

(6) That any license-holder convicted of violating the law twice shall thereby forfeit his license.

12. PUBLIC UTILITIES.

That it has been the policy of the Legislative Assembly under the direction of the Liberal party to give the greatest liberty consistent with safety to municipalities in regard to all matters of a local or municipal character.

That for over half a century the municipalities of Ontario have had the right of ownership in toll roads and bridges constructed for the use of the municipalities, and during recent years, under Liberal legislation, a similar right has been conferred with regard to such public utilities as water, heat, gas, electric light and power, telephones, street railways, public parks, libraries, etc.

That where these utilities were in the hands of private companies or corporations power was given to municipalities to take them over and operate them for the municipalities and the ratepayers.

That in 1902 provision was made whereby any municipality, either by itself or in union with other municipalities, could lease or own franchises of waterpower for generating and transmitting electricity, and a committee of several municipalities is now considering how this power may best be exercised in connection with the generation of electricity for transmission to business centres in Western Ontario in connection with Niagara Falls.

That the Government obtained authority from the Legislative Assembly to construct at the expense of the public treasury the Temiskaming & Northern Ontario Railway for the purpose of opening up the northern districts of the Province, which railway is now owned by the Province.

That this Convention while approving of the course of the Liberal Party in promoting Public Ownership by the Government and by Municipalities, desires to express the opinion that any difficulty which experience has shown to stand in the way of ownership by municipalities of any franchise which a majority of the qualified ratepayers in that behalf declare to be in the public interest should be removed (due regard being had to the private interests involved), and that all franchises for any public service of any kind whatsoever hereafter granted by a municipality shall be limited to a period not exceeding 30 years, with the right of purchase at any time within that period on such equitable terms as a properly constituted Board of Arbitrators might determine. This Convention would also approve of granting a Charter to Toronto and to other cities where geographical conditions or other circumstances would warrant such a course.

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