

Initial payments can be easily raised before the end of the 1966-67 crop year, and adjustments can be made to those producers who already have delivered grain under the present initial price.

2. Canadian Livestock Feed Board

The main intention of the Canadian Livestock Feed Board is to buy feed grains at the lowest possible price and to ensure that adequate supplies of feed grains in Eastern Canada and British Columbia, are available to feeders. The Liberal Party of Manitoba is concerned that, because the Feed Board is a crown agency and the Wheat Board is a crown agency, with objectives of selling grain in the best interests of Western producers, there is possible conflict of interest at the Federal Government level.

Adequate machinery for purchasing Wheat Board grain exists through the mechanism of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange and it is imperative that the Feed Board not be sold feed grain at a price lower than that offered to any other purchaser.

3. Feed Freight Assistance

The Liberal Party of Manitoba believes the Feed Freight assistance policy is harmful to the Western livestock producer, and recommends that such policy be discontinued prior to 1969. Western Canada enjoys an inherent ability to produce cheap feed grains. Yet much of the reason for the lack of growth of the livestock industry in Western Canada is due to low prices, partly induced by subsidized feeders in other areas.

We recommend that the subsidy be removed and that economics be allowed to determine the location of livestock feeding in Canada.

4. Machinery Parts and Service

Costs of farm machinery make up approximately one-half the total fixed and operating costs of the average Western farmer. The Liberal Party of Manitoba supports the investigation to be undertaken by the Royal Commission on Farm Machinery.

5. Rail Line Abandonment

Where rail lines are abandoned, the Liberal Party of Manitoba recommends that there be a joint federal-provincial cost-sharing program for the construction of hard-surfaced, all-weather roads. This would give farmers, forced to travel longer distances to country elevators, faster and surer trucking routes. This, after all, is a national problem, wheat being one of our major exports. The abandonment of branch lines represents, for those people served by such branch lines, a partial abandonment of the Crow's Nest Pass rates.

6. Federal Farm Management Program

The Liberal Party of Manitoba is concerned that not enough extension work on farm management is being accomplished by the provincial Department of Agriculture. Yet farm management, especially enterprise accounting, is fundamental to a successful farm operation and will become more so in the years ahead.