities in buildings and equipment. Schools go unpainted and unrepaired; buildings fall into decay; furnaces and blackboards are not replaced; there is no money to spend on athletic equipment, school libraries, and teaching materials.
3. Teachers are inadequately paid. The minimum salary (which too often has been the maximum) for teachers in Saskatchewan is \$700 per annum. Teaching is an occupation which requires knowledge, training, skill—and the talent of a diplomat! No other skilled work, except farming, is so poorly rewarded.
4. There is vast inequality of educational opportunity as between children in city and country, and even as between children in one school district and another. This is the result largely of the varying amounts of money available for educational purposes.
5. The present courses of study, particularly the high school courses, do not prepare children adequately for the world into which they will go and try to make a living. Young people leave high school now, after apparently having been engaged in learning for twelve years, and discover that they know practically nothing about how the world is run. They do not know the conditions under which the means of life are made and distributed; they do not know how our main industries are organized, managed, and controlled; they do not know how the national income is divided or why it is so divided; they do not know the life of the people beyond their own community. Their knowledge of current affairs both in their own country and abroad is equally deplorable. Their schooling has not prepared them for the social and economic realities of their life, and consequently has given them little or no encouragement to become intelligent citizens.

WHAT WILL THE C.C.F. DO?

1. **Provincial Responsibility:** A C.C.F. Government will recognize the fact that providing educational opportunity for all children is the responsibility of the Province, and will so reorganize school administration and finance as to increase expenditure on education, improve the school plant and equipment, and raise the teachers' salaries. The British North America Act, which is Canada's Constitution, makes education a provincial, not a municipal or local responsibility. All along the Provincial Government has

been evading its duty; it has made grants to schools, outlined courses of study, and provided for inspection of schools, but it has left the main burden of maintaining school services upon the municipalities and the local school boards. The main burden does not belong there. A C.C.F. Government will accept the responsibility laid on it by our Constitution and take steps to provide adequate schooling for all children, irrespective of the part of the province they happen to live in.

2. Larger Unit of Administration: In the cities and towns of Saskatchewan, a large number of school rooms are under the administration of a single school board chosen by the citizens of the area concerned. This makes for efficiency, economy, and uniformity of educational service. In rural Saskatchewan, however, the usual pattern of administration is to have one local school board in charge of a one-roomed school. (In the hamlets and villages this may be increased to two or three rooms.) The fact that this small unit of administration has not been able to provide a very good educational service has led educationists and educational reformers to advocate for rural areas the larger unit of administration which is characteristic of urban areas. This would bring anywhere from 50 to 75 schools under the administration of a single board (democratically chosen by the citizens, of course). The belief of those who advocate this change is that by pooling the resources of a considerable area the citizens of that area can get a more efficient and more economical administration of their schools, can take advantage of bulk purchasing and servicing, and ensure a uniform standard of schooling throughout the area or "division," as the larger unit is sometimes called.

In Saskatchewan we have on our statute books legislation which permits the setting up of larger units of school administration, if the people of any given area make a request for such a unit. The C.C.F. believes that we should do more than permit larger units; we should experiment with them and see if they will bring the good results in Saskatchewan which they have apparently brought elsewhere. The C.C.F. believes that a progressive government should give encouragement and leadership to the setting up of some larger units, and a C.C.F. Government in Saskatchewan will immediately do this. The plan would be to set up units in areas where the people wished to have them, after educationists had explained to them the value and purpose of the larger unit and had answered any questions or objections they might have.

Conceivably, too, the larger unit of administration might solve the problem of high school education in rural areas. A large school division might find it possible to build a well-equipped high school with all the advantages of a city school, at a central point in the division, bring the boys and girls to this central point, and maintain them for the five-day school week in supervised and co-operatively managed dormitories attached to the school.

3. Salary Schedule: The C.C.F. believes that we can attract able men and women to the teaching profession, and can keep them in it, only if we pay them at least as well as we pay competent plumbers and bricklayers, not to mention beer store vendors. Not only should the present pitiful

minimum of \$700 per annum be raised, but a salary schedule which would recognize teaching experience, educational qualifications, and proven ability should be drawn up and applied. Now each teacher must bargain as best he (or she) can with a local board, intent, usually, on keeping down costs. A C.C.F. Government will introduce a salary schedule to improve the professional status and income of teachers and thereby improve the quality of instruction in the schools.

4. Consultation with Teachers and Trustees: The C.C.F. believes that the people engaged in teaching and the people engaged in administering schools have out of their experience a valuable contribution to make to the framing of educational policy and programs. The C.C.F. will therefore set up the necessary machinery for regular consultation between the Department of Education, on the one hand, and the Teachers' Associations and Trustees' Associations on the other.

5. Health Services: The C.C.F. will extend and improve the health services in the schools of the province. Schools in the cities of Saskatoon and Regina have doctors, dentists, and nurses to examine the children periodically, check developing ailments, and prescribe remedies. The schools outside the cities have the services of only a few public health nurses. This means that only a fraction of the school population can be examined each year, that much unnecessary sickness goes unchecked, and both the children's health and education suffer.

6. Free Textbooks and Supplies: The purchase of textbooks and supplies for school children is sometimes a heavy burden on the purses of their parents; and failure to get a full set of books is sometimes a handicap to children of financially embarrassed parents. The C.C.F. will remove this obstacle to equal educational opportunity by providing free textbooks and supplies throughout the school system. This will also do away with the protests sometimes raised by parents when new textbooks are introduced into the school courses.

7. Special Training: In any group of school children there are, unfortunately, a number who are below the average in mental ability and who therefore cannot profit from the usual course of school studies. Indeed the usual course of school studies only discourages these children and makes them dislike all learning. Without a congenial interest or activity, they are only too likely to get into trouble, become problems in their communities, and perhaps drift into vagrancy and crime. But these children can grow up into useful citizens if they are provided with the kind of instruction suited to their capacities. They need special classes and teachers especially trained to guide them. The C.C.F. will provide special classes and teachers for these children.

8. Higher Education: Just as there are children of below-average ability in every community, so there are usually some children of above-average ability who ought to have a chance to secure a University education. Only too often these children are denied this chance because their parents cannot afford to send them to college. The C.C.F. maintains that every

young person who has the mental ability and the desire to learn ought to have a chance to go to college, irrespective of his parents' income, and the C.C.F. will make this financially possible.

9. **Adult Education:** The C.C.F. proposes to extend the facilities for adult education so that those adults who have a desire to supplement their formal schooling may have a chance to do so.

10. **Curriculum Revision:** The C.C.F. proposes to revise the school curriculum so that the material of school studies may prepare students adequately for intelligent participation in the life of their community and not, as now, inadequately for a University to which the majority will never go. The job of the school is to equip the child with the information and attitudes for co-operative living with his fellows in the modern world. G. D. H. Cole, in a recent lecture before the Fabian Society of Great Britain, has made a good list of the essential educational equipment of the contemporary citizen. His list includes (1) an understanding of the principles of modern science; (2) an ability to perform elementary mathematical feats; (3) a reasonable facility in both writing and speaking good English; (4) a degree of machine-mindedness, "so as to be capable of doing a whack of productive work if the need arises"; (5) a fair working knowledge of the political, social, and economic structure of contemporary society. The rest—history, literature, and the arts—he says, should arise out of the basic studies and be related to them.

DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS

The C.C.F. believes that only a society in which all the growing citizens have equal chances to get the education suited to their capacities, and in which the young are urged to make the best of their abilities and prepare themselves for intelligent citizenship, can call itself a democracy. Democracy thrives on free discussion, on tolerance, on the freedom of all to choose law makers and governors. In democratic schools the young will learn that it is their privilege to take part in choosing their law makers, their duty to discuss the affairs of the nation and to be critical of error or injustice, and their right to hold and express their own social, political, and religious views. The C.C.F. stands for Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Elections, Freedom of Religion, because these are the essence of democratic liberty.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH

Under a C.C.F. Government all citizens will be free to express their views in speech and publication without fear of either legal penalty or economic discrimination. This will include the freedom to criticize the Government.

FREEDOM OF ELECTIONS

The C.C.F. believes that the people at regular intervals should choose those whom they wish to conduct their affairs and that there should be no interference with anyone's right to vote as he sees fit. C.C.F. Conventions have regularly expressed the view that elections should be held at stated

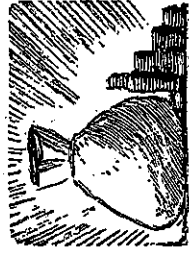
intervals and at stated times of the year, as in the United States, instead of whenever a Government in power thinks it most politically advantageous to call an election. C.C.F. Conventions have also approved the use of the single transferable ballot to insure that a member elected to any government body shall have a clear majority over his opponents and not merely the largest number of votes cast.

FREEDOM OF RELIGION

The C.C.F. believes that a man's religion is his own affair, and that he should have complete freedom to espouse and propagate any religious views he chooses. The C.C.F. welcomes to its ranks people of many and diverse religious views, believing that in a society of economic and social justice for all, religious tolerance is most likely to flourish.

PLANNING

The provision of security, for both rural and urban dwellers, is largely a matter of appropriate legislative action and will involve little in the way of governmental expenditure. But social services and educational services will cost money. Where is the money to come from? How will a C.C.F. Government in Saskatchewan finance its program?



The first thing to recognize is that everything we get—food, clothing, shelter, health, education, security, etc.—is paid for by work. The only means of paying for anything, the only wealth there is, comes from the labor of men and women applied to natural resources, that is, to land, water, forests, and mines. In Saskatchewan a tremendous amount of wealth has been produced in this way since the formation of the province in 1905. Thousands of men and women in the province have applied their labor to natural resources and have produced wealth. But what have they to show for their work? At the end of forty years they have a debt burden, scanty social services, and deteriorating educational services. They have done the work, but somebody else has secured most of the wealth.

In short, the lion's share of the wealth of the province has been stolen from the people who produced it. This must cease. No program of reform is worth the paper it is written on unless it provides for keeping this wealth within the province. The C.C.F. maintains that our natural resources must henceforth be developed in the public interest and for the public benefit. They cannot continue to be exploited in a hit-and-miss manner for the benefit of promoters, investors, and absentee capitalists. The C.C.F. stands for the planned development of the economic life of the province and the social ownership of natural resources.

POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION

The C.C.F. believes that now is the time to begin planning for post-war reconstruction. Thousands of men and women, at present in the armed forces and in war-time industry, will be looking for constructive work in

civilian occupations as soon as the war is over. Responsible governmental bodies ought to be making plans to provide this constructive peace-time work. They ought to have been doing it long ago. In the 1941 Session of the Saskatchewan Legislature the C.C.F. group of Members introduced a resolution that "the Government should consider the advisability of at once setting up a Board to plan for post-war reconstruction."

The Government of Saskatchewan, however, rejected the resolution.

The 1943 C.C.F. Convention devoted much consideration to this matter of post-war planning, and embodied its conclusions in a resolution which reads, in part, as follows:

"That this Convention go on record in recommending the following necessary steps to assure the essentials of life and happiness:

1. Adequate housing for the thousands of families that are now living in slum areas and in crowded tenements in our cities and that this program also include the rehousing of our citizens in the rural areas; and that our natural resources be developed to the fullest extent to bring this about.

2. The development of the vast north land so that the tremendous wealth in lumber, minerals and water power which now lies undeveloped, be brought into full production by the establishment of commercial airlines, owned and controlled by the people and operated by the trained pilots, air craftsmen and mechanics who will return from this war and who desire to continue aviation as a career.

3. Extending training courses for the thousands of men and women who are now serving in industrial plants and in the Armed Forces with a view to developing their skill to a standard of efficiency which will enable them to make the fullest possible contribution to the building of the new world."

These measures for planned post-war reconstruction should be the prelude to permanent peace-time planning of the economic life of our province in the public interest. We must proceed to the public development and public ownership of our natural resources.

PUBLIC OWNERSHIP



The first thing to do here is to find out exactly what we have in the way of natural resources. We need a survey and a stocktaking conducted by geologists, chemists, engineers and other specialists. There is much windy talk at public banquets about "our vast mineral wealth" and "our immense natural resources" but nobody seems to know definitely what these phrases mean or else nobody who knows wants to tell.

Clearly the first thing to do, then, is to find out what we have in coal, clay, mineral, water-power, oil, and timber resources within the province, and what are the possibilities of their immediate development. Having obtained this information from competent geologists and other experts, a C.C.F. Government will proceed to develop these resources under public ownership.

FINANCING THE C.C.F. PROGRAM

The following ways of financing its program will be open to a C.C.F. Government in Saskatchewan:

1. It can press for Federal aid for increased old age pensions, education, and health services. It is generally recognized now, if Confederation is to continue and Canadian unity to be realized, there will have to be a redistribution of income between the Federal and Provincial Governments to enable the Provinces to maintain and expand essential services.

2. It can—and surely will—save money by the elimination of graft and inefficiency in the public service. A C.C.F. Government will give the Province honest and efficient administration. It will engage competent employees and dismiss superfluous employees. It will establish a non-partisan civil service in accordance with the pledge given at the C.C.F. Provincial Convention of 1939:

"The C.C.F. pledges itself to remove party patronage from the public services of Canada. While recognizing that heads of commissions, Deputy Ministers, etc., must be in agreement with the policy of the Government and should therefore be Government appointments, all other Civil Service appointments should be, and under a C.C.F. Government, will be, placed under the control of a non-political commission."

3. It can refuse to pay the high interest charges currently levied to service the provincial debt. The carrying charges on this debt have risen from \$2,836,000 in 1926 to \$7,872,000 in 1942, and the interest rates run up to 6 per cent. Approximately 48 per cent. of the provincial revenue now goes to pay debt charges. If the provincial debt were to be refunded at a much lower rate of interest, say 2 per cent., a large sum of money would be released for expenditure on the social services, etc.

4. A C.C.F. Government can obtain revenue from the wholesale distribution of petroleum products. In 1940 the C.C.F. Legislative Group proposed, for the purpose of financing education, the setting up of a Governmental Fuel and Petroleum Board to handle the wholesaling of gasoline and fuel oils. Why should the earnings from this source go to monopolistic oil companies rather than to the people of the province who use the products and make the earnings possible?

5. A C.C.F. Government can obtain revenue from the further development of electrical power distribution.