

an attractive policy of immigration.

The care of the returned soldiers cannot be overlooked. This country is under a solemn obligation to see that these men are looked after satisfactorily, and while many complaints have been heard as to the treatment of returned soldiers, one thing is certain that they will demand that this condition be remedied at an early date.

Paragraph seven of the statement deals with the development of transportation facilities. This, of course, is an old story and it remains to be seen whether the reconstructed Government exhibits greater energy in dealing with this matter than its predecessor.

The reduction of public expenditure is very far off if the record of the Borden Government is to be continued. The Halifax platform proclaimed in the strongest terms the necessity of reducing public expenditure as carried on under the Laurier Government, but whether any domestic or war expenditure reduction is the last thing to be seen in the action of the Borden Government.

We are afraid that in the opinion of the present Government composed as it is of so many friends of the financial magnates of this country, no very drastic scheme of curtailment will be enforced so as to reduce the profits of these gentlemen. They are of a class that will not stand for that kind of treatment.

The general development of the resources of Canada is one demanding the serious attention of any Government but it will require a strong hand at the helm to prevent the controllers of the administration from dissipating these resources if recent legislation, evidently endorsed by the present Administration, is carried into effect.

The last paragraph of the statement speaks of the needs of the industrial population. This presumably refers more particularly to the labouring classes. Six years of the Borden Government has failed to win the confidence of the labour men and we venture the opinion that so long as Bordenism predominates in the present Cabinet, especially when it is composed of so many of what are known as the big Interests men, little progress will be made towards satisfying the labouring classes.

Believing it will be of interest to our readers to compare the above Borden platform with the other platforms issued by Sir Robert Borden we reproduce what is known as the Famous Halifax platform and also the Borden anti-election platform of August 1911.

The Halifax platform which was issued in August 1907 is as follows:

1. Honest appropriation and expenditure of public moneys in the public interest.
2. Appointment of public officials upon considerations of capacity and personal character and not of party service alone.
3. More effective provisions to punish bribery and fraud at elections, to ensure thorough publicity as to expenditures by political organizations, to prevent the accumulation of campaign funds for corrupt purposes and to prohibit contributions thereto by corporations, contractors and promoters, to expedite the hearing of election petitions and to prevent collusive arrangements for the withdrawal or compromise thereof, to provide for a thorough investigation of corrupt practices, and if necessary to appoint an independent prosecutor

officer charged with that duty, to simplify the procedure therefor and to enforce the laws so amended.

4. A thorough and complete reformation of the laws relating to the Civil Service, so that future appointments shall be made by an independent commission acting upon the report of examiners after competitive examination.

5. Such reform in the mode of selecting members of the Senate as will make that Chamber a more useful and representative legislative body.

6. A more careful selection of the sources from which immigration shall be sought, a more rigid inspection of the immigrants and the abolition of the bonus system except under very special circumstances and for the purpose of obtaining particularly desirable classes of settlers.

7. The management and development of the public domain (in which are to be included great national franchises) for the public benefit and under such conditions that a reasonable proportion of the increment of value arising therefrom shall inure to the people.

8. The operation and management of our Government Railways by an independent commission free from partisan control or influence.

9. The development and improvement of our national waterways, the equipment of national ports, the improvement of transportation facilities and consequent reduction of freight rates between the place of production and the market, whether at home or abroad, and the establishment of a thorough system of cold storage.

10. The reorganization of the present Railway Commission as a Public Utilities Commission with wider Powers and more extended jurisdiction so as to establish thorough and effective control over all corporations owning or operating public utilities or invested with franchises of a national character.

11. The establishment after due investigation of a system of national telegraphs and telephones under conditions which shall be just to capital already invested in those enterprises.

12. The improvement of existing postal facilities, especially in newly-developed portions of the country and the inauguration, after proper inquiry as to cost, of a free system of rural mail delivery.

13. A fiscal policy which will promote the production within Canada of useful articles and commodities that can be advantageously produced or manufactured from or by means of our natural resources, having due regard to the interests of the consumer as well as to the just claims of our wage-earning population.

In August 1911, Sir Robert Borden issued his anti-election platform and gave his pledge to carry out the following policy if returned to power:

"1. A thorough reorganization of the methods by which the public expenditure is supervised. The increase in what is known as ordinary controllable expenditure from \$21,500,000 in 1896 to nearly \$74,000,000 in 1911 is proof of extravagance beyond any possible defence.

"2. The granting of their natural resources to the Prairie Provinces.

"3. The construction of the Hudson Bay Railway and its operation by independent commission.

"4. The control and operation by the state, of the terminal elevators.

"5. The necessary encouragement for establishing and carrying out the chilled meat industry.

"6. The establishment of a permanent tariff commission.

"7. The granting of substantial assistance towards the improvement of our public highways.

"8. The extension of free and rural mail delivery.

"9. The extension of Civil Service Reform.

"10. The granting of liberal assistance to the Province for the purpose of supplementing and extending the work of agricultural education and the improvement of agriculture."