

The "Platforms" of the Premiers---Past and Present

NOTE: In harmony with the community service aims of the B. C. M. we invited Hon. John Oliver and Hon. W. J. Bowser to give us a short outline of "My Platform." It goes without saying that both gentlemen are "working overtime" in these days. As this Magazine is being made up for the press, the following message is to hand from Mr. Bowser, and we need scarcely note that it will not be our fault if Mr. Oliver's "Platform" does not get equal publicity. The one condition of publication is that it be received in time.—(Editor B.C.M.)

MR. BOWSER'S MESSAGE.

The policies, or platform, which I, as leader of the Conservative Party of this Province, am advocating may be found in the proceedings of the Conservative convention which was held in Vancouver in September of last year. As there have been new issues develop since that time I will, at the request of the *British Columbia Monthly*, explain my ideas on these subjects.

The citizens of this province have by their expressed will given a mandate to the Government of British Columbia to control the sale of liquor for beverage purposes, therefore I will outline, briefly, my interpretation of the desires of the people in this regard. While I appreciate that it is my views for the future, and not criticisms of the past that is desired by *The British Columbia Monthly*, permit me to remark that it is unfortunate that the Premier of the late government has not seen fit to outline the intentions of his party if elected.

In my opinion the men and women of the country did not by a majority of nearly 35,000 vote for a wide open or wet British Columbia but for a decent British Columbia.

In framing legislation we will endeavour to obey the mandate of the people. We will neither lean toward those who desire a wide open handling of the liquor question nor will we lean toward those who hold extreme views on the subject of Prohibition. We will purchase liquor of the best quality direct from the distillers, thus eliminating the middlemen's profit, and will retail it at a fair margin, consistent with good business. The people have asked for the privilege of buying liquor under government control, and the government which I expect to lead will in every sense control the sale of it. It will be a fair act, and I have no hesitation in saying that it will be strictly enforced.

There has been much dissatisfaction in the soldier settlement areas of British Columbia. The costs under the administration of the Land Settlement Board which have been piled up against these areas are enormous. It is useless to impose a burden on these men who so gallantly fought and suffered in the defence of the Empire which they can not hope to carry successfully. Immediately after being returned to power we will take steps to eradicate the unrest in Soldiers' Settlement areas. The Government will appoint a small committee of business men, who will meet with a committee to be appointed by the settlers in each area. The valuation of each allotment will be considered and a new price, satisfactory to both committees will be agreed upon. This price must be one that will allow of the settler being able to complete his purchase in a manner which will not be irksome to him. The difference between the actual price of the land and the money already spent on the Soldiers' Settlements must be borne by the taxpayers at large, and must be charged up to the wastefulness of the expenditures of the present government. It would be most unfair to charge the incompetence of the Administration to the men on the land.

In the platform drawn up at the Conservative convention of 1919, the principle of aid to municipalities was adopted. Since that time the Government have ear-marked, by legislation, a portion of the automobile licenses for highway construction. Some of the smaller municipalities, because of their local geographical position or other causes, would suffer under a system of division of the monies collected from

automobile licenses and moving picture taxes, while others would profit handsomely. Therefore our policy on the question of municipal aid has been remoulded and developed. It is that the profits from the sale of liquor, moving picture fees, income taxes, personal property taxes, game licenses and poll taxes will be placed in a consolidated fund from which a per capita grant will be made to municipalities in proportion to their population. In this way the smaller municipalities will receive the same fair treatment that will be accorded to the larger centres of population.

The original policy of loaning money to farmers on easy terms and long credits will be re-established in order to stimulate production. The benefits of that policy are already well known throughout the province.

In conclusion let me state that strict economy and efficiency will be demanded from all members of the civil service who will receive proper remuneration for their work and that the laws will be properly enforced without fear or favor.

"STRONGER THAN HIS SEA."

Another Review—By Ben Toon

The next time you venture into a bookshop, dear reader, stop and think before you venture to criticize the quality of the wares. At all events remember that the bookseller is a distributor, a middleman between publisher and public, and his stock, if he is a good business man, simply reflects the taste of his customers. Only a rich and philanthropic individual could run a bookshop on any other lines.

You have, perhaps, seen on the shelves of your bookseller, many books for the young of alien origin and bias. In scanning the pages of these volumes your taste has been offended, your prejudice strengthened. You have felt that something ought to be done about it, and your first impulse was to 'shoot the man at the piano.' But such an evil, granted that the circulation of such books is an evil, is not remedied simply by making a scapegoat of the bookseller, and, perhaps there are extenuating circumstances in the case of all concerned in the offence. The books are cheap, readable, and satisfy a normal longing. In everyday parlance the reader of such books might say—"It may not be a fine show but see the price of admission. It's all I can afford to pay."

Now in this as in all real or imaginary evils, the mind of man instinctively turns not to the improvement of taste, the elevation of the intellectual standard, but to the suppression of the thing he disagrees with. How much more reasonable than offhand prohibition is the provision of something better?

Take this new story by Mr. Watson. It is the story of a boy who from the time he is "five past" realizes his responsibilities as the man of the family, and becomes part-provider until later he bears the full load. Against all odds he wins and is always "Stronger than his Sea." Yet he is a human boy with the faults and failings of his kind. By dint of hard work, combined with high purpose, he becomes, not a merchant prince, nor a magnate of any sort, but just a veterinary surgeon, but a very good "vet.," you understand? He is also a good son and brother, old-fashioned enough for that, and so modest withal that he did not realize when he was "lucky in love" and had, as it were, to be led to the altar. By implication the story teaches the joy of clean living, and the glory of achievement for its own sake, which is a good gospel and worthy of all acceptance.

"Stronger Than His Sea" is a good, wholesome book, in which the halo of romance shines about the heads of some real and lovable people. In our opinion it is Mr. Watson's best book.