

people who can be best relied upon to safely and develop assets of this character are the people most intimately concerned, those who stand to gain or lose according as the resources are efficiently administered.

Liberalism in Saskatchewan believes that all these resources should be turned over to the people of the Province for control and development.

SCHOOL LANDS.

The transfer to the Province of all school lands and of the school endowment fund which up to the present under Federal control, have produced scarcely more than one-half of the revenue for school purposes that could easily be obtained under Provincial management.

One of the most pressing and difficult problems of a new, sparsely settled community like Saskatchewan is the making of adequate and efficient provision for schools. This was recognized when Western Canada was first opened for settlement, and in order that funds for educational purposes might be steadily available, two sections of land in every township were set aside to form a school endowment fund. The lands are offered for sale by auction from time to time and are sold on deferred payments at 5% interest. Payments of principal made by purchasers from time to time are deposited in a trust fund in charge of the Dominion Government, and the Province receives from the trust fund interest at the rate of 3% per annum on the total amount on deposit. In addition to the above, all sums of interest on deferred payments paid by purchasers are forwarded to the Province by the Dominion Government; after deducting cost of administration. It will be readily seen that the value of the School Land Trust Fund as a means of financing education in the Province, depends absolutely upon efficient administration by the Dominion Government, which has certainly not been provided. During the last session of the Legislature figures were made public which showed that up to November, 1916, over \$2,800,000 principal was overdue and uncollected, besides over \$809,000 interest which should have been immediately available for educational purposes in the Province.

There is only one remedy for a condition such as this, and here again the people who have to depend upon the proceeds of the School Land Endowment Fund for the financing of their educational system are surely the people who can be trusted to administer the lands and the fund most efficiently.

The Liberal party of Saskatchewan, therefore, believes that it is in the interests of the whole people of the Province that this fund should be transferred to Provincial control.