

Prairie Manifesto Project

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Province: Alberta Saskatchewan Manitoba

Party: LIB Election Year: 1935

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

Type of Document: Platform Constitution
 Speech Brochure / Leaflet PP
 Newspaper Advertisement
 Other: _____

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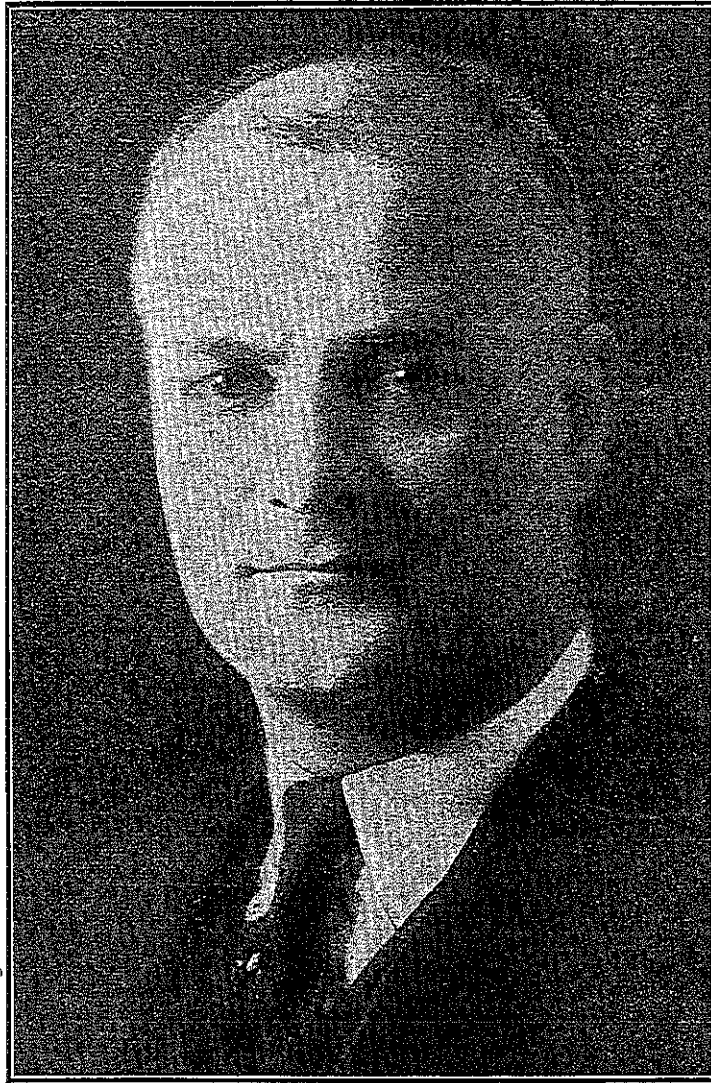
Source: AB-PARC (1994.271 / 305 / 120)

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

ALBERTA'S PROVINCIAL LIBERAL LEADER



W. R. HOWSON, K.C., M.L.A.

To the Electors of the Province of Alberta:

In 1932 there assembled at the City of Edmonton from all parts of Alberta a large body of women and men with the determination—firstly, that affairs of this Province must be changed—that no longer must our people be neglected; and secondly, that they were prepared to see that the change was brought about. With these things in mind the Alberta Liberal party was reorganized. It was determined that no longer must the Government's policy of "drift" and "carelessness" be allowed to continue; no longer must the poor be exploited and taxation increased from year to year; and no longer must waste be permitted.

In order to accomplish these things and to give Alberta a new start, people engaged in every industry and interest were consulted. By correspondence, consultations and conferences, opinions and suggestions were obtained from the grain growers, the livestock breeders, the beet-growers, the homesteaders, those living on the irrigation projects, the teachers, the returned soldiers, the unemployed, the coal, oil, lumbering, fishing, merchandising and manufacturing industries, the transportation interests, the school and municipal districts, and every other line of endeavour for the purpose of building up a **Reform Policy, a People's Policy, a Taxpayers' Policy.**

It was believed that the problems confronting the people of Alberta at this time could be solved by direct and definite action in the province rather than by fruitless trips to Toronto, Regina, Winnipeg, Montreal, Vancouver and Ottawa as our Government has been making. Instead of facing our problems and trying to solve them our Government has been running away from them and the result has been disaster.

The considered opinions of the Alberta people, regardless of political affiliation or industry, have been obtained and consolidated in the platform which the Alberta Liberal party is submitting for your consideration. This platform is different from any that has ever been adopted by any political party in this Province. It is not general in character but is specific as to what must be done and will be done. It is the expression of the people of Alberta, and it is out of the minds of the people of our Province that the solutions of our difficulties must come.

In presenting this platform to you the Liberal party is at the same time requesting you, regardless of what your past political leanings may have been, to send us your personal suggestions as to what you believe will be good for your own district and for the Province as a whole.

The Liberal party is asking you to join in giving Alberta a New Start, a New Deal.

Yours sincerely,

Address:
Second Floor, Bank of Nova Scotia Bldg.,
Edmonton, Alberta.

W. R. Howson.

I.—Agriculture

To directly, energetically and definitely assist Agriculture by a reorganization of that department along lines to give definite and efficient leadership in all branches of farming, and particularly:

- (a) By obtaining markets for farm produce;
- (b) By fighting for reductions in freight rates;
- (c) By changing the regulations affecting grazing and hay leases to make them advantageous to the livestock producer, and to further assist him by broadening the livestock markets by fighting for a reduction of tariffs and for advantageous trade agreements relating to the livestock market, especially in Great Britain and the United States, and by legislation to regulate the packers competing with the producer and farmer in the feeding and finishing branch of the business.
- (d) By a complete reorganization of the policy affecting the irrigation projects in order that the settler may have an assurance of building up a future home, and to encourage the development of the sugar-beet industry and all other special lines of agriculture which can advantageously be pursued on irrigated lands.
- (e) By an energetic policy for the eradication of noxious weeds;
- (f) By a definite and aggressive policy towards remedying the conditions in those parts of Alberta where water supplies are limited or likely to become limited, by taking immediate steps to conserve and distribute the water resources therein, by preservation of forests and afforestation, the storage of flood waters, the return of water into natural water courses, and natural reservoirs and such other methods as may be necessary or calculated to resist drought encroachment;
- (g) By working for a revision of the system of the grading of grain whereby the producer shall be paid on the basis of use-content, and investigating grain price spreads;
- (h) By a complete reorganization of the department in order to direct its efforts to meet the needs of present-day Agriculture and to eliminate the waste of money due to the overlapping of the experimental work carried on by the Dominion and the Province;
- (i) By amending the Homestead laws to definitely assist the new settler in securing a home for himself and his family, and particularly to relieve the burden placed upon the homesteader in the bush country, and also by amending the laws affecting taxation of homesteads;
- (j) By special attention to the improvement of market roads;
- (k) By dealing effectively with the adjustment of excessive debts both as to principal and interest;
- (l) By a complete revision of the present system of taxation;
- (m) By greater assistance to rural education;
- (n) By the steady development of proper health services;
- (o) By development of communication with the new settlements;
- (p) By regular conferences with Alberta agriculturists dealing specifically with their problems.
- (q) By a thorough investigation into the cost of gasoline, oil, farm machinery and other necessities for farming operations;
- (r) By an energetic policy to obtain working capital for agriculturists at reduced rates of interest.

II.—Relief of the Taxpayer

- (a) To relieve the taxpayers by reducing the annual cost of Government by a complete reorganization of every department of the government in order to increase efficiency and to eliminate the tremendous waste, duplication and unnecessary expenditures which exist at the present time;
- (b) To reduce taxation by a substantial reduction in the interest paid on the bonded indebtedness of the Province;
- (c) To relieve the taxpayer by stopping the annual increase of the interest debt by administering the affairs of the Province so that we spend less annually than we collect;

(d) To relieve the taxpayer and assist the municipalities and school districts by:

1. A proper division of the revenues collected by the Provincial Government as between the Province, the Municipalities and the School Districts, in order that the proceeds of taxation may be fairly distributed;

2. A complete revision of all sources of taxation in order that the taxes may be reduced and made to apply more fairly on all the people;

(e) To relieve the taxpayer by decreasing the interest-bearing debt of the Province by applying the net capital revenue derived from the natural resources and all other net capital revenue to the reduction of the public debt;

(f) Until such time as our system of public financing is changed to relieve the taxpayers by providing that all future bond issues of the Province of over five years maturity shall be callable so as to enable the Province to refund such bonds at lower rates of interest;

(g) By providing that a proper sinking fund shall be maintained.

III.—Protection of the Home

That during the continuance of this depression the home shall not be lost by reason of the owner's inability to pay debts or taxes.

IV.—Public Health Service

(a) For Children.

Public health service is even more important to the young than is education. Without reasonable health the other things of life count by little. The cost of health service to youth must be viewed in the same light as cost of education. It is definitely a public obligation.

(b) For All Persons.

The Liberal party supports the following resolution proposed by the Liberal members of the Alberta legislature on April 14, 1934:

"Whereas proper medical attention is imperative to the people of this province; and

Whereas to a large percentage of our people medical services are not now available; therefore be it

Resolved, that this legislature is of the opinion that the government should subsidize sufficient medical practitioners and should also provide sufficient district nurses to attend to the needs of those people living in those areas where medical services are needed and are not now available."

(c) Child Welfare and Health.

WHEREAS, the Liberal women of Alberta feel that the children of Alberta are one of the country's greatest assets, our future citizens and leaders, and

WHEREAS, present living conditions are seriously undermining our children's physical and mental health and morals;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Liberal women of Alberta, urge that immediate steps be taken to provide better health education facilities and a general improvement in living conditions, having in view primarily the welfare of our children.

(d) Health Insurance.

RESOLVED, that the Liberal party approves the principle of Provincial Health Insurance covering the fields of hospitalization, medical and dental services, and nursing, and that the policy of the Liberal members of the Legislature in regard to health matters be extended until a feasible and adequate scheme of Provincial Health Insurance is worked out and introduced by a Liberal administration.

V.—Education

Enlightened citizenship being the indispensable basis of successful participation in the affairs of government and of the proper

enjoyment and utilization of our heritage, material and intellectual, the Liberal party stands for equal opportunity in education for all children:

- (a) By more adequate grants to school districts;
- (b) By proper supervision of our schools in order to increase efficiency;
- (c) By a reasonable form of contract to meet the requirements of the teachers and school trustees in order to eliminate the dissatisfaction which now exists, and to make the teaching profession sufficiently attractive to enlist the services of the most capable women and men.

The Liberal party when in power will take steps to bring about more uniform public school and high school curricula as between the western provinces without in any way limiting the number of optional courses within the provincial systems, so that unnecessary loss of time, repetition of work and the purchase of new text books now entailed in the transfer of a student from one provincial system to another may be eliminated.

The Liberal party promises a thorough investigation of public school and high school curricula and their relationships to the child, greater emphasis being placed on the necessity of building the curricula to suit the child rather than the moulding of the child to the curricula.

The Liberal party will place greater emphasis on Agricultural, Physical, Pre-vocational and Technical education.

VI.—Ex-Service Men and Their Dependents

- (a) To work to the end that no returned soldier and no dependent of a soldier may be handicapped by reason of the service which was rendered by such soldier;
- (b) To definitely and actively fight for the betterment of the condition of the ex-servicemen and the dependents of ex-servicemen, and particularly to work to the end that the contents of the resolution set out on page 269 of the Journals of the Legislature, 1934, be fully implemented.

VII.—Unemployment

(a) UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF must be afforded to all who are entitled to it, but the Liberal party maintains that it is a Federal responsibility and that the Province and Municipalities should be relieved of the liability in connection therewith.

Until this responsibility is assumed by the Federal Government the Alberta system of administration should be reorganized on the following basis:

1. In all cases relief should be fair and adequate to those requiring it;
2. A work program, instead of a dole system, should be inaugurated for those able to work, but who, through no fault of their own, are unable to find employment, and a dollar should be paid for every dollar's worth of work rendered and received.

(b) UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE. The Alberta Liberal party supports the Liberal party in its assurance that it will institute a national system of Unemployment Insurance.

VIII.—Industry and Labor

To set up a Department of Industry and Labor to work out the problems of each, and particularly:

- (a) To encourage all existing and new industries and to develop our Natural Resources for the benefit of the people and not for monopolies;
- (b) To assist in finding and establishing markets for the products of all Alberta industries.

- (c) To deal with freight rates and transportation;
- (d) To investigate the excessive cost of gasoline, oil, farm machinery and other goods and commodities;
- (e) To revise the Workmen's Compensation Act to insure the injured workman his just claims;
- (f) To deal with the whole question of Employment, Unemployment Relief, Unemployment Insurance and kindred matters relating to industry and labor.
- (g) To see that no man, woman or child in Alberta shall want for food, clothing and shelter.

IX.—Alberta Telephones

WHEREAS, the Public Accounts for the year ending March 31, 1933, together with the Statement of the Provincial Auditor (on page 205 of the said Accounts) disclose an alarming situation in the capital structure and operation of the Alberta Government Telephones;

AND WHEREAS, the Government has utterly failed to evolve a plan for the management and preservation of the Telephone System in the interest of the people;

AND WHEREAS, the Public Accounts do not correctly show the value of the said system;

AND WHEREAS, telephone service must be maintained in the rural parts of the Province;

The Liberal party stands for a complete investigation into and appraisal of the telephone system, and pledges itself to preserve and maintain the service for the benefit of the people.

X.—Provincial Finance

The Liberal party pledges itself to a policy of so controlling the credit of the province as to preserve the financial stability of Alberta and to preserve the ability of the province to meet its obligations and at the same time carry on all necessary social services.

XI.—Legal Reform

- (a) Immediate reduction of court fees and legal costs;
- (b) Simplification of legal machinery;
- (c) Priority for three months' wages against the estate of a deceased insolvent debtor;
- (d) Wider powers in the judges to divide property in kind in actions of judicial separation and divorce.

XII.—General Administration

1. Every department of government must be reorganized and put on a business basis in order to eliminate the present enormous waste of the taxpayers' money and to meet present day needs.
2. The number of members of the Legislature must be reduced.
3. During these depression days all high salaries must be cut down.
4. Interest rates must be substantially reduced.
5. Overlapping of work in various branches done by the Dominion and the Province must be eliminated.
6. Unnecessary overlapping of work done by the several Western Provinces should be eliminated.

XIII.—General Development of Alberta

To definitely work for the general development of all parts of the province, and particularly in:

- (a) The improvement of transportation facilities and communication;

- (b) The obtaining of a Coast outlet for the Peace River Country;
- (c) The improvement of the homestead law and the relief of the burdens on the new settler in order to assist him in the establishment of a home;
- (d) The enlargement and development of the Sugar Beet Industry as a step towards the solution of the problems of our irrigation districts;
- (e) The assurance of the integrity of the homes of Alberta and their maintenance;
- (f) The evolution of a scheme of old age pensions applicable to all persons over sixty years of age;
- (g) That the Alberta youth may be given every opportunity to assist in the development of our Province, and that the voting age to be fixed at eighteen years.

XIV.—Social Credit

The Liberal party pledges itself when returned to power to employ three of the most expert Social Credit Advocates to carry on a full and complete investigation into the proposed schemes of Social Credit and to evolve and submit a plan of Social Credit for the Province, which the Liberal party pledges itself to submit to the legislature for its consideration.

XV.—Monetary Reform

Usury once in control will wreck any nation. Until the control of the issue of currency and credit is restored to government and recognized as its most conspicuous and sacred responsibility, all talk of the sovereignty of Parliament and of Democracy is idle and futile.

- (a) The Liberal party believes that credit is a public matter, not of interest to bankers only but of direct concern to the average citizen;
 - (b) It stands for the immediate establishment of a properly constituted national bank to perform the functions of rediscount and the control of currency issue considered in terms of public need;
 - (c) A central bank is necessary to determine the supply of currency in relation to the domestic, social and industrial requirements of the Canadian people and also to deal with the problems of international commerce and exchange.
- The Liberal party stands for a publicly-owned national central bank which will, under the control of the government of the nation, issue national currency and credit and manage the monetary system in terms of public need, for the purpose of raising the standard of living of the people and for the further purposes of advancing the economic security of the social system and the stability of the nation.

XVI.—Tariffs and Markets

Whereas the present Federal Government, by excessive tariffs, dumping duties, arbitrary valuations, cancelling trade treaties and by other restrictive regulations, has destroyed our markets for farm products and at the same time maintained relatively high prices for the essential equipment of production, thus causing unemployment, poverty, idle engines and freight cars, unbalanced budgets, diminishing incomes and vanishing municipal credits;

And whereas there can be no relief from these distressing conditions until trade obstructions are removed so that our markets may again be recovered and enlarged;

And whereas in order to effect a re-opening of markets for Alberta products, the removal of restrictions on trade and an immediate general lowering of tariffs are imperative;

And whereas a revival of trade is essential to the return of prosperity in Canada, and Liberals believe that the extravagant increases in the tariff made by the Bennett government are a primary cause of the present depression;

And whereas about 70 per cent of the population of Canada is engaged in the production of commodities from the basic industries of agriculture, mining, lumbering and fishing, and prices of these commodities have largely fallen below production cost, and as a result our people are so crippled that they have lost their buying power;

And whereas the raising of the tariff walls against trade has not only stagnated all business but has kept the cost of living at a high figure, and we cannot sell if we do not buy;

1. Therefore be it resolved that one of the first things that the Liberal party must and will do is to abolish these tariff increases and take every step to increase trade.
2. Will promote trade with all nations and negotiate trade agreements with any country willing to trade with Canada, and will also restore the British preference to help recover the British market for Canadian basic commodities.
3. That the two greatest blows that Canadian trade has received were the defeat of the Liberal reciprocity deal with the United States in 1911 and the defeat of the proposals in the Dunning budget for trade with the British Isles in 1930.
4. That the implements used in primary production should be admitted entirely free of tariff duty.
5. That a reciprocity treaty should be negotiated with the United States similar to that proposed in 1911; and that further trade agreements should be negotiated with other countries so that our markets may be enlarged throughout the world.

If You Desire a Change
for the Better in Alberta
VOTE LIBERAL!

Vote **DECHENE** 1



J. M. DECHENE
Liberal Candidate for Provincial
Constituency of St. Paul