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Conservative Leader's Manifesto.

To the Electors of the Third and Fourth Electoral Districts of Queen's County: Gentlemen:—

As the fate of the present moribund Government now depends on your decision, I desire to place before you some of the principal issues involved.

You are asked to continue in power the party which for the past twenty years has controlled the destinies of this Province. Why should you prolong their useless reign?

Whatever they have done or left undone they have never failed to produce a deficit. The debt, as shown by the Public Accounts, was \$877,356 on September 30th, 1910, to which must be added the deficit of last year, estimated at \$31,435, and all other unpaid liabilities, the total amount of which will only be ascertained on a proper audit. The interest on this debt now absorbs the whole of the land tax. The subsidies from Canada have grown from \$183,519 in 1890 to \$272,181 in 1910, an increase of \$88,662, but in the same period the expenditure has increased from \$305,779 to \$424,461 (the estimate for last year), being an increase of \$118,682. That is to say, leaving direct taxation out of the question, the increase of expenditure is \$30,000 per annum greater than the increase of income, and we are that much further from making revenue and expenditure meet than we were when the present Government came into power, notwithstanding that they have taken from the people in taxes more than one million dollars.

The public services are running down at a ruinous rate. There is no subject of greater importance than Education. How has the Public School system fared at the hands of the Government? The number of pupils enrolled has decreased by 4590; supplements have been abolished and the bonus reduced, entailing a yearly loss to teachers of \$10,579; the average salaries of teachers has greatly declined, yet the total cost of education has increased by \$17,754 per annum. The only remedy the Government was able to propose was a Commission upon whose report they refused to act, and which has cost up to date \$4000.

The Department of Public Works is to be specially noted for inefficiency and waste, steadily increasing. The Agricultural Department has signally failed to meet the growing requirements of the Province. Though in close affiliation with the late Federal Government, our Government has failed to secure recognition of our rights to an adequate subsidy or settlement of our claims. Our transportation grievances have been increased instead of remedied. The School Book ring is still in possession of a large part of the field, extorting from the parents double prices for text books (others than readers) and school supplies. The Government has lost the leadership of Hon. F. L. Haszard and the "Government-in-line" at Ottawa, which were its chief assets.

With a growing debt, declining services and lost influence, what reason can be given for allowing the Party now occupying the place of administration to prolong its injurious existence? Consider on the other hand some of the advantages which will arise from a change of Government.

In respect to Education, Honourable Mr. Borden has promised, out of the abounding revenues of Canada, "liberal assistance to the Province for the purpose of supplementing the work of agricultural education and for the improvement of agriculture."

With our educational system specially adapted to the requirements of this Province, the aid thus promised would afford the necessary financial relief, and would fill the departments of Education and Agriculture with new life and vigor.

Mr. Borden has also promised "To grant substantial assistance towards the improvement of public highways, and to remove the disadvantages under which we labor in the transportation of goods and passengers to and from the mainland."

The fulfilment of these promises means good roads from the farm to the point of shipment, greatly reduced freight and passenger rates, cold storage of perishable goods from the place of origin to the destination and the consequent increase in value of our exports.

It is essential to place ourselves in the best possible position to take advantage of these splendid offers. While the Government led by Mr. Borden would not withhold justice from any Province for party reasons, yet it is not reasonable to expect that the Local Government, constituted as it is, would now be able to improve on the dismal failure they made in dealing with a Federal Government with which they were in accord for fifteen years.

The same may be said of the several claims which this Province has against the Dominion for the cost of the Railway, non-fulfilment of the terms of Union, the alienation of the Public Lands of Canada and other claims set forth in our platform.

Prompt and energetic action is necessary as to all these claims, but particularly in respect to an indemnity for our share of the Public Lands which we helped to buy from the Hudson Bay Company and equip for settlement. Large areas of these Lands have already been given away to the larger Provinces and the remainder is now about to be disposed of in the same way. We should have been heard long ago to protest against the alienation of this invaluable property in which we had a partnership interest unless we received compensation for our share, but every effort to induce the Provincial Government to look after our interest was unavailing.

If it is your will that the party which I have the honour to lead be returned to power we shall at once proceed to realize upon the promises above set forth, to deal effectively with the problems of education; the construction of good roads and other public works; the reform of the Election law; the equalization of revenue and expenditure; and provision for the public debt; a modern system of keeping the public accounts, and lastly, but of vast importance to our welfare, the proper presentation of our just claims against Canada for larger subsidy and additional consideration.

In the circumstances, I respectfully ask you to terminate as speedily as possible the existence of a worn out Government, whose retention

cannot fail to operate disastrously to the interests of this Province, and by your votes for Dr. Dewar and Professor McPhail, to usher in a brighter and more prosperous day for the Province.

Faithfully yours,
J. A. MATHIESON

The Borden Banquet.

The complimentary banquet tendered to Hon. R. L. Borden, Premier of Canada, by the Conservatives, at Halifax on Thursday evening last was one of the grandest affairs of the kind that ever took place in Canada. It certainly eclipsed, far and away, anything of a kindred nature previously undertaken in Nova Scotia.

The banquet was held in the Mayflower rink, a building capable of holding about four thousand people. Seven hundred and eighty tickets had been disposed of, and at least two hundred persons more desired to attend; but they could not be accommodated. In every particular the banquet was an unqualified success. Profuse and appropriate decorations; the best band music available; a delectable menu, and brilliant speeches were outstanding features of the grand occasion.

Among those in attendance, from this Province, were A. A. McLean, M. P., James Paton Esq., Dr. Murphy, and A. E. Arsenault, M. P. Premier Borden was attended by seven of his Cabinet ministers, viz: Hons. Messrs. Foster, Cochrane, Doherty, Hazen, Monk, Pelletier and Nantel, besides a number of members of Parliament from different Provinces, and leading Conservatives from all sections of the Dominion and members of the Legislatures of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Brilliant speeches were made by Premier Borden and all the other Cabinet members present, as well as by others. In rising to respond to the toast of his health, Mr. Borden was tendered an enthusiastic ovation. All present rose to their feet and applauded and cheered for some minutes. When at last he was allowed to begin he spoke as follows:

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen:—I need not tell you that I am deeply moved by this splendid reception accorded to me in this city where I have spent the best years of my life, and perhaps my happiest days, and which I have had the honor of representing for many years in the parliament of Canada. I am proud of this reception because it is accorded to me by those with whom I have fought shoulder to shoulder and side by side in some of the fiercest political battles ever waged in Canada. A great soldier said some years ago, that those only know the true meaning of comradeship who had marched and fought and bivouacked together. The same holds true of political comradeship. In the contests which we have waged we have not always proved victorious, but in 1908, and again in 1911, the result has more than made amends for the defeat which we sustained, not only in this country, but in this province in 1904. My own election in this constituency on the 21st of September, 1911, was marred by the defeat of my friend and colleague, A. B. Crosby. I desire to repeat tonight the tribute which I have paid to him more than once by stating what is only the truth, that no constituency was more faithfully and loyally served by its representative in the late parliament than was his constituency of Halifax by A. B. Crosby. However, if for the moment defeated, he rejoices, as we all rejoice, in the wider victory which our party won throughout the Dominion.

THE ELECTION ISSUE.

The issue which confronted the people of Canada in the recent contest was of surpassing interest and importance, not only to this Dominion, but to the whole Empire. Its importance was realized by the people of Canada, and it is not amiss on this occasion to express our appreciation of those Liberals who placed the interests of Canada above the ties of party allegiance, and who fought with us in this campaign for the welfare of Canada and of the Empire.

The Liberal Conservative party would not be worthy of its record, or of its traditions, and it would not be worthy of the name which it bears if it were not able to welcome the aid of such men; it would not be worthy of its record, of its traditions and of its name, if it were not willing to recognize, as we have sought to recognize, the aid which these men brought and the influence which they exerted in that contest. In some quarters which I need not name, the claim has been made that the result of the recent elections was due to some hostile or unfriendly spirit on the part of the Canadian people to the great neighboring republic. It is desirable that any such idea, if it exists should be dissipated and dispelled. A brief retrospect will enable us to arrive at a just conclusion with regard to this. In 1879 Canada placed upon her statute books a startling offer of reciprocity, which remained open to the United States for 18 years, or until 1897, when it was repealed by the government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. The United States always declined to entertain this standing offer, and we never questioned their perfect and absolute right to take that course. In the meantime Canada had entered upon a policy which aimed at the development of the natural resources of this country, the growth of its industries, and the preservation of its home market. Canada's fiscal autonomy, in involving the complete control of her tariff, had been finally acknowledged in 1879, and it will never be relinquished. The reciprocity compact proposed by the late government would have interfered with Canada's complete control of its own fiscal system, and, in many respects, it was properly regarded as a reversal of the policy which this country had pursued for many years.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF POWER.

"But Mr. Chairman, I did not come here to exult over our success. The recent victory has brought with it responsibilities to which no man in Canada is more keenly alive than myself. The liberal conservative party must be true to its record and its traditions; it must give to the people of Canada intelligent, progressive and clean government. There are many problems which confront those who are responsible for the administration of public affairs in Canada today. Great problems have been solved in the past and no greater problem was ever faced by any people than the binding together of the scattered communities, of eastern Canada into one Dominion and the extension of our boundaries over the vast area which today constitutes Canada. Looking back over the history of the past one is almost amazed at the audacity of the undertaking and the success which has hitherto attended it. There is every reason to believe that Canada is entering upon a period of development and growth even greater and more important than that which we have witnessed in the past. The marvellous growth of our western country will undoubtedly continue and there is no reason to suppose that similar if not equal development will not come to eastern Canada as well, and especially to this little province by the sea, which in its extent and the variety of its resources, is not surpassed by any equal area in Canada. Intelligent administration of public affairs must involve a wise conservation of our natural resources as well as their development in the interest of the whole people.

THE TRANSPORTATION PROBLEM.

"In a country like Canada with an enormous area and scattered population the problem of transportation is of prime and vital importance, and you may rest assured that the liberal conservative party, which conceived and carried into effect the project of binding together the provinces of Canada first by the Intercolonial railway and afterwards by the

and of fealty, by historic association and tradition, by the character of its institutions and by the free will of its people, by the like ties of kinship, by constant social and commercial intercourse, by proximity and mutual respect and good will this country is closely associated with the United States. Canada's voice and influence should always be for harmony and not for discord between our Empire and the great republic, and I believe that she will always be a bond of abiding friendship between them. I trust that the anniversary of 100 years of peace will be commemorated in the two countries with a deep and solemn sense of national responsibility and that each will accomplish its destiny under the splendid inspiration of enduring and increasing friendship and good will.

NOVA SCOTIA'S GOOD WORK.

"Turning again to the results of the recent election, I am glad to see among those assembled here tonight the men who carried nine of the eighteen seats in this province and the men who put up a splendid though unsuccessful fight in the other nine counties. In 1904 Nova Scotia did not elect a single liberal-conservative to the federal parliament. Today we hold nine of the eighteen seats, and if a general election were held tomorrow, I leave it to your imagination as to what the result would be. Considering the point at which we started only seven years ago in this province the liberal conservative party has every reason to be proud of the results of the magnificent efforts which it has put forth during the past seven years. We hold sixteen seats in the maritime provinces today and considering the results in two counties in New Brunswick, there is good reason to claim that upon a fair reckoning there should have been eighteen at least. But our gains have not by any means been confined to the maritime provinces alone. Altogether we gained about forty seats. Ontario today holds the record with its majority of sixty while in British Columbia not a single liberal has been left to tell the tale. It is true that in the Province of Alberta, and the Province of Saskatchewan, we sustained the loss of two seats, but that was the result of conditions which I believe will not prevail in the future and I look for a splendid representation of liberal conservatives in the next parliament from those provinces.

and afterwards by the

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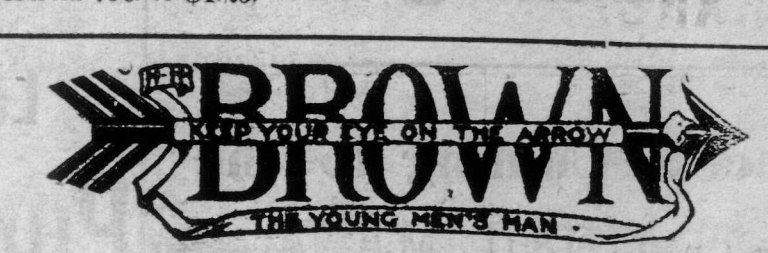
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