

The following is The Canadian Press summary of the 30-plank platform passed by the Convention in its three day session, which ended after the selection of Mr. Drew as new National Leader, succeeding Hon. John Bracken, who retired because of age and ill-health:

- " 1. 'Unswerving loyalty' to the King.
- " 2. Ever-stronger ties with other British Commonwealth nations, closer relations with the United States and France, continued strong support of Europe's Western Europe union and the United Nations, 'friendly firmness' toward Russia.
- " 3. Free enterprise, with restraints against monopoly and unfair competition.
- " 4. Outlawing of 'Communist activities' in Canada.
- " 5. No infringement of provincial rights.
- " 6. Opposition to socialism, coupled with maintenance of sound national policy through encouragement and development of natural resources.
- " 7. Modification of international monetary fund regulations to eliminate 'injury' done by Foreign Exchange Control rules.
- " 8. Lessening of the taxation 'burden'.
- " 9. Reduction of the cost of government.
- " 10. Expanded international trade and elimination of 'abnormal trade barriers'.
- " 11. Compensation for municipalities for taxes lost as a result of Crown-ownership of property.
- " 12. Maximum income-stability for the farmer.
- " 13. A contributory social-security program available to every Canadian regardless of occupation.
- " 14. Adequate low-cost housing.
- " 15. Maximum production to reduce the cost of living.
- " 16. Better labour-management relationship, with fair and adequate wages, standard hours, holidays with pay, certification after majority votes, dispute-conciliation machinery, equal pay for men and women doing equal work.
- " 17. A defence policy ensuring 'the safety of the Canadian people'.
- " 18. A standing House of Commons committee on veterans affairs; retention of veterans legislation and, where necessary, improvement of such laws.
- " 19. Equality of women with men in all government responsibilities.
- " 20. Conservation and development of natural resources and maximum industrial production.
- " 21. A long-range immigration policy aimed at bringing selected immigrants to Canada.
- " 22. A free market for gold.
- " 23. A freight-rates investigation with emphasis on 'discrimination between the several geographical areas'.
- " 24. Immediate completion of a hard-surface

Trans-Canada Highway.

- " 25. Radio-broadcasting regulations handled by a body independent of the government; abolition of the \$2.50 radio licence fee.
- " 26. The crown should be just as liable as an individual in the courts; the Archambault report on penal reform should be implemented.
- " 27. A 'Canadian national flag'.
- " 28. A 'fixed policy, limited only by the rules of sound economics', giving the Maritime Provinces more electric power, better markets for their products, legislation guaranteeing shipment of Canadian goods through Canadian sea-ports.
- " 29. Supremacy of Parliament; opposition to any increase in the use of ministerial proclamation and government by order-in-council.
- " 30. Establishment of a national library in Ottawa.

BUTTER IMPORTS: The Wartime Prices and Trade Board on October 4 announced that wholesale buyers of butter, wholesale distributors and manufacturers in areas where butter produced is not sufficient to meet needs, may now apply to the Board for supplies of imported butter. Quantities being allocated at this time are to meet requirements up to December 31, 1948, the Board said. First arrivals are expected during the latter half of October in Montreal, with subsequent arrivals during November and December at Atlantic and Pacific coast ports.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL: A three-day meeting of the Canadian Vocational Training Advisory Council attended by educationalists from all parts of Canada, opened in Ottawa October 4 under the chairmanship of Dr. G. Fred McNally, Chancellor of the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta.

In welcoming the delegates to the meeting, Arthur MacNamara, Deputy Minister of Labour, indicated that one of the most important items on the Agenda was the formation of plans for the training of apprentices due to the need of industry for well-trained tradesmen.

Mr. MacNamara pointed out that the most acute shortage of tradesmen was in the trowel trades and that there seemed a reluctance on the part of young men to enter these trades.

He went on to say that the shortage of tradesmen in the trowel trades evidently applied in the United States as well as in Canada because contractors from the United States were advertising in Canadian papers for bricklayers and offering to pay much higher wages than those prevailing in Canada. This was causing grave concern because many Canadian contractors were afraid of losing their men just when they needed them most to close up buildings under way.

Mr. MacNamara mentioned the fact that organizers of Vocational Training classes were experiencing difficulty in getting Canadian boys and girls to train for trades. Almost all boys and girls leaving school were willing to forego trade training and accept positions which were open to unskilled persons at fair wage rates. He feared this was a short-sighted policy on the part of many people and hoped that the Council and other persons in public positions would use their influence to induce young people to consider trade training available which in the long run would fit them for higher paid positions.

Mr. MacNamara related that when he was in Winnipeg, the manufacturers of clothing in that city had pointed out to him that women could quickly acquire skills in their factories which would enable them to earn much higher wages than were available to girls accepting work as saleswomen yet the openings in their factories were not looked upon favourably by Canadian girls. Here, too, it seemed to the Deputy Minister that young Canadian girls were not realistic and not taking full advantage of the opportunities available.

He told the Council that the international situation certainly warranted extension of training facilities wherever young men were found ready to take the training. He did not need to tell the Council how much vocationally trained men would be in demand should a regrettable break occur and there were not many who could assert that there was no danger of such a break.

According to the report of the Dominion Director of Training, R.F. Thompson, the decline in Veterans Training activities has been particularly marked. During the period January 1 to March 31, 1948, there were approximately 1900 new enrolments, but in the period April 1 to August 31, about 300. All veterans under Training-on-the-Job, in Correspondence courses, and in Private Schools, have now been transferred to the Department of Veterans Affairs for the closing phases of their supervision. All Pre-matriculation classes terminated in August.

The Director stated that from the beginning of Veterans Training up to September 1, 1948, the total enrolment of veterans in all types of training has been about 134,200. On September 1, 1948, there were still 652 veterans in training in Canadian Vocational Training schools.

FREE TREATMENT FOR BLIND: Hon. Paul Martin, Minister of National Health and Welfare, has announced that blind pensioners in the province of Quebec whose eyesight might be restored or improved by medical treatment will receive this aid free of charge under an agreement just reached between Quebec's ministry of Social Welfare and of Youth and the Department of National Health and Welfare.

The federal Government pays 75 per cent of the cost, with the province paying the remainder. Similar agreements are already in effect with New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Treatment costs are split on the same basis as pension payments.

In making the announcement Mr. Martin said that the scheme is a temporary one being conducted to show the value of treatment and preventive services in controlling blindness.

The provinces have all been advised that the public health grants within the new national health plan could be used to set up and finance blindness control work on a permanent basis under provincial control.

In New Brunswick, which was the first province to enter the treatment scheme, "a considerable number" have applied for operative treatment, and some cataract surgery has been done with good results.

It is estimated that between 15 and 20 per cent of persons receiving pensions for blindness could have some useful vision restored and others could be benefitted by preventive treatment.

NAVAL APPOINTMENTS: Changes in the appointments of four senior officers of the Royal Canadian Navy's engineering branch were announced by Naval Headquarters October 5.

Captain (E) B.R. Spencer, R.C.N., of Alberni, B.C., has been named Superintendent of H.M.C. Dockyard, Esquimalt, B.C., and Command Engineer Officer on the staff of the flag Officer Pacific Coast. He succeeds Captain (E) A.C.M. Davy, O.B.E., R.C.N., who will take an advanced course at National Defence College, Kingston.

Formerly Deputy Engineer-in-Chief on the staff of the Chief of Naval Technical Services at Naval Headquarters, Captain Spencer will commence his new duties on October 15.

Commander (E) John L. MacGillivray, R.C.N., of Vancouver, B.C., who previously was on the staff of the Engineer Superintendent, Esquimalt, as manager of the engineering department, became Deputy Engineer-in-Chief, at Naval Headquarters, on September 30. Commander (E) H.N. Bonnell, R.C.N., St. Catharines, Ont., formerly engineer officer, H.M.C.S. "Nootka," and Flotilla Engineer Officer of the Canadian Destroyer Flotilla, will succeed Commander MacGillivray.

The duties of engineer officer H.M.C.S. "Nootka" will be assumed by Lieutenant Commander (E) G.F. Webb, R.C.N., Guelph, Ont., who now holds an appointment on the staff of the Director of Naval Plans and Operations, at Naval Headquarters.

COST-OF-LIVING INDEX: The Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index, on the base 1935-39=100, increased 1.4 points between August 2 and September 1 to reach 158.9. Foods, clothing and home furnishings accounted for the major