



MR. R. L. BORDEN.

## The Liberal-Conservative Platform

As Enunciated at Halifax and Other Places by Mr. R. L. Borden, Leader of His Majesty's Loyal Opposition in the House of Commons.

- Honest appropriation and expenditure of public moneys in the public interest.
- Appointment of public officials under consideration of capacity and personal character and not of party service alone.
- More effective provisions to punish bribery and fraud at elections, to ensure through publicity as to expenditures by political organizations, to prevent the accumulation of campaign funds for corrupt purposes and to prohibit contributions thereto by corporations, contractors and promoters, to expedite hearing of election petitions and to prevent collusive arrangements for the withdrawal or compromise thereof, to provide for a thorough investigation of corrupt practices and if necessary to appoint an independent prosecuting officer to enforce the laws so amended.
- A thorough and complete reformation of the laws relating to the Civil Service so that future appointments shall be made by an independent commission acting upon the report of examiners after competitive examination.
- Such reform in the selecting of members of the senate as will make that chamber a more useful and representative body.
- A more careful selection of the sources from which immigration shall be sought, a more rigid inspection of immigrants and the abolition of the bonus system, except under very special circumstances and for the purpose of obtaining particularly desirable classes of settlers.
- The management and development of the public domain (in which are to be included great national franchises) for the public benefit and under such conditions that a respectable proportion of the increment of value arising therefrom shall inure to the people.
- The operation and management of our government railways by an independent commission, free from partizan control or interference.
- Development and improvement of our national waterways, the equipment of national ports, the improvement of transportation facilities and subsequent reduction of freight rates between the place of production and market, whether at home or abroad, and the establishment of a thorough system of cold storage.
- The re-organization of the present railway commission as a public utilities commission with wider power and more extended jurisdiction, so as to establish thorough and effective control over all corporations owning or operating public utilities or invested with a franchise of a national character.
- The establishment after due investigation of a system of national telegraphs and telephones under conditions which shall be just to capital already invested in those enterprises.
- The improvement of existing postal facilities, especially in newly developed portions of the country, and inauguration, after proper enquiry as to cost of a system of free rural mail delivery.
- A fiscal policy which will promote the production within Canada of all useful articles that can be advantageously manufactured from or by means of our natural resources, having due regard to the interests of the consumer as well as to the just claims of our wage-earning population.
- The promotion by negotiation and other constitutional means of a system of mutual preferential trade within the empire.
- The restoration of the public lands to the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan upon fair terms.
- The unimpaired maintenance of all powers of self-government which have been conferred upon the provinces of Canada under the constitution.

## How Western Resources Have Been Despoiled

H. B. Ames, M.P., Tells How Our Rich Resources Have Been Administered With Loss to the People and With Great Profit to Friends of the Government.

(Continued from last week.)

The story of speculation in connection with the development of the agricultural belt is similar. The present government has acted as though the quantity of land within the wheat belt was inexhaustible. As a matter of fact, within three years at the outside, if the present rate of settlement continues there will be few free homesteads left in the prairie belt between Winnipeg and Edmonton. In view of the fact that the government must have known that the available homestead land was rapidly coming to an end, we have criticised them severely for their lavish generosity in connection with the public domain.

The criticism has centred on three features of the administration: 1st, the lavish issue of scrip; 2nd, the toleration of fake homesteading; and 3rd, the sale of homestead land to speculators.

### HALF-BREED SCRIP

The original idea of the government in issuing scrip to the half-breed was to cancel the aboriginal right to the land. The Indians were gathered together and placed upon reservations, they became the wards of the government, but to each half-breed was given 240 acres of land, which he might select wherever he saw fit. Prior to 1896 the Conservative administration settled practically all the legitimate half-breed claims but when the Liberal government came into power they re-opened this matter and admitted many demands which had little valid foundation. They even went so far as to give scrip to many half-breeds living in the United States. Nearly 982,000 acres have thus been granted since 1896.

Thus there fell into the hands of speculators the right to acquire large areas of homestead land and many a tract in the most desirable sections of the west today is covered with half-breed scrip, the present holders not tilling the land, but holding it until that which cost perhaps 50c. can be sold for \$10 an acre.

This is a great drawback to the bona fide settler who is forced to go far from the railroad, because the land that should have been his is held by the speculator.

Mr. Adamson's company next purchased from the government (brother-in-law Mr. Turiff being land commissioner at the time) 250,000 acres of intervening homestead land which was sold to them for only \$1 an acre upon settlement conditions. With the altered area for selection of their railway grant and with the right to purchase homestead land in 83 townships at \$1 an acre, Mr. Adamson's company, or as it was called the Saskatchewan Valley Land Company, had a concession of great value. They proceeded to sell the land which had cost them \$1 an acre for from \$8 to \$10 an acre. Within two years all lands bought from the government had been sold and it is estimated that the profit of the company on this transaction reached \$1,000,000.

Had the homestead lands not been sold to the syndicate they could have passed directly into the hands of the settler. As it is the settler has to pay from \$8 to \$10 an acre to the middleman. When the Conservative opposition asked this government how they could justify such a transaction and make it conform with the principles laid down in their convention platform they were silent. It was one more of their repudiated promises.

**Grazing Leases**  
Turning now to an examination of the grazing areas we find a condition of affairs by no means different. It has been generally recognised that the business of ranching as of a more or less temporary character to be continued so long as the land is not required by the settler. Thus it is that the grazing area is gradually shrinking since upon all sides the advance posts of civilisation are encroaching upon it. This condition of affairs was clearly recognised by the Conservative government when in power, and all leases granted by them to ranchers contained a clause permitting the government to revoke the grazing privilege upon two years' notice, if the lands were required for other purposes. This law was in force when the Liberals came into power. It was followed for the first two years by their administration. But Mr. Sifton as Minister of the Interior, had all power placed in his own hands. He gradually acquired the right to decide the terms and conditions under which the public lands should be alienated. He secured power from the cabinet to grant leases from which the irrevocable clause might be cancelled, and by which the rancher might be permitted to purchase at \$1 an acre one-tenth of his lease-hold.

Then like William the Conqueror, of that platform was the following: "That in the opinion of this convention the sales of public lands of the Dominion should be to actual settlers only, and not to speculators." We contend that this promise also has been completely shattered. Nowhere is this more clearly demonstrated than in the transaction known as the Saskatchewan Valley Land Company's deal.

In the middle west, between Regina and Prince Albert, there lay a long stretch of country which did not receive early settlement. It was regarded by some as semi-arid, but Dominion Colonization Agent Speers, one of the best authorities in the west in his time, believed and said that this belt could support a thriving agricultural population. He reported his belief to the government and requested that he be given an opportunity to establish an experimental farm to show what could be done with the land. At that time Mr. Turiff was land commissioner of the government. He appears to have turned a deaf ear to Mr. Speers' request. But Mr. Turiff had a brother-in-law by the name of Adamson (they have both since become members of parliament), and Mr. Adamson formed a syndicate for the purpose of acquiring land in the Saskatchewan Valley.

First of all the syndicate purchased from the Qu'Appelle Long Lake and Saskatchewan railway their right to select 800,000 acres of land. Now so long as the government had been dealing with it, this railway company had been compelled to select its land from among areas refused by other railway companies, but no sooner had Mr. Adamson and his friends purchased the railway's right, than it was found that the area of selection had been altered so as to take in what was left in the belt previously reserved for the Manitoba and North Western Railway company, where there was still available much excellent land, so that it became no longer a difficulty to satisfy the grant. This kind of treatment by the government increased the value of the railway grant enormously.

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Mr. Sifton after the election of 1904 sat down to parcel out his domain among the electoral barons who had rendered service in conquering the west at the ballot box.

In the early months of 1906 eight grazing leases were granted, to the friends and supporters of the administration, from which was purposely omitted the "revocable" clause. The leases covered an aggregate area of 516 square miles, the rental being 2 cents per acre per annum.

Let us examine a few of these concessions. The first there was a lease granted to C. E. Hall for 90,000 acres of grazing lands in the Milk River country. This lease almost immediately passed to the Milk River Cattle Company, an organisation in which A. E. Philp, of Brandon, ex-law partner of Clifford Sifton, is the moving spirit. Another, the lease to the Glangarry Ranch Company, was issued because its principal shareholder is a Liberal politician of note, recently nominated in southern Alberta as a candidate for the Commons.

### OTHER LEASES

Two other leases were also granted at that time, one to Jim McGregor of Brandon, and the other to A. E. Hitchcock, of Moose Jaw, two gentlemen closely associated in election matters with the Hon. Clifford Sifton. These leases which covered 94,000 acres, were amalgamated under the name of the Grand Forks Cattle Company, and this company secured the right to purchase 9,400 acres within the leasehold at \$1 an acre. Mark the history of this lease. In 1906 an English Company, formed for the purpose of developing an irrigation scheme, found that they must buy out Messrs Hitchcock and McGregor in order to make their enterprise a success. Thus it was that the Southern Alberta Land Company came to pay for the property and lease of the Grand Forks Cattle Co. the sum of \$650,000. Of this amount \$250,000 must be credited to the value of the irrevocable closed grazing lease. The land which they had a few months before purchased at \$1 an acre, with a slight addition making it 10,000 acres in all, was sold to the company for \$187,000. By such transactions as that the favored few, permitted by the present administration to obtain special privileges, become in consequence multimillionaires.

**THE GALWAY HORSE AND CATTLE COMPANY.**  
Another lease was taken out in the name of H. P. Brown of Great Falls, Montana, covering 60,000 acres, just west of the Bow and Belly rivers. The application of Mr. Brown appears to have sped from Montana to Ottawa in the course of a single night, as it is dated, Great Falls, Montana, 26th May, and is stamped as received in Ottawa the following day. Immediately upon application the government granted Brown his lease. They then undertook to secure payment for the first half year's rent. But although they appear to have searched diligently for upwards of two years for H. P. Brown, he was never found during all that time. No settlers were permitted to enter thereon, although they petitioned for the right to do so. No rancher could graze his stock upon these acres and although no rent was paid the land was reserved for H. P. Brown.

At last under criticism, the Department of the Interior appears to have concluded that Mr. Brown must be found or the lease cancelled. Then a strange thing happened. A. J. Adamson, M.P., called at the department the day after parliament had risen, and presented a transfer of the lease from H. P. Brown to the Galway Horse and Cattle Company, of which Adamson was practical owner, which transfer Adamson had held for more than a year and on which his company claimed the lease.

The whole upshot of the matter was this—Adamson, under the name of the Galway Horse and Cattle Co. was given an irrevocable closed lease and was forgiven all the overdue rent. Now Adamson did not want the lease for himself. He was a timber merchant from northern Saskatchewan. But, having acquired the lease he forthwith let it be known throughout southern Alberta that it was for sale to the highest bidder. He disposed of it in this way. A rancher by the name of John Cowdry came to Ottawa in person to obtain if possible an irrevocable lease. But Cowdry was a Conservative and although he importuned the department for six long weeks, his prayer was in vain. He was finally forced to buy from Adamson, Liberal M.P., the lease which that worthy had no intention of using, for which Cowdry paid a sum exceeding \$20,000.

Thus it is that Liberal members from the west secured concessions, hawk them about the country and

finally sell like merchandise privileges which bona fide ranchers cannot obtain.

### Irrigation Areas

The irrigation area can also furnish evidence of the carnival of graft existing under the present regime. Southern Alberta with its sunny climate and its mild winters is admirably suited for agricultural purposes if only water is available for the land. But the individual farmer cannot undertake to bring water to his crop. This is an enterprise requiring co-operation. Hence irrigation works are either constructed by the state or undertaken by corporate enterprise. South of the border the American government has developed much of the land as a national undertaking and has sold it to the farmer at cost. We have rather inclined in this country towards the encouragement of private enterprise. The excellent irrigation law in force in Canada was passed in 1894 when Mr. Daly was Minister of the Interior. When the act was introduced that minister stated that it was "to encourage investment of capital while protecting the individual." This principle is sound—the investor is entitled to his profit, but the titles of the soil should not be compelled to pay an exorbitant price for the land he purchases.

**ROBINS IRRIGATION CONTRACT**  
On the lines of Mr. Daly's maxim the Conservative opposition, during the session of 1906-7, strongly condemned a transaction put through by the present government, known as

the Robins Irrigation contract. The circumstances were these: Guy Tracy Robins, an Englishman, visited this country in the fall of 1905. He secured from the government an irrigation contract whereby his company should obtain 380,000 acres of

(Continued on page 7.)

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**CANADIAN NORTHERN**

### NEW BOOK OF JOSHUA

Discovery of Scriptural Writings in Samaria by Dr. Moore. A Different View of the Fall of Jericho.

London, Aug. 19.—Dr. Moore, chief rabbi of the Spanish-Portuguese Jews in England, reported to have discovered in Samaria, a new book of which furnishes a novel version of the fall of Jericho. According to legend account, Joshua was a King, Shobach and his trapped and encircled by seven of iron, made by the wizards of the service of S. Joshua prayed to God. A dove to him; he tied a letter to it and it bore a message to King Ahaz, who, with his tribes, Joshua's rescue. The priest blew a trumpet once, the wall down, and Joshua defeated S. This new book starts with its date of the era of creation 3794 from the creation given as the date of the Moses, and from the year 3794 new calculation of the job then describes how Joshua was mandated to proceed to the promised land. Joshua the counting of the people who does not appear in the Bible it states that the spies went into, and on their return gave report to Joshua and the High Priest. They crossed the Jordan preceded by the Ark and put stones in Gibeon, but there mention of the reproach of E. A beautiful story is given in the Bible account. In the latter is stated to have stolen a golden idol from a temple. According to the new book a golden idol was discovered by the on the breast plate of the high priest getting dim and losing the when the name of the god was pronounced. The story of the capture of the city of Jericho is given in the Bible, holding up the law of the Bible, by the way, says the new book says that he sent 30,000 men against Ai. In an account of the the Gideonites, however, the