

Provincial Rights Party Will Exist While Saskatchewan Endures

Hon. F. W. G. Haultain in Mass Meeting Address says Party is Formed on Broad Enough Principles That it Will be a Distinct and Definite Party in the Political Life of This Country--Mastery Arraignment of the Government

The following is Mr. Haultain's speech at the Provincial Rights mass meeting at the close of the convention:

Mr. President and Gentlemen,--This is a very proud day for Saskatchewan, and I am the proudest man in Saskatchewan today, proud on account of the splendid convention we have had; proud on account of its representative character; and still prouder to know of the very enthusiastic turnout which we have here tonight. I am sure everyone who is here tonight would have been in attendance this afternoon, had their presence been possible, but we all have our business to attend to, and the large numbers out tonight is an indication of the popularity of the cause in this province.

Now and then the political situation today is not the position which confronted us when we undertook the election of 1905. Since then things have been developing, questions have sprung up and a government has been formed. The Provincial Rights Party is not a mushroom party. It is not a party which springs up suddenly to disappear as suddenly. It is a party founded on strong principles, and the soundest of those principles is that the party should be carried on solely with regard to the business which confronts this province.

The Provincial Rights party came into existence two years ago when this country was created into a province on less desirable terms than the other provinces of the Dominion, and its organization was simply a protest of our manhood to demand equal rights and powers with other people under similar circumstances. The westerner does not feel inferior to the people of the east, and in the same way the people from the east coming west do not feel better than the people with whom he is making his home. When we were created into a province we felt that we did not have equal rights and privileges which belong to people in other portions of Canada, and it was because of this that the Provincial Rights party was formed. Not only that, but we know and believe, that the gentlemen who were called upon to form the first administration had given up our rights--had sold them out in fact. And we were called upon to form this party to oppose them. Even if we had nothing more practical than opposition it was justified against a government formed with such principles.

What were the principles of the Provincial Rights party? We laid claim to our lands, our minerals and our timber. I need not take up your time discussing what they would have meant, for you all know what they are worth and what amount would have come into the province from the sale of them. The lands of the province belong to the people of the province and should be administered in the interests of the people of the province and in their interests alone.

What was the result? We find every day our friends, the enemy, discovering millions of acres which would have meant millions of dollars and an increasing value for that great asset, and this we have been deprived. That is the position we are in today with regard to our land. If instead of getting a paltry \$375,000 a year representing one per cent. on 25,000,000 acres of land valued at \$150 per acre, we had the control and administration of the tens of millions of acres, not worth a dollar and a half an acre, but worth five ten and twenty dollars an acre, to be used first for the settler, and all the time for the people of the province how much better off should we not be?

During the late election one of the principle attacks upon us was that if we had been given our lands instead of this poor grant we should not have enough money to carry on the business of the country, and would be immediately precipitated into direct taxation. What has been the result of one and a half years of Liberal government? We have not been given our lands, but we have direct taxation within one and a half years, and we have obtained such magnificent terms, and from these gentlemen who sold out the rights of the province and accepted a paltry mess of postage in return. We are confronted with direct taxation, and have you considered what sort of direct taxation it is? It is not a tax levied on every man in the province for the general benefit of the province; it is not some fair and equal scheme, but it is an inviting of our new settlers to contribute a tax for higher education. The new settler coming into the country is asked to contribute a cent an acre on his land not for the little primary school, not for the elementary system of education, but for a university, which is a provincial institution, for an agricultural college, which is a provincial institution, and if there is anything left after the university and the agricultural college have had their share from the centre of settlement, is asked to contribute to his property to increase the grants to his property happy fellow citizens in the settled school districts. I very much mistake the feeling and sense of fairness of the pioneers of this country who have struggled through the bad days to the good days and reaped their re-

ward, if they are going to be satisfied to have the new school grants taken away from their neighbors, who have not the chance to form the little elementary school.

Ranching Land
Then we have this direct tax on the rancher of the west, levied on the land which, according to the government is worth nothing an acre, and for which they are obliged to pay a cent of two cents an acre, with one and a quarter cents for local improvement tax as well, and now the government is asking them to pay another cent an acre in the form of a school tax for the university, agricultural college, to help the old districts keep up their schools, and help the high schools in the towns and villages.

School Grants
Taxation should bear more equally. They say this is going to be a splendid thing because the school districts are going to get back their own money and more too. How long are they going to get back their own money? So long as the proportion outside the school districts is greater than the proportion inside, the larger proportion will be collected from the outside. But some day all the country is going to be organized into school districts, and that day is not very far distant. Settlers are coming in every day by the tens of thousands. Then instead of the country school districts getting back their dollar taken away and a dollar and a half, they will get back 80 cents on the dollar, and the organized school districts will then be called upon to contribute to the university and the agricultural college and the high school districts. Why should the tax for the university and the agricultural college be all paid by the farmers of the country? Why should the villages be exempt? I am a town man myself, but at the same time I would refuse to take advantage of such a system as that because I do not believe it is fair, and the country school districts are not going to be satisfied with receiving school grants at the expense of their neighbors.

Coal Lands
What would it have meant to this country if the province had had control of its coal lands. I do not say that we have such coal deposits as our sister province of Alberta, but we have a large coal area undeveloped at present, which should be used and developed for the benefit of the people of the province to whom they belong. That is another side of the question which must not be lost sight of.

In regard to railway grants, Mr. Scott, in speeches which he used to make, said one of the principle terms we must insist upon was compensation for the land which had been taken for railway. When former governments would wish to build great transcontinental lines, they used to give a money subsidy, of which we very properly had to pay our share. But they also gave a great big land grant in the west, in addition to the tax exemption which they were at present time to bear in this country. We have to pay the interest on the money given them and we have to bear the whole burden of the land grant. He used to say that this compensation was the "supremely important item of our demands." If we had that item granted to us we would be getting a couple of hundred thousand dollars every year, and we would not have to resort to direct taxation on the portion of the population least able to bear it--the new settlers.

Hudson's Bay Railway
On the Hudson's Bay railway question I believe that the province could build that railway so important to the grain growers and stock raisers of the country, and to every industry in this country. If we did not do it ourselves, it could be done by the joint action of the three prairie provinces. It would not be operated and controlled by any federal government, which has thousands of other interests to take its attention, but by the governments of the people most directly interested in that railway. That was our proposition and the Liberal convention at Calgary adopted the same platform. But simply because we take one stand the government must take the directly opposite view, and they did take an opposite view. They believe that if you cannot be original you must be something or other. They proposed that we should not build the railway, but that it should be built by the federal government.

Now, what is the latest proposition? We find Hon. Frank Oliver the other day proposing that the Hudson's Bay railway shall be built as a Dominion undertaking, for the benefit of the Dominion--(and at the cost of the settlers in the three prairie provinces. This magnificent heritage of ours, only worth a dollar and a half an acre, and capitalized at one per cent., is going to be sold at a minimum price of \$3 per acre, and the land is going to accumulate until there is enough to build a road to Hudson Bay. Even if we had been compelled to sell some of our land, we should have been perfectly willing to sell it to the settlers at \$3 an acre, and on long terms, and we could have borrowed enough money to build the Hudson's Bay Rail-

way. We would have had no difficulty in financing it.

But we are confronted with this proposition: The railway is going to be built and operated by the federal government, and I do not care how careful the federal government is, it is too far removed to be able to attend properly to the business of the people in the locality where the business is going to be done.

In regard to the school question, we had the right to do as other provinces, and work out our own position exactly in the manner which might seem to us best. We have the right to have such a system of school as the people demand, not a system dictated by an outside power, no matter what that power might be. They said anyone with a right then and it is our right now. We were deprived of it then and we are deprived of it now and we shall be less than men if we do not continue to fight until we get our right. What was the position of our opponents? They said anyone who dares question the autonomy bills was a rebel against the constitution. That is what I was called. In fact I was such a rebel against the constitution that even the suggestion that the question be submitted to the courts was sufficient for a disqualification for office in this province. I was a rebel and worse.

Government Rebels Now
What is the position today? We find this government which we unfortunately have today, the stalwart defenders of the autonomy terms, the loyal supporters of the constitution as they interpret it, and men denouncing everyone differing with them as rebels, we now find coming down and introducing legislation which is as direct a violation of the constitution as any one could possibly conceive. Hind, I did not criticize the government for doing what I believe they were doing what is right. I believe we have a right to pass such legislation, but surely there must be some constituency in public life. Surely there must be some judgement with regard to the attitude the government are with regard to what they do. To receive a gift from the government today that they refused yesterday is not a condemnation of the government. That government must still stand for judgement before the people of the province for the position they took two years and a half ago.

What was that position? They said the rights of the minority were to be found within the 1901 school ordinance. What were their rights? They had the right to conduct schools which are being conducted today and were being conducted then. What does this new high school act mean? It is simply cutting from the top of the schools of this country the right to deal with a portion of the education which was given to them in 1901 school law. Is that not depriving the minority of some of the rights of which we heard so much in 1905? I have always contended that we have that right. Now they are tax exempt, which means they are apologetic which is cutting off one of the most important of their rights. What do you think of a government or a party that will do that? Are they worthy of the confidence of a self-governing people? There must be some consistency in public life. The only way we have of judging public men is not by what they say, but by what they do, by the way in which they carry out their promises and by the way in which they stand by their declared principles. It is not justification, it is not a plea; it is not a statement of what they have at last stumbled blindly into the right thing, and I believe that they did stumble blindly into it.

That is the position as far as the school question is concerned.

C.P.R. Exemption
What have our government done in regard to the C.P.R. exemption? According to our opponents we were to have a party last election, and we were to be bounded on every platform and in every liberal paper as a C.P.R. man. I do not know exactly what that means, and I have never been anybody's man. But that is what we were called. We had the whole force and weight of that great corporation on our side, they said. We did not discover it, but we had it. We took up the position that the C.P.R. exemption should not have been continued in this province, as it was imposed at a time when we were simply a part of the federal domain, at a time when it was quite properly imposed for the benefit of Canada, but coming into a province we had the right to say what property should be taxed and what should not be taxed. Not so the autonomy bill. Not so our friends of the present government. Mr. Scott once said we would be crazy to accept any form of provincial government until the C.P.R. exemption had been settled. Later on he condoned certain phases of provincial insanity and rushed into provincial institutions with the C.P.R. exemption imposed upon us. The Dominion of Canada has no right to continue that exemption. The government was going outside its powers in doing so. Well, they violated the constitution a little while ago, and why should they not violate it a little more honorably by removing from the province this great incubus, for it is an incubus, and not only an incubus, but a source of vital affect and interest to the people of the province

every municipality falls the burden of this exemption and nothing has been done to remove it.

As I said the other day in the House, and it would not be indicative to repeat it here, the only indication we have of corporation antipathy on the part of the government, was in a certain action short time ago when a prairie fire prosecution was taken up by the line. One gentleman of the attorney general's department conducted the prosecution and the attorney general's partner, but we are in a position just the same, and all this talk about exemption this afternoon was pure bluff.

The Test Case
Then we have this wonderful test case. You all know what the test case was. I proposed to have the question of our right settled in a most orderly way by the courts. Mr. Scott in one speech said that anyone who proposed such a thing was carried away by the most insane fancy, and would make our Catholic friends afraid that something was going to happen. That was one of the principle subjects upon which I was attacked. In fact I have been told, for we have no official statement of the case, that one reason why I was not called upon to form a government was because I proposed to bring a test case. That was a good enough reason, because I would not have been called any way.

But we had last session a government member put up to bring down a resolution proposing that this question the bare mention of which during the election was pronounced a crime should be submitted by the Dominion government for the decision of the judicial committee of the privy council, and they passed the resolution.

What was the resolution? It was something like this: We often find two men in dispute, and it is quite sure that his contention is quite correct. So they submit the question at issue to arbitration. Say the parties are Jones--there are a number of them here today--and Haultain. Jones prepares his brief and says "whereas a difference of opinion is expressed, the arbitrator contends that he is right, of course there is not the shadow of a possibility that he is right, but let us have a decision." That is about what the resolution was. Carried through by a couple of foolish trumpets. And what happens? I moved for the papers in the matter the other day to make enquiries with a view to seeing what was done to press this matter upon the government. The return which came down consisted of a couple of letters from deputies who had according to orders searched the files for correspondence and found none there. They were unable to discover a single letter upon the subject.

Will be a Case
But we are going to have a test case before the privy council. I believe there will be a test case before the very high school legislation which they have brought in, I shall be very sorry to see anything done that will interfere with the working out of the scheme, but no scheme of education can be carried on for all settled until it is once and for all settled that we have a right to make our own laws. These gentlemen are going to find out that their legislation is going to bring about the very thing which they did not intend to bring about and which they did not anticipate.

Public Utilities
We believe as a party that the public utilities, the natural monopolies, if I may use the term, should be administered and used and controlled and employed for the benefit of the people to whom they belong. That is the general proposition, and one which I think under present condition will not admit of any discussion at all.

Permanent Party
And now we come to the other side of the question. We are a distinct political party in this province today. We did not arise as a mere expedient. We arose from the fact that a great number of principles are at stake, and I believe that we arose in such a way that we shall continue and remain and prevail. I heard one of the delegates today, and I hope I was not mistaken in what I heard, refer to the fact that the Provincial Rights party would continue to exist until certain large questions were settled. I believe the Provincial Rights party will continue to exist as long as the province of Saskatchewan exists. The party is framed on broad enough principles and is developing along such lines that it will be a distinct and definite party in the political life of this country. There will be no room for three parties. There must be another party besides the one we are opposed to, because that party is only one in name. It calls itself Liberal. It is not Liberal, and for that very reason, because it has no good broad principles to stand on, and because it stands for nothing else but political expediency in the great arena of federal politics, and because it is not existing in the interests of the people of the province, it cannot continue to exist. Our party stands for the very things that must always be associated with matters of vital affect and interest to the people of the province

We cannot drop back into being Liberal and Conservatives, we must continue to be under the name we have today--a party with distinct principles, and more than that a distinct and positive policy, and that policy is being worked out by your representatives in the legislature.

You have your party splendidly represented in the legislature, and I should like to say, dissociating myself altogether for the moment, what I should have said this afternoon, that any praise which may be worthy in regard to the work being done in the legislature today, belongs to every individual member of the Provincial Rights party who is in the House. A man might be well proud to lead such men as I have the honor to lead in the Saskatchewan legislature. We have not a weak member in the whole eight. We have not a man who cannot take care of himself and in fact we do not have to take care of ourselves for we keep the other fellows busy taking care of themselves.

You will well understand that while it is all right to start out with a strong political platform, it is along the lines of the business of the country that the political lines are going to develop. And here is a distinct line of cleavage between the two parties in the legislature today. On the one hand you have the government, which was merely a government by accident--a sort of donkey-caring machine attached to the Ottawa machine--brought from nowhere for no reason, and emulating faithfully the reason of their bringing by doing nothing. Well, we all know where they are going. They are going to that Limbo to which all discredited parties go sooner or later.

What has the government done? We did not say very much the first session. I was elected to the legislature of the province, for some reason or other which anyway appealed to my constituents, and I was elected because I had a certain amount of experience, and it was my duty to give them the benefit of that experience. There was a great deal of work that was not controversial. I cannot criticize the business done in the House if I do not do my best to have it done properly. I do not think I would have any right to go out there and let these gentlemen blunder along without at least pointing out the way. But what has been done? There has been a large number of bills brought down, but they were obvious things. Anyone would have brought them down, and they were not particularly well done when they were brought down. They were simply done because they had to be done.

Has any practical move been taken? We have established a system of courts, because they had to be; we have had the machinery of government created, because it was necessary; and we have adapted ourselves to the provincial institutions. But can anyone point to a single measure showing originality, or a realisation of the responsibility which rests upon the gentlemen who have undertaken the government of this province? We are not supposed to have elected men to sit and drift and drift, and dream, and dream. We were confronted with conditions last winter which had been in view for months and months previously. I do not say that the government had control of the coal mines, but the government is the mouth-piece of the people of this province, and it is their duty when danger and distress confront the people if nothing less to call attention to it and induce the people who have the power to do something to prevent the disaster.

What was done? We had the spectacle of a prime minister of the province chasing an American labor organizer through the states to the south begging him to come up and settle some difficulty in this country, and, by the way, he did not see him. We had the minister of agriculture calmly sitting down and writing a letter to the people telling them they were cold. Instead of some practical earnest, honest effort being made, we find this gentleman sitting down and saying there was something going to happen, and thinking he had performed his whole duty to the people. That is not the sort of thing we want from the government of this country. That was not the sort of thing we had in this country. We did not do very big things, because we did not have the power, but when anything was done it was done.

When we were confronted with a grain blockade we did not write letters to the papers, and when we were confronted with a grain combine we did not write a letter blackguarding the man who was helping the people. I personally attended every sitting of the grain commission in this country and put the evidence of the facts in shape during the sitting of 1899. We had a sitting here last winter and all the minister of agriculture did was to go before it and practically say that he did not believe in anything the farmers were asking for.

The Party
Now, I believe we have a party that is formed on broad and sound principles--principles which must be vindicated in this province before we can hold our heads up and look our fellow citizens in the eye and say we are just as good as they are and have just as equal rights. We are a party with a distinct program--a program of useful work, traditions of useful work, and men who can do useful work.

On the other hand we have men who were called upon to form the first administration had given up our rights--had sold them out in fact. And we were called upon to form this party to oppose them. Even if we had nothing more practical than opposition it was justified against a government formed with such principles.

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There is a great deal of present time, but I am sure everyone who is here tonight would have been in attendance this afternoon, had their presence been possible, but we all have our business to attend to, and the large numbers out tonight is an indication of the popularity of the cause in this province.

- School Districts: Fallon, Rosenburg, Leachville, Creechfield, Woodbine, Plainville, Glenn, Leavings, Silverton, Brown, Gorden Valley, Snarum, Waverley, Boakview, Meadow Creek, Owrre, Sedley, Rouleau, Main Centre, Many Bone V, Arbor Vitae, Tyan, Earl Grey, Antelope, Gull Lake, Roxboro, Lether, Viola, Mount Murray, Lake, Union Hill, Clare Public, St. Bernard, Prairie Cona, Disley, Wheatfields, Keningsberg, Coates, Hauer, Roworth, Bowling Green, Coalfields, Ardmore, Roosevelt, Esterhazy, Rouse, New Hope, Crystal Lake, Boakview, North Plain, Sequin, Girvin, Norwood, Tiefengrund, Ames, Evergreen, Mountain, Glenview, Mortlach, Flegel, Wood End, North Fork, Snye Glen, Dewey, Park Grove, Yanke Ridge, Thurber, Grey Valley, Lac Que Parle, Rosevale, Qu'Appelle, Paynton, Round Mount, Ingelton, Elm Creek, Rutherglen, Bancroft, Norquay, Wurz, Scales, Freudenthal, Rodney, Halbrit, Meadow Bank, Donybrook, Pleasant Range, Golden Meadow, Chambers, St. Jean Baptis, Huntingford, Mossleigh, Tait, Springview, Bowman, Glendale, Wenderville, Pilot Mount, Elkwood, Ross, Shaw, Mannanah, Nanton, Out-of-Sight, Korbel, Penock, Eagle Point, Dale, Grayson, Lipton, Moscow, Foek, Hagel, Warrick, Ereton, Dinton, Chromar, Saskatchewan, Lawrie, Balcarres, Sintaluta, Dover, Manybone Creek, Westwyn, Henry P, Gaetz, Spruce Coulee, Calumet, Eagleholme, Wallacetown, Brookside, Denon, Clayton, Hoodoo, Grassmere, Estevan Public, Lobethal, Turnhall, Abernethy Public, Rosetti, Union Hall, Antler Public, Pilot Mount, Galt, Boundary, Pine Canyon, Likness, Fountain, P, Alix, Davey, Langenburg, Rockfield, Weyburn, P.

McCarthy's Easter SATURDAY BARGAINS

WEAR SOMETHING NEW ON EASTER DAY AND LUCK WILL SURELY COME YOUR WAY!

Easter, of all seasons, speaks of gladness and the desire to wear something new. To meet the wishes of our customers we will give them a list of Bargains worthy of a buying inspection. Every Dept. Offers a Gift in Bargains

New Dry Goods Men's Department

OUR BIG CLOTHING SALE

| | | | |
|---|---------------------|---------|---------|
| 20 doz. Easter Neckwear and fancy Belts, new and nice assorted colors from 25c up. | at \$7.50 | \$10.00 | \$12.00 |
| 20 doz. Ladies' fancy caps and tams, just in, newest in trade from 35c up to \$1.00 | | | |
| NEW TABLE OIL CLOTH | | | |
| 500 yds. of table oilcloth, in white or colors, at 25c fancy up. | | | |
| PRINTS, NEW | | | |
| 3000 yds. of new prints, new patterns and good washing colors, 8 1/2c to 15c yd. | | | |
| 35c FANCY HANDKERCHIEFS 20c. | | | |
| 5 doz. Ladies' fancy handkerchiefs to clear, were up to 35c each, 3 for 50c | | | |
| 35c HAIR BRUSHES 25c. | | | |
| Ladies' fine hair brushes, Reg. 35c for 25c | | | |
| TOWEL SALE | | | |
| 50 doz. Turkish towels 35c kind for 25c | | | |
| Easter Groceries | | | |
| For toothsome Easter delicacies we ask you to phone 260. | | | |
| Blue Ribbon Jelly Powders, 3 for 20c | | | |
| 3 bottles good Extracts for 25c | | | |
| 75c pails of Jam for 65c | | | |
| 35c bottle Pickles for 25c | | | |
| 40c Olives for 25c | | | |
| THESE ARE SPECIALS | | | |
| Crockery, Flour Pots, Vases at Half-Price from 5c up. | | | |
| House Furnishings | | | |
| Just arrived 35,000 lb. car of Oilcloths and Linoleums, so be early and get what you want. Table Oils, colors, 25c yd. | | | |
| IRON BED SALE | | | |
| 50 only, Iron Beds to clear. 3 ft. 6 in., 4 and 4 ft. 6 in. All sizes at 25c cent off | | | |
| 353 only, Mens' Suits in square or round cut, nicely tailored, in newest styles, in sizes from 34 to 44. Sold in regular way up to \$16.00. Easter Saturday price \$7.50, \$10.00 and \$12.00 | | | |
| 35c SOX for 25c. | | | |
| 50 doz. Mens' black Cashmere or grey wool sox, sold at 35c a pair, for Saturday 25c | | | |
| 50c NECKTIES at 25c. | | | |
| 20 doz. Mens' fancy Neckwear to clear, in plain and fancy silks up to 50c each, Saturday 25c | | | |
| BIG SHIRT SALE | | | |
| 50 doz. Mens' far or work shirts to clear. Some samples, but sizes 14 to 17. Values up to \$3.00 at 4 prices Saturday 50c, 75c, \$1.00 and \$1.25 | | | |
| 50c PEAK CAPS 25c | | | |
| 20 doz. Mens' or Boys' peak caps for spring. New patterns and styles, sold up to 65c, will clear Saturday all one price 25c | | | |
| Boots and Shoes | | | |
| NEW BOOTS AT OLD PRICES | | | |
| \$4.00 and \$4.50 boots, mens', at \$2.00 | | | |
| 153 pairs of Mens' boots in patent leather or leather, odd lines some, and others. Regular, sizes 6 to 10, clearing at \$2.00 | | | |
| \$2.00 Womens' Boots and Shoes at \$1.25 | | | |
| 120 pairs of Womens' Oxford Tie Shoes or Strap slippers, sizes 2 1/2 to 7. Worth up to \$2.00 a pair, Saturday at \$1.25 | | | |
| Boys' \$1.75 and \$2.00 Boots at \$1.50 | | | |
| 180 pairs of Boys' lace boots, sizes 1 to 5, sold up to \$2.00 a pair, Saturday \$1.50 | | | |

The "The Excelsior House" **McCarthy Supply Co. Ltd.** Regina's Greatest Store.