

To the Electors of the Electoral District of Rosetown

In asking your support as an Independent Candidate for the Provincial Legislature, I feel that you are entitled to a clear and concise description of the platform on which I stand. Since appearing before you as a candidate both the Liberal and Conservative parties have announced the platforms on which they will appeal for your suffrages, and you will no doubt have observed that both parties are lavish in their promises of what they will do if returned to power, although many matters of the utmost importance to the people of this province are not touched upon in the platforms of either party. Some of the measures I have advocated at public meetings held throughout the district are included in the platform of one and sometimes of both parties, but others are very cautiously discussed, or are avoided altogether. As an independent candidate, depending on the newly awakened spirit of independence among the farmers of the West for my success in this campaign, I feel free to criticize or to support either party or its candidates according as I find them in sympathy with the progressive spirit animating the majority of the voters of Western Canada. I also am convinced that unless a number of independent representatives are elected to represent this new movement, that the leaders of both parties will unite to crush in its infancy this spirit of independence and to keep the voters corralled in two opposing camps, while their leaders engage in mock battles in public, and in secret laugh together over the tricks by which they keep the voters harnessed to the party machine and obedient to every crack of the party whip.

Education

I stand for the English language as the sole medium for instruction in the public and private schools of this province for the first six grades.

Any compromising of this plain duty is certain to bring greater evils in its train than any difficulty that might be encountered in making the English language the only language of instruction for the children of our province.

I believe that in many districts consolidated schools are urgently required, and that these schools should be located where they would be of the greatest good to the greatest number, sometimes located in the country towns, and at other times in the center of a country district. Much of the opposition to consolidated schools has arisen through a mistaken idea that these schools should invariably be located in towns, when in many cases this would not be giving the district the best service.

Prohibition

I stand for Dominion-wide Prohibition, with no compromise or half-measures with the liquor traffic. We have already found what beneficial results have followed banishing the bar from Saskatchewan, but until we tear up the tree, root and branch, we cannot be free from the debasing effect of the liquor traffic, and the intrigues of the distillers and brewers who will exert every means in their power to corrupt our legislators so as to give the business another lease of life. Kill the snake now that we have it in our power, or we may find its coils crushing out the lives and the happiness of hundreds of thousands of our population if we allow it to recover from the blows dealt the past few years at the liquor traffic.

Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones

I hold that the railways of Canada, also the telegraph and telephone systems, are public utilities which like the post office system should be owned and operated by the government. So long as the present system of privately owned railroads, supported by the government with huge subsidies of cash or natural resources, is maintained, so long will the farmers of Western Canada have cause to complain year after year, of grain rotting on the ground through car blockades, of coal famines threatened winter after winter, of inefficiency, unfair discrimination, and an insupportable load of high freight rates to pay dividends on watered stock.

Natural Resources

The Province of Saskatchewan should control the vacant land within its boundaries, and should at the earliest possible date secure control of this vacant land and sell it to actual settlers at a reasonable price and on long time payments at a low rate of interest.

Farmers' Platform

I am in full accord with the Farmers' Platform as drafted by the Canadian Council of Agriculture, and adopted by the various farmers' organizations, and I pledge my support to this platform in its entirety.

Mortgages and Foreclosures

For six years I have served as a sheriff officer, and have observed the great hardships and misery caused by a too strict enforcement of the letter of the law in the foreclosing of mortgages and the collection of lien notes. I believe that some discretionary power, such as was granted for a brief period to the sheriffs in the province, should be given to some person or persons in authority before any mortgage or lien note is foreclosed, which may ruin or drive away in poverty and distress, people whose industry and labor is sorely required by our new province.

The interest rate mortgages bear in this province is excessive, and the legal rate should be reduced to 6 per cent. Short term credits at reasonable interest should be provided the farmers of the province by a system of Rural Credit Banks operated at cost.

Direct Legislation

I am a firm believer in Direct Legislation, with its corollaries, the initiative, the referendum and the recall.

Packing Houses and Cold Storage Plants

I am in favor of a government owned system of packing houses and cold storage plants, with provincial terminal elevators. In the past we were told that governments could not secure the money for these utilities, but the Great War has shown us how easily money can be secured for purposes of destruction, and it should be easier still to secure ample funds on the security of the province, for purposes of construction and development.

Unless the government by owning or controlling the means of manufacturing or distributing the products of the farm, puts a check on the greed of the big interests which are striving to build up monopolies in this new country, we will find ourselves tied hand and foot when the reconstruction period following the war brings the farmers of this country into the keenest competition with millions of soldiers released from military service and encouraged by every possible means by their governments in raising the maximum quantity of food products for their exhausted and impoverished countries. I believe that this is the time for us to lay broad and firm the foundations for the enduring prosperity of the principal, almost the only industry of Western Canada, Agriculture.

Roads and Highways

I am in favor of provincial assistance in the construction of trunk roads leading to market towns, the municipal authorities to lay out the plans for the construction of these roads. In this connection I would recommend that the enormous dockage of Western Canada grain sold at a high price by the terminal elevators, and the surplus of grain every year at the terminal elevators, should be returned in the form of a fund to be expended on road work, to the farmers of the West.

This in brief are the principal planks in my platform, although there are many other matters on which I would like to touch, and which I shall discuss at length on the public platform.

Should you elect me as your candidate I shall strive to serve you honestly, fairly and fearlessly. I was born on a farm in Eastern Canada, pioneered in the West, farming for 20 years east of Regina, and my work for the past half dozen years as sheriff's officer, has brought me closely in touch with the problems the farmers of Saskatchewan have to solve. To deal properly with these problems, I believe we must cast off party shackles and as an independent man, who has broken away from both of the old-line parties, I ask for the support of all who have asserted their man-

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hood in standing up for a broader and more independent stand on public matters. To the women of the province, who will for the first time cast their vote on terms of equal suffrage with men at the next election, I make an especial appeal to preserve an independent and unbiased attitude, and refuse to sacrifice the important position they have in holding the balance of power in Western Canada, so long as they do not ally themselves with either of the old-line parties. Let them continue to hold up high ideals in public and in private life for their husbands and their sons, and to use the great power given into their hands in uplifting and purifying politics, and this they can do much more effectively so long as they maintain an independent attitude and support only independent candidates.

Yours very truly

T. A. S. CAMPBELL,

Independent Candidate for Rosetown Provincial Constituency.

May 5, 1917

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