

Prairie Manifesto Project

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Province: Alberta Saskatchewan Manitoba

Party: LP Election Year: 1932

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: _____

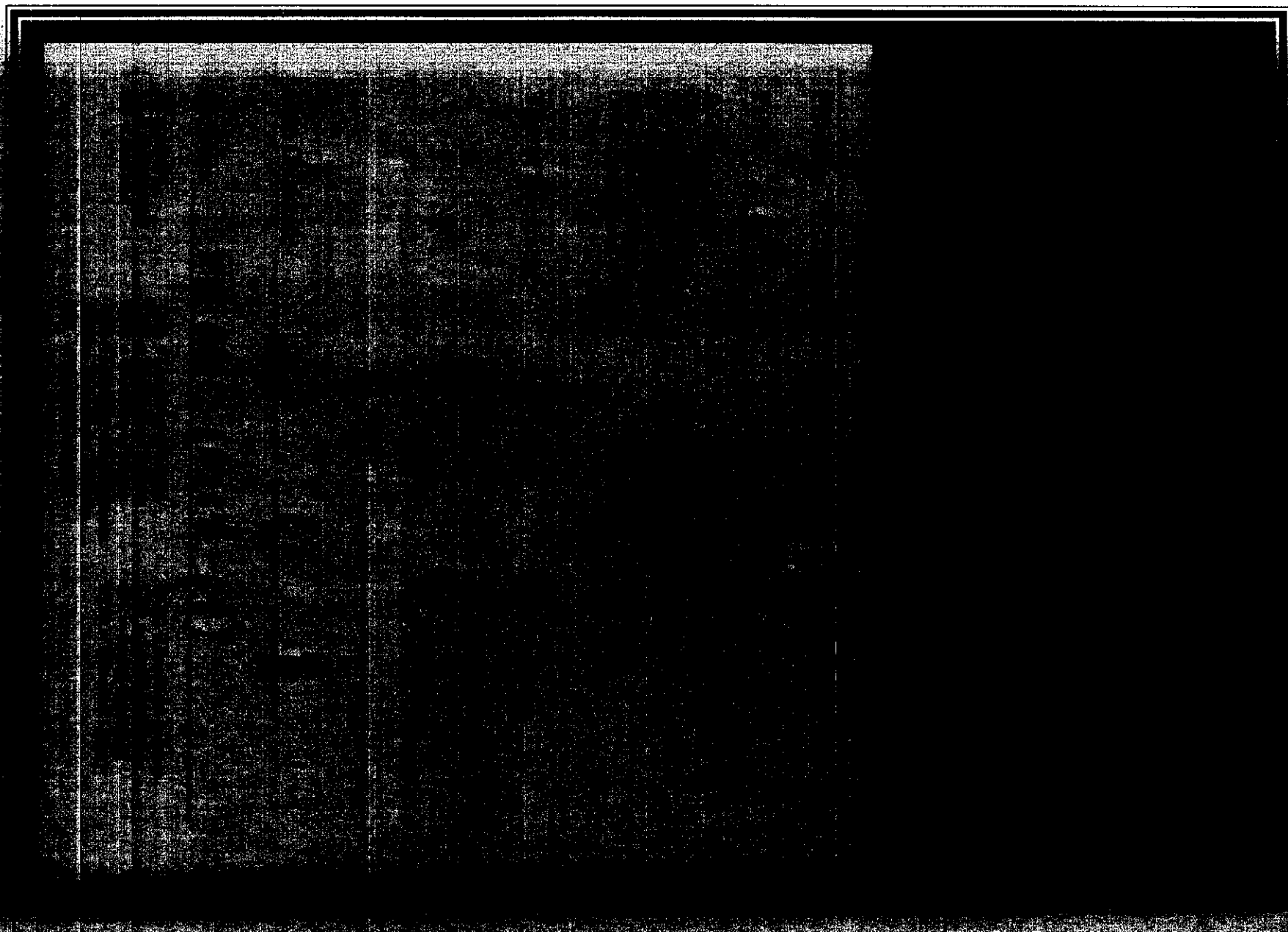
Date Collected: 2006 / 10 / 06.
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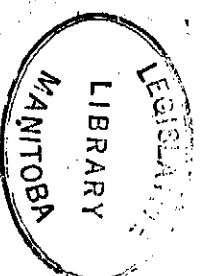
Source: MB-LEG - Rbc JTL 399 L4 MAN 1932 Box

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





A Programme of Reconstruction and Readjustment

To meet the Altered Economic Circumstances of the past few years.

TEN YEARS AGO

Ten years ago the present Government appealed to the country on a programme of economy. That programme was carried out. Manitoba was the only province in Canada that reduced its expenditures from year to year, either at that time or since.

FIVE YEARS AGO

Five years ago the general criticism of the Government was that, while it was honest and reasonably efficient, it had done nothing—it had been a "do nothing" Government—and it was the prevalent view that the times demanded development. The Government at that time went to the people on a programme of development; development of our resources, development of our agriculture, development of our industries, development of our transportation routes. That programme too was carried out, and carried out both economically and satisfactorily to the non-partisan mind.

TODAY

Today we meet under vastly different circumstances from those of ten years ago or of five years ago. Today the economic picture is wholly different from that of even three years ago. To use the words of Premier Bennett:

"We are living in the most abnormal conditions under which people ever lived. . . . We are in the midst of one of the most serious crises the world has ever known. . . . We are living in the most difficult days this country has ever experienced."

RE-ADJUSTMENT TO ALTERED CONDITIONS NECESSARY

With these conditions facing our people, the Government deems it its duty and its responsibility to say frankly to the electorate that the changed economic conditions, regardless of their cause, demand an adjustment, not only as to the character and extent of Government activities carried on and the incidence of the burden of their cost, but also as to the question of wider markets and, in addition, the difficult and perplexing problem of debt adjustment. Under these circumstances the Government will submit to the electors for their endorsement at the polls a programme of reconstruction and re-adjustment aimed to meet the changed economic conditions of the past two years.

PROGRAMME OF RECONSTRUCTION AND RE-ADJUSTMENT

This programme may be set out briefly under six headings:

1. THE PLEDGE TO PROVIDE A NON-PARTISAN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION RATHER THAN A POLITICAL ONE.
2. THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT, NAMELY, THAT OF ADJUSTING GOVERNMENT FINANCES AND GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES TO THE CHANGED CONDITIONS, WITH THE LOWEST COST TO THE PEOPLE AND THE LEAST DISTURBANCE TO ESSENTIAL SERVICES.
3. THE FUNDAMENTAL BENEDY—WIDER MARKETS FOR THE PRODUCTS OF OUR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES (AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, FORESTS AND MINES).
4. THE IMMEDIATE NEED—JOBS FOR THE UNEMPLOYED IN PRODUCTIVE INDUSTRY RATHER THAN IN CHARITABLE OR GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKINGS.
5. THE TWO CHIEF ESSENTIALS TO RE-CONSTRUCTION—SECURITY OF TENURE TO FARMERS AND HOME OWNERS, AND THE ADJUSTMENT OF THE UNFAIR BURDEN OF INDEBTEDNESS.
6. POLICIES WITH RESPECT TO MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES.

NON-PARTISAN ADMINISTRATION PROPOSED

Our statement of policy in respect to non-partisan administration is as follows:

It is our belief that the first step towards the realization of improved conditions in Manitoba ought to be the abandonment of party warfare and the establishment of a Government which will represent as far as possible the unprejudiced, non-partisan thought of the Province.

In order that our whole thought and best energies may be applied to meet the problem before us, we pledge ourselves to carry out such a policy.

We believe that this will do much to increase confidence, not only in the future of the Province and its institutions, but also in the probable efficiency of the Government and the effectiveness of its policies.

THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY---ADJUSTMENT OF FINANCES AND ACTIVITIES

The Government recognizes as its primary responsibility the adjustment of its finances and its activities to the changed conditions with the least cost to the people and the least disturbance to its essential services.

In carrying out this responsibility we shall be guided, among other things, by the five principles embodied in the Platform, as follows:

1. **THE COSTS OF GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES TO BE REDUCED WHERE POSSIBLE OR NECESSARY.**
2. **BORROWING FOR ORDINARY CAPITAL PURPOSES TO BE DISCONTINUED.**
3. **A SURVEY OF EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES BY A NON-PARTISAN BODY TO BE UNDERTAKEN.**
4. **ALLOCATION OF SOURCES OF REVENUE TO BE CLARIFIED.**
5. **THE COMPLETE ABOLITION OF LAND TAXES FOR PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT PURPOSES.**

Reduction in Cost of Activities—We pledge ourselves to such reductions in the cost of Government activities as are not inconsistent with sound and efficient administration, and the maintenance of adequate community and social services.

Borrowing Discontinued—We pledge ourselves to continue the policy started last autumn of no further borrowing for new enterprises during the period of depression, except such as may be necessary for relief and for self-supporting activities already established.

Non-Partisan Survey—In order that the public and the Legislature may have before it an entirely unprejudiced and non-partisan survey of the expenditures and revenues of the Province, we approve of the decision already announced by the Government, to supplement the Survey made last year of the expenditures and revenues of every department, by the appointment of a non-partisan committee of outstanding and specially qualified citizens, acting without pay, and with the same purpose and methods as the May Commission of England.

Delimitation of Revenue Fields—With a view to effecting the most equitable distribution of taxation and to preventing overlapping, we shall seek, in co-operation with the Dominion and the other provinces, to determine and put into effect a more satisfactory delimitation of the fields of taxation as between the provinces, the municipalities and the Dominion.

Provisional Land Taxes to be Abolished—In order to lighten the tax burden on farm land and urban property and also to make available for rural and urban municipalities, this source of revenue for the maintenance of schools and other services, we shall abolish all taxes now levied on land and real property for Provincial Government purposes.

THE FUNDAMENTAL REMEDY---WIDER MARKETS

The fundamental remedy for present difficulties is wider markets. Unless these are obtained, agriculture will continue to languish and business to stagnate in Western Canada. Markets must be obtained in other countries as well as at home. Some of the principles by which we shall be guided have been set out in the Platform, as follows:

1. **MEASURES TO SECURE WIDER MARKETS TO BE URGED UPON THE DOMINION.**
2. **GREATER EFFICIENCY IN MARKETING PRACTICE TO BE PROMOTED.**
3. **PUBLIC MARKETS TO BE ESTABLISHED.**
4. **BETTER MARKETS FOR MANITOBA FISH TO BE SOUGHT.**
5. **MARKET ROADS TO BE FURTHER IMPROVED.**

Wider Markets—In view of the fact that economic conditions in Manitoba depend very largely upon the fiscal policy of the Dominion and more particularly in view of the approaching Economic Conference on Imperial Trade, we shall urge upon the Federal Government that measures be adopted to secure wider markets for the products of our farms, mines, forests and fisheries, in order to re-establish and maintain these fundamental industries on a sound basis.

Greater Marketing Efficiency—In view of the wide spread between the prices received by producers and those paid by consumers for many farm products, and in order that producers may obtain a fair proportion of the price the consumer pays for those products, we shall investigate ways and means of bringing about greater efficiency in the marketing of such products. Among other things we favor the establishment of voluntary co-operative marketing organizations amongst primary producers.

MISCELLANEOUS POLICIES

The policies with respect to some of the other services and activities may be outlined briefly as follows:

- (1) PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO BE KEPT OPEN.
- (2) PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES FAVORED.
- (3) PROVINCIAL HYDRO TO BE CONTINUED ON SOUND BUSINESS LINES.
- (4) TELEPHONE POLICY APPROVED.
- (5) DEVELOPMENT OF MINING RESOURCES TO BE ENCOURAGED.
- (6) WATER LEVELS TO BE REGULATED IN THE INTEREST OF THOSE AFFECTED.
- (7) TOURIST TRAFFIC TO BE ENCOURAGED.
- (8) CONTINUANCE OF CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS FAVORED.
- (9) TRADE VIA HUDSON BAY SUPPORTED.

1. Public Schools—Our educational policy will continue to be based upon the primary necessity of affording every child in the Province the opportunity for a public school education. We shall encourage and, as far as possible, assist such high school and vocational education as will best equip those taking it to fit into the economic life of the Province. We shall continue the fullest co-operation in these matters with parents, trustees and teachers.

2. Public Health—In view of the reduced maternal and infant mortality rates throughout the Province during the last ten years, and in view of the fact that there has been a great reduction in the death rate from communicable diseases of childhood, among which is to be noted a 50% reduction in diphtheria in the past three years, we favor the continuance of the present policy of the Department of Health in connection with preventive medicine and the control of communicable diseases.

3. Provincial Hydro—Since this institution is now paying its way and serving a large number of communities, it will be our policy to extend it as rapidly as other communities desire to accept it on sound business lines.

4. Telephones—We approve the continuance of the telephone policy governing rural rates which was established with a view to creating telephone facilities for farmers at the lowest possible cost.

To assist farmers to retain their telephone service we favor the continuance of the policy adopted some time ago, of carrying such subscribers as are now unable to pay arrears for an extended period on the basis of current rentals being paid in whole or in part as they become due.

To encourage subscribers who have discontinued service for a year or more and to encourage new subscribers to install telephones, we favor the policy of the Telephone Commission now in effect, namely, the installation of telephones without cost where no new construction is required, and the continuing of telephone service now installed until the fall of 1932 if necessary without payment of rentals until the subscriber can determine his ability to pay after the proceeds of the 1932 crop are received.

With respect to urban subscribers, we approve of the policy of the Commission which, with a view to retaining the largest possible number of urban subscribers and for the purpose of encouraging new subscribers, has carried out, and will continue to carry out an active survey and campaign in an endeavor to secure a larger number of subscribers in each urban area, with the object of providing a wider telephone service than exists at present, at the lowest possible cost to the urban subscriber.

5. Mining Resources—In order to help bring about a better balance in our industrial activities and provide other opportunities for our people, we shall encourage a sane policy of exploration of our mining resources in Central and Northern Manitoba, and also the development of these resources by the equitable control and administration of our northern water powers, and by revised regulations adapted to meet the needs of the present situation.

6. Water Levels—We recommend that, after investigation, whatever practical steps may be found advisable be taken to regulate the water levels in Lakes Winnipeg and Manitoba, in such manner as will protect the best interests of all concerned.

7. Tourist Traffic—We favor continuing every reasonable encouragement of the development of the Tourist Traffic.

8. Canadian National Railways—As outlined in the Provincial Government's representations to the Royal Commission on Railways, we strongly support the continuance of that System as a Government-owned Railway.

9. Churchill Facilities and Transportation Rates—We favor the early completion and extension of the facilities for the movement of trade through the port at Churchill and pledge our continued efforts to the securing of competitive rail and ocean rates to and from that port.