

Hon. G. R. Coldwell Unanimous Choice of Conservatives At A Record Breaking Convention

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Evidences of Development

"One of the best evidences of development is shown by the improvement of school plants and premises. This also is an evidence of the improved interest and enterprise of our people and too much credit cannot be given to the people of Manitoba for the improved provision they have made and are making for the housing of their educational plants and equipment and the healthy and sanitary lives of their children while in school.

"In 1899 the value of all school buildings in the province was \$1,410,719 and in 1913 this had increased to \$3,780,076, a most creditable development. Our school buildings are second to none anywhere and a better building and plant always means a better school and better work.

"Now while all this development and improvement has been going on in the elementary and secondary schools the government has not neglected the proper support of higher education in the province. A university is properly regarded as the climax of educational training and in this province an institution for university work had been organized many years ago and is known as Manitoba University. This institution is on a semi-private foundation and, together with certain other colleges and schools, gives university training in our province. The University of Manitoba deals largely with what is commonly called the professional man's training, and the government has always made grants to it to assist its financial equipment and leaving its management in the hands of its governing body. Thus we find that in 1899 the sum of \$3,500 was granted to the university; in 1913 this had risen to \$32,845, which was a most liberal provision for cost of maintenance. In addition to this a sum of \$250,000 has been provided for putting up an engineering building for the work of the university and on a site provided by the government of 137 acres near the new Agricultural College.

Meeting the Wants of the People

"That the development of the university with the assistance of the government has been well looked after may be judged by the way it is meeting the wants of our people as compared with some other countries. For instance, in the year 1910 Manitoba had one out of every 300 of its population in colleges and universities. The United States had 1 out of every 600 of its population in such institutions. The state of New York (one of the oldest, richest and most developed states of the Union) 1 out of every 400 of its population in such institutions, and the great country of Germany (so often quoted as the highest developed country educationally in the world) 1 out of every 890 of its population in such institutions. This is from the educational report of the State of New York for 1910.

"While speaking of university development, let me here refer to the Agricultural College, upon which the province has spent about \$3,500,000 in new buildings and which costs this year \$104,000 to maintain. This equipment is the pride of the province in higher education and is the envy of all who have seen it. The government has spent its energies up to the present in developing this institution as the first and most necessary part of a university in our province.

"There was no agricultural college in 1899 and not even a semblance or beginning of one. It is altogether the creation of the Roblin regime.

Caring for the Unfortunate

"I will now refer to the two other public institutions of learning supported by the government but not under the department of education.

"There is the Deaf and Dumb Institute, with about 100 children. In 1899 the sum of \$12,426 was spent in its maintenance, while in 1913 this was \$47,000. The government is now fitting up certain buildings of

the old Agricultural College for this institution, which has outgrown its present quarters and in a short time will be moved into its new premises. These will have cost about \$400,000.

"There is also the Industrial Training School for boys at Portage la Prairie. A plant has been provided there costing \$319,000 and in 1899 we had none and nothing was spent on it, while in 1913 \$30,000 was spent in maintaining it.

"It does not look as if we stood still in educational matters during the past 14 years, and I submit to all fair-minded people who are not blinded by prejudice that Manitoba has good reason to be proud of its educational development and that the Roblin government, in spite of all the adverse criticism of its opponents, merits the confidence and support of the people of Manitoba upon its educational development.

Compulsory Education

"I now desire to discuss for a few minutes the contentious subject commonly called compulsory education, but which is now better known as truancy provisions for compulsory school attendance. At the outset I assert that we have now in Manitoba compulsory school attendance provisions in force in our statutes as effective as any such laws in force in any province of Canada, and sufficient for all purposes of this country. To understand our position it is necessary to give a short historical account of these provisions in our statutes.

"Prior to the Public School Act of 1890 we had in force in Manitoba an act which provided for separate schools and in that act were certain compulsory education clauses. When the act of 1890 was drawn it left out all provision for separate schools in Manitoba and contained new compulsory education provisions largely the same as then existed in the province of Ontario. Before this act was passed the government of Mr. Greenway was advised by Mr. Dalton McCarthy, K.C., of Ontario, Mr. Joseph Martin, the Attorney-General for Manitoba, and Mr. Clifford Sifton that it might endanger the validity of the whole act if these compulsory provisions were left in and so in the committee stage of the bill they were all struck out of the act and not a syllable was left in it providing for compulsory education.

"The act of 1890 then became law and separate schools were abolished and likewise with them and because of them the compulsory education clauses. This act of 1890, with some amendments from year to year, is the same Public Schools Act now in force in Manitoba. Nothing more was heard of compulsory education until one of the judges of the privy council in England in the course of one of the cases on the School Act which had been taken there expressed an opinion that this province would have been within its rights had it enacted compulsory education clauses in its act of 1890.

Greenway Govt. Did Nothing

"The government of the day, however, did nothing about it and we now come down to the time of the negotiations in 1896 between Mr. Greenway's government in Manitoba and Sir Wilfrid Laurier's government at Ottawa for the settlement of the school question and agitation which had arisen by reason of the act of 1890. An agreement was then come to in the fall of 1896 and was signed by Mr. Laurier on behalf of the Dominion government, and by Clifford Sifton on behalf of the Manitoba government, whereby what was then known as the school question was settled. This agreement known as the Laurier-Greenway settlement was enacted into law by the then Liberal government of Manitoba in the session of 1897.

"Mr. J. D. Cameron (now Mr. Justice Cameron of the Court of Appeals for Manitoba) was attorney general of the Province and Mr. T. C. Norris, now the leader of the present Liberal op-

position in the Legislature, was a member of the House and voted for this settlement and legislation. No attempt or suggestion was then made by the Liberal government or members in the Legislature to enact compulsory education clauses, but they let it severely alone. We may ask why, but the reason will likely appear later.

Compulsory Education Taken Up

"The Liberal government of that day remained in office till the year 1899, when they were defeated and the government of Sir Hugh John Macdonald came in. Soon after this the Hon. Colin H. Campbell, who was administering the educational department of the province took the question of compulsory education up with the government of Sir Rodmond Roblin. And the decision was come to that compulsory education clauses would be enacted if they could be done with safety. Advice was taken and it was found that to do so in the Public Schools Act trouble and agitation would again arise in the province. Mr. Campbell then proceeded on another line of action and began amending and adapting an act respecting neglected children by introducing truancy provisions into it. This was to avoid any constitutional difficulty and that such existed and exists today, is the opinion of your premier and others.

"In confirmation of this I desire to quote to you an opinion of Mr. J. D. Cameron (now Mr. Justice Cameron) delivered in 1906 on the 26th November, when addressing the Young Liberals of Winnipeg, upon the subject of compulsory education, he said: 'In our own Province we have no compulsory law. It would have been embodied in the Act of 1890 had it not been feared that it might affect the validity of that legislation. I submit that the time has arrived when the Legislature must deal with the subject, and must face and solve whatever legal and constitutional objections may be involved.'

Liberals Refused

"Here we have the reason for not enacting compulsory education clauses in the Act of 1890 and we may safely presume also the reasons for not enacting them at the time of the Laurier-Greenway settlement in 1897 and down to 1899 by the Liberal government of that day. But, what they would not do themselves they have without wit or humor demanded that Mr. Roblin's government should do. However, Mr. Campbell was not idle, and having secured some further amendments to the Children's Act, the Roblin government began to appoint some trust and probation officers and set them to work in the City of Winnipeg. Mr. Billiarde was appointed Superintendent of Neglected Children and put in charge of the officers and the work.

Satisfactory Results Obtained

"The operation of these provisions were found so satisfactory in the City of Winnipeg that your government last session decided to further amend the Children's Act and undertake its enforcement throughout the whole province. Provisions were therefore enacted in the session of 1914 which made this act complete in every respect to secure the compulsory attendance of children between the ages of 7 and 14 at some school of their satisfactory education otherwise. These provisions deal with truancy and the non-attendance of such children at school and although in a separate act from the Public Schools Act they take the place of the compulsory provisions which the Liberal government of that day intended to enact, but left out of the act of 1890.

"That there is authority for this course by your government is found in Ontario. That province operates its compulsory education provisions under a 'Truancy Act' passed in 1909 and which forms no part of its Public Schools Act, but is a separate and independent act. The matter is dealt with in the same way in the Province of Alberta, and so we have authority in Manitoba for enacting these provisions in a separate act from our Public Schools Act. I submit also that by so doing and by undertaking the administration of them by the government instead of by public school boards we have successfully faced and solved the legal and constitutional difficulties which Mr. Cameron referred to as standing in the way in his address in 1906.

Government Bears the Cost

"The government have placed the operation of these truancy provisions under my department and we have appointed 14 truancy officers in the province, dividing the country into districts. Eight of these officers are assigned to the City of Winnipeg and district and Mr. Billiarde is superintendent over them. A truancy school or detention home is established in Winnipeg and a most efficient operation and enforcement of the act is on

foot in the province. A sum of \$50,000 has been provided by the legislature for the enforcement of the act and so this cost, which our Liberal friends would put on the school districts of the province, is borne by the government and is a relief to that extent of the districts.

"Every requirement is met by the act as it now stands to secure an effective and satisfactory school attendance of all children between the ages of 7 and 14 years. The act will be administered reasonably and impartially so as not to work a hardship upon any people in the country. In the rural districts particularly good judgment and consideration must be used and any one who has followed up the instructions sent out to school trustees, teachers and principals of schools; to inspectors, truant officers, constables, magistrates, and parents, can come to no other conclusion than that the act will be effectively administered, always remembering the circumstances and conditions of the people.

Teaching English in Public Schools

"On account of the opposition with regard to the teaching of English in the public schools of the province I would like to say a few words. The question is a difficult one and is not applicable only to what are called bilingual schools and schools amongst the foreign-born population, but also has reference to the purely English speaking schools. The subject of the teaching of English in the public schools has been one to which the department has given the greatest attention during the past 14 years, and more particularly during the past seven years. The teaching of English is by no means perfect in the ordinary English speaking schools of the province and I do not suppose ever will be, but I have no hesitation in saying that it is efficient and is constantly being improved, yet many of our English speaking pupils leave school without what might be called a satisfactory accomplishment in the English language. They have a working knowledge of it and that in varying degree is about all that can be expected from the work of the public school. The more complete acquirement of a knowledge of English can only be obtained by subsequent study and by courses in the secondary schools and the colleges of higher learning.

"The same principle applies and the same results are obtained in the bilingual schools and I wish to assert here that English is taught efficiently in all bilingual schools of this province. Some teachers are better than others and the same thing applies to the bilingual schools as to the English speaking schools. An efficient teacher for the bilingual schools are employed as can be got, and while there may be at times some schools where the teachers are not as good as could be desired, yet they are meeting a practical want and doing the work as reasonably well as can be expected and good progress is being made in every school amongst the foreign-born population.

"The minister, returning to the school question, in vehement tones said, 'I say it is an outrage against the province and an insult to the community to say that English is not taught in the schools. There is not one school in the whole of the province receiving any kind of support from the Roblin government, in which English is not taught, and taught well. I challenge anyone to prove anything to the contrary.'

Gratifying Progress Being Made

"Most gratifying progress is being made in many of them, such as German bilingual schools and the French bilingual schools. Ruthenian and Polish bilingual schools are being built up and developed to the same satisfactory state of efficiency with regard to the teaching of English as all other schools and I am pleased to be able to say that the progress is most gratifying and satisfactory.

"I find amongst the Ruthenian and Polish people particularly, a strong desire to learn the English language. The older people desire their children to be able to speak English and many of them make great efforts themselves to acquire a working knowledge of the language. In spite of all criticism that may be addressed to the work of these schools I wish to assure the people of Manitoba that English is taught efficiently, that everything is being done that reasonably can be done by way of securing efficient teachers and by careful and frequent inspection of these schools by English speaking inspectors (and no others) to develop a proper training in a working knowledge of the English language for the children of our Ruthenian and Polish settlers.

Assisting Foreign Settlers

"I have no hesitation in saying that the largest public schools in the country districts are to be found amongst our Ruthenian and Polish people. The policy of the department of education is to give them every encouragement and help and sympathy in connection with the difficulties of their surroundings. Nothing is to be gained by abusing or knocking these people. They are making excellent settlers in the province and are developing splendidly and the desire of all of them is as soon as possible to get on the land and acquire a freehold holding in the province. Difficulties, of course, arise

with them and always will arise. You cannot force or drive these people any more than you can force or drive a Britisher; but by a genuine sympathy with their conditions, as of strangers in a strange land, trying to meet their point of view and to appreciate their circumstances, is enabling the department to accomplish more in the way of education amongst these people than in any other manner.

"I want to inform the people of the province here that under a most efficient system of public school inspection which prevails in this province, the Ruthenian and Polish bilingual schools are in every case inspected by English speaking inspectors, the work is done efficiently and in most cases frequently. By that means help is given to the weaker teacher in these schools, the same as in the English speaking schools.

The Flag Policy

"No resume of the growth and development of the educational affairs of the province under the Roblin government would be complete without reference to the flag policy introduced by the premier some 8 or 9 years ago. This policy requires the flying of the Union Jack over all schools of the province while the school is in session. For a long time it was violently opposed and ridiculed by the Liberals all over the province, but its purely patriotic teachings and sentiment has borne down all opposition and though we hear an occasional growl about it from some unpatriotic Liberal, as a party these people dare not oppose the flying of the Union Jack over our schools.

"Mention should also be made of the Empire Day ceremonies and the pamphlet issued in connection therewith of the Hands Across the Seas Movement which has been fostered and encouraged by the government and all of which as patriotic movements are doing wonders in developing Canadian and British citizenship amongst the new-comers to our country. The department of education has used every effort to encourage and revive an active interest in the schools by the parents of children and all ratepayers and has been most successful along this line, conventions of teachers, trustees and inspectors have been organized and developed all over the province and today in spite of the criticism of our opponents we are building up and developing an educational system in our province which is meeting the wants of the people as they were never met before. Everywhere one travels in the provinces our schools are the features on the landscape and are pointed to with pride by the people who are supporting them. When educationalists who visit our province, like Dr. J. W. Robertson, Prof. James, of Ottawa; Earl Grey and Dr. Cody refer in the most complimentary terms to our educational work, our own people may feel satisfied that we are not by any means lagging in our educational development. But a great deal remains and always will remain to be done and we will never reach a stage of perfection in education. No nation or people have yet. But there is no reason to halt or despair over this. We are making progress and very marked progress and it only remains for our people to maintain their interest in history of Manitoba on this subject, public education and the government of Sir Rodmond Roblin in office to see a continued march of progress, even greater than has taken place in the last 10 or 12 years."

Mr. Aikins' Ovation

"Mr. Aikins, who followed Mr. Coldwell, first set the minds of his hearers easy on the post office question. The matter had been included in the main estimates, and the minister of public works had assured him that if any extra expense was needed it would be given.

"The federal member dealt at length with the temperance question. In part he said:

Mr. Aikins' Regret

"Mr. Aikins expressed regret that he was not able to be present at the organization meeting of the Young Men's Conservative Association. He said: 'The hope of a well governed Canada is in the young men of Canada, and as we believe the policy and principles of the Conservative party are best adapted to develop and make prosperous and peaceful our country and Empire, we desire the young men to join us and our association. This association is not formed for election purposes and then ceasing, but a continuing one to inform and benefit its members and through which they may take concerted action in both provincial and Dominion affairs. My sphere lies in Dominion matters; the Hon. Mr. Coldwell's in provincial, and as the meeting this evening is for provincial purposes, I will not speak of Dominion affairs.'

"To Support Mr. Coldwell
"I am in this coming contest supporting my friend Mr. Coldwell because he is a man of good character, sound judgment, strong convictions, and a capable administrator; Manitoba never had a better minister of education or a man who always has the interest of his country and constituency at heart.

"I also am supporting the government of which he is a member. It is a clean government; no mud thrown at it has stuck; it is free from scandal; it is progressive; has strong con-

victions concerning provincial progress and rights and the courage to advance and defend them.

Province Has Prospered

"The province has prospered under it. Winnipeg has become a great metropolis; Brandon is progressing, not as fast as I could wish, but I hope through the combined efforts of the local and Dominion governments it will have cheap power and also become a large manufacturing city. It is in a great agricultural district and agricultural interests have not been neglected by the Roblin government. Its college is the best in Canada and as good as any in America.

Boundary Extension

"The boundaries of the province have been extended, thus affording a means in Manitoba of transporting our grain and produce over a Manitoba railway to a Manitoba port to be crossed to Liverpool by a route 700 miles shorter than any other.

The Temperance Question

"Of what then have the people to complain of the Roblin government. Some say it is not sound on the temperance question. Though I do not agree with all that Premier Roblin has said concerning this, and the manner in which he has said it, I agree generally in the policy which he is adopting of local option as a means to the ends desired by all temperance people for the suppression of the liquor traffic. Drunkenness has been the curse of the ages, the destruction of nations, the dishonor and debasement of humanity and should be driven from Canada.

What the Problem Is

The problem is how to do it. A policy of a referendum concerning the abolition of the bar will not accomplish that purpose. In principle, a referendum on such a subject is an abnegation of responsibility by a political party, an invasion of the principle of responsible government. It is a confession of weakness by the party who offers it to the country, a confession that that party has not a mind made up or any conviction of its own on the subject a declaration that it does not know what to do concerning it, and suggests to the people that it is willing to go with the majority, either in favor or against the abolition of the bar. They will adopt a temperance policy, not because it is right in principle, but only if it is popular; they declare they will do what other people think—not as they think. Indeed, they do not want to think.

British Principles

In British government and in the government of all British dominions, the principle has obtained, and with good results, that the political party should declare its policy and submit it to the people. On the question of temperance, the Liberal party in the province appears to have no policy. We need men who have opinions and will to govern our country; not those who lack courage and have no convictions. The premier of our province has convictions and he has the courage of his convictions, and the people of the province admire him for it.

Lessons for People

"The people of the present day should learn lessons from the past history of Manitoba on this subject. In the eighteen eighties, three-fourths in area of our province had adopted the Scott Act. West of our province there was total prohibition, save in so far as the government would give permits for the introduction into the territories of liquor. What an opportunity for the people of the West, if there only had prevailed a persistent, steadfast public sentiment to support day and night the principle of prohibition; but there was not that strong, persistent, preponderating public sentiment guarding day and night the principles which they professed, with the result that the legislation was not enforced and the people lapsed into the license system.

Greenway Govt's Amendments

"In 1892, the Greenway government had a referendum resulting in a majority of over 11,000 in favor of prohibition; yet the Greenway government refused to take any action.

Sifton's Explanation

The reason given for it was stated in the legislature by the attorney general, the Hon. Mr. Sifton, then representing this constituency. He said: 'As regards prohibition of retail sales, he was pleased that the temperance people who came here a few days ago did not make any request to have that enacted. The people of Manitoba did not want several things in one, two, or three acts of parliament; but absolute prohibition of every description of the liquor traffic. He was of opinion that a partial prohibitory law could not be enforced any more than you could enforce a partial prohibitory law as regards stealing. You cannot regulate anything of the kind, but must make it totally outlawed, and the only kind of prohibitory law that can be enforced is a law which prohibits, and makes it unlawful to have, to sell, to make, or to import it, and as soon as that is done, the traffic will die out of itself, because every self-respecting citizen will respect the law. When the parliament of Canada, which it is believed has the sole power to do so, passes such an act as we require, then this house will, if it be necessary, supplement such an act by all legislation

HEAVY TOLL LIFE BY FIRE AT NEW YORK

Seven Persons Burned to Death in a Tenement Early Today.

FOUR WOMEN ARE AMONG VICTIMS

New York, N.Y., June 10. — Seven persons, four of them women, were burned to death and eight more were badly injured in a fire that spread through an old style east side tenement early today. More than a score of others were less seriously hurt.

The fire was discovered shortly before 4 o'clock by a tenant who saw a finger of flame dart from a locker under the stairs and screamed a warning. But the fire whirled through the tenement so rapidly that escape was cut off before all the tenants had been aroused.

A woman and her son were killed by leaping from a window.

New York, June 10.—(Later)—Another woman tenant died in the hospital today, bringing the total number of fire victims up to eight.

necessary to absolutely prohibit the liquor traffic in this province."

Another Plebiscite

In 1898, there was another plebiscite by the Dominion government, which resulted in a majority in favor of prohibition in Manitoba of over 9,000 and yet neither the Liberal government in the province or in the Dominion took action. Is not the Liberal party of those days the same Liberal party as now?

"In 1899 there was an election in which Hugh John Macdonald succeeded. He had a definite policy of advanced legislation for the suppression of drunkenness and he placed it before the people—not by a side-step or make-shift referendum policy, but by a definite declaration of principle. He adhered to that because the people supported his policy, and a bill was prepared to do away with the retail trade in the province. That bill was approved of by him, but when presented to the extremists of the temperance party, was refused by them, and they demanded that there should be the extreme legislation introduced to abolish, as far as possible, the wholesale as well as the retail. They were told that they would then be skating on thin ice; nevertheless, they insisted. The more moderate measure gave place to the extreme one. Of this measure the Privy Council said that it was very drastic, perhaps the most stringent that was ever enacted on the subject. The act was declared to be within the power of the legislature. The Roblin government, however, which had taken the place of the Macdonald government, were convinced that there would not be behind it that strong preponderating public sentiment which was necessary to support it, but in order to test the feeling of the people of the province, they submitted a plebiscite or referendum on it. The supporters, the leaders of the temperance parties, were not united and a very large majority vote, over 6,000 was against the putting into force of that act. All this clearly shows that before the extreme legislation should be passed two things must exist: (1) A strong party possessing the conviction that the abolition of the bar is the best for the people. The Liberal party has no such sentiment. And (2) such a powerful, steady public opinion that would sustain the enforcement of the legislation when passed. That does not yet exist; if it did local option would be passed. Is it not better, rather than having enthusiastic rallies against the enemy, only to be driven back, to make haste slowly but surely, advance safely and hold the ground?"

Policy of Government

This is the policy of the Roblin government as I understand it; a policy of local option which the people of any portion of our province can adopt and have enforced; Brandon can have it if she wishes, or any part of Manitoba. It now remains, therefore, with the people by their own local votes to legislate for themselves, and when they have so acted generally in the province, the Roblin government promises the larger prohibitive measure." The meeting closed at 10:50 with the hearty singing of the National Anthem. Cheers were given for the King, Premier Roblin, Hon. Mr. Coldwell and Mr. Aikins.

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