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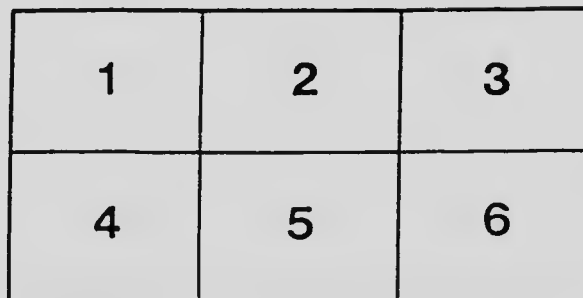
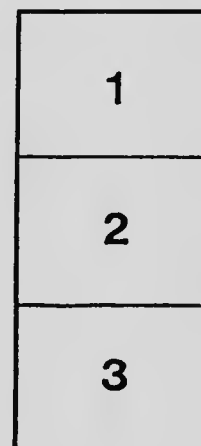
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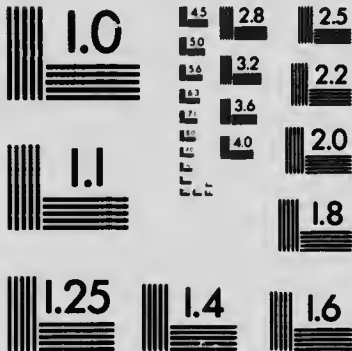
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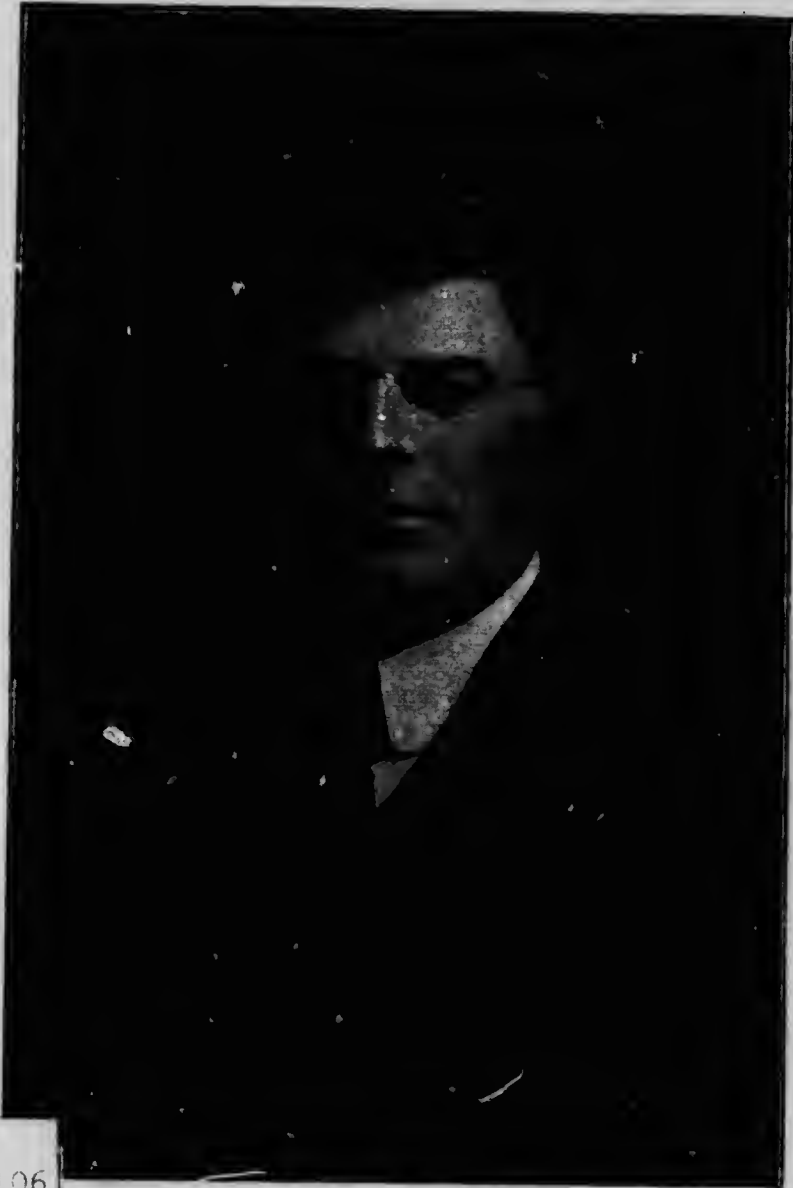
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To the electors of Yale, yours respectiv



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To the Electors of Yale



P
324.271106
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Yours respectfully

JOHN P. McCONNELL

P
324.271106
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GIFT
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TO THE ELECTORS OF THE DISTRICT OF YALE, B. C.:

Gentlemen: In accepting the honor of a nomination by the Liberal Convention to contest the seat in the Legislature for your district, and placing myself before you as your candidate in the elections of March 28 next, I do so, not because I particularly desire to enter the turmoil and worry of politics, but because if elected I hope I may be of some service in getting for British Columbia a better government and a more efficient public service in all the departments. Also if returned as your representative I hope to set forth in a successful fashion the needs and claims of Yale, that part of British Columbia in which I first made my home, and for which I have ever since had a warm affection and a desire to further its interests. I think my efforts along this line through many years of newspaper work in Vancouver will bear me out in that claim.

There are few ridings in British Columbia where the needs of the different portions are of such diverse nature. For instance, those of Agassiz differ from those in Ashcroft, and those of Ashcroft are different again from those of the Nicola Valley. So it is not my intention to dwell upon those matters in this circular, but to discuss them on the platform at the different points where I hope to have the privilege of addressing the electors.

Speaking generally, I think all thoughtful citizens must come to the conclusion that a government without an opposition cannot be the best kind of government. The spirit of the British institution of representation is that of a balance of control of power composed of the Government, the Crown and the Opposition. The Crown has certain prescribed prerogatives, but it is necessarily not an active factor in legislating, a function which belongs to the majority in Parliament.

If the Legislature is practically unanimous, each member being elected to support the Government, the tendencies must inevitably be towards the misuse of power and the gradual introduction of abuses which are equally to the disadvantage of the province and the Government itself.

A favorite argument against the election of an Opposition candidate is that he cannot get as much for his constituency as a supporter of the Government. Such an argument is a reflection upon the Government, because it impugns its honesty, its sense of justice, and it implies that the Government is a brutal vote-making and catching machine composed of unscrupulous politicians whose sole purpose is to get into power and stay there. Do the Conservatives of Yale believe the McBride Government is that sort of a Government? If it is, is it not time that it should be brought sharply to task by an active and efficient Opposition? If the McBride Government is not that sort of Government, then there is nothing to lose and much to gain by Yale having in Parliament a man who is not afraid to stand up and urge the rights and claims of his constituency.

Has my opponent, Mr. Lucas, been particularly active in this respect, in the Legislature? When has he stood upon his feet in the House and urged the claims of Yale? Has he not rather been content, or rather forced to accept, what the Government has doled out to Yale, not daring to utter a protest against the powers that be?

Let me here say that I do not intend in any way to reflect upon Mr. Lucas, his good intentions or his good faith. I know Mr. Lucas to be a gentleman for whom I have the highest respect and against whose personality or character I could not make the slightest reflection. But I claim that Mr. Lucas, being only one of many, is submerged in a brute majority of the House, where he is not allowed to express an opinion dissenting from the Government. In other words, he cannot properly represent the interests of Yale, because he, like all other private members in the House, must swallow the Government's policy whether he likes it or not.

I ask you to vote for me, not only because I will be free to fight for your interests, and will do so, but because as public-spirited citizens you believe it will be in the interests of British Columbia and of the Government itself to have an Opposition in the House. I believe such an appeal will have more force with the people of Yale than reams of promises. I believe the people of Yale believe in and want fair play, that they are honest and determined to help in giving good government to this province.

In this campaign no money will be spent on my behalf except for the bare necessities of a campaign, hall hire, travelling expenses, printing, etc. My personal expenses are being borne by myself. I have always thought that if I ever offered myself for election to a public office, I would conduct my campaign on those lines. In doing so the public will have an opportunity of registering an absolutely independent vote so far as I am concerned. I shall spend no money for the purpose of influencing votes and I shall make no promises except if elected to do my best for the interests of British Columbia and for Yale.

I am therefore in the hands of the electors to do as they think best. If you elect me I shall be proud of the honor and will try to prove myself worthy of your confidence. If you decide otherwise I shall bow to your decision with the best grace, but with an undiminished affection for my old home riding, for whose interests I shall continue to fight in the papers under my editorial control, just as I have in the past.

If you think the present condition of affairs in British Columbia should be changed, a vote for me will help to bring about such a change.

Owing to the shortness of the campaign it will be impossible for me to meet all the electors personally, perhaps not even all my supporters, but if I am elected I promise to meet all of them during the coming summer, when I will be making frequent trips to all parts of the district.

Yours respectfully,

JOHN P. McCONNELL.

Editorials from the Vancouver Sun

THE DUTY OF THE ELECTORS

The Liberals in deciding to place candidates in the various ridings are taking the position that, while they do not hope nor expect to oust the Government, it is the duty of Liberals to give the people a chance to elect an Opposition. The Liberals have no campaign funds whatever. Any money needed for expenses will have to be provided by the candidates themselves or by the local organizations.

Liberals realize, of course, that they are fighting a huge campaign fund in the hands of the Conservatives, but they do not propose to compete with the bar'l. What they say to the public of Vancouver and what the Liberals throughout British Columbia will also doubtless say, is, "Here is your candidate. Vote for him if you believe an Opposition at Victoria is necessary. If you do not think the Provincial Government in your own interests and in its own interests needs opposition, leave the Liberal at home."

The duty of the Liberals in this campaign will be fully discharged when they have placed Liberal names on the ballot papers. The electors' duty will begin where Liberal duty leaves off.

It is not the duty of Liberal, nor any other party candidates to provide conveyances, to spend large sums of money cultivating a vote. Electors owe a duty to themselves to vote without any of these extraneous inducements to bring them out.

On March 28 the electors of British Columbia will have a chance to record their honest convictions, and if so disposed, to vote for Liberals with as clear a freedom from considerations other than the merits of the Liberal contentions, as has ever been offered a free people.

In voting for Liberal candidates nothing but the merits of the Liberal cause need be, nor can be, taken into consideration, for that and the personality of the men will be the only inducements to those voting Liberal.

THE LIBERAL PLATFORM

The platform adopted by the Liberal convention, which terminated its labors last night, is progressive to that point of radicalism which all political progressiveness, especially that of Liberalism, must be.

The Liberal party must be progressive or stagnate. It must be ahead of its time. When it has been most radical in times past it was most militant and most useful.

Only when it fights the battles of the people is Liberalism really itself. Liberalism in Canada never made a more glorious record than when in adversity, fighting against overwhelming odds for the rights of the masses. Liberalism under Papineau, MacKenzie, Brown, and many others whose names have added lustre to the history of Canada and the traditions of the great party, broke up the special privileges of the Tory classes.

When the party fought the family compact and the privileges of Tory officeholders, when it combatted the pretensions of those who arrogated to themselves the functions of government and denied the popular rights to responsible government—then the Liberal party was living up to its best traditions. Later, under its present leader, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in 1896, when it went to the country the champion of purity in the administration of public affairs and the advocate of progressive measures, denied the country by the Government of the day, it swept into power and for sixteen years gave Canada the cleanest and most progressive government the country had ever enjoyed.

It went out of power fighting for a principle—defeated by false cries and false appeals to racial and sectarian prejudices.

Today it is already a great fighting force, and the strongest evidence of its vitality, its virility, its close touch with the needs of the masses is being demonstrated in British Columbia. The convention which closed last night proves all that. If the Liberals never attained to power in British Columbia they will at least be the greatest political-educational force in this province. And there are other ways of serving the people and living up to the traditions of the party than by sitting on the treasury benches of a Government.

Whatever the results may be attained in the forthcoming elections, this much the province may be congratulated upon, that the party of the people is not dead, it is not somnoient, but is a fighting, sleepless force making for purity in public life, clean government and the protection of the people's rights.

Proof of all this is found in the platform adopted by the Liberal convention. No good citizen can afford to neglect to study it closely and compare its presentments with the policy of the Government now seeking a renewal of its tenure of office.

A PRINCIPLE OF GOVERNMENT

One question which the voters should put to themselves before marking their ballots in the approaching election is how far they are prepared to entrust their public interests to a Government on which there is no check and which is not withheld in its conduct of affairs by the slightest sense of responsibility. During the last three years that has been the happy, or unhappy, lot of the McBride Administration. With a Legislature of forty-two members, all of whom, save three, were owned body and soul by the ministry, and were only too willing to concur in any legislation proposed by the Premier and his colleagues, and only too eager to approve and support all the acts of the Government, the administration resolved itself into a mere personal rule. The extent to which that personal conduct of public business was carried is shown by the fact that during the whole of the legislative session just ended the cabinet did not deem it necessary to hold a caucus even of its own supporters in the House. The Premier gave his orders and the members rendered obedience. From the time the Lieutenant-Governor delivered the speech from the throne until he gave formal sanction to the acts passed no member of the assembly outside of the ministers was called into consultation on the policy to be pursued or on the bills which were to become law. The Premier and his cabinet associates not only decided everything that was to be done, but they did so without asking the advice or considering it worth while to ask the advice of their own supporters. In the case of the railway policy it is stated on authority that the Premier did not consult even the members of his own cabinet. And like well-disciplined soldiers, those supporters carried out the instructions they received, and did so without questioning the effect of such compliance upon the general welfare.

It must be manifest to the simplest intelligence that an administration so directed loses all its representative character and takes the form simply of control by a clique, or worse than that, by one man. Under such control it is absurd to expect the public advantage to be served or the public welfare to be safeguarded. By thus handing over to a few men unlimited power the people invite mismanagement of their affairs and every species of misgovernment. Is it at all likely that with such power in their hands those who possess it will not take care to assure the continuance of their rule; that they will not entrench themselves in every way possible and place themselves beyond the possibility of being called to account by the country?

It is only by means of a strong and capable Opposition in parliament that the public interests can be protected, and it lies with the people themselves to say whether they desire that protection. This statement of the case is simply the presentation of a principle recognized in all well governed democratic communities, and the British Columbia electorate cannot in their own interests afford to ignore it. It is for them in the elections about to be held to say whether they desire their public business, in the successful and honest management of which every one of them is deeply concerned, to be placed in the hands of an irresponsible clique, who will conduct the government for their own advantage, or to be in the control of a body of legislators who will give judicious consideration and honest regard to every legislative measure and every administrative act for which they should regard themselves as responsible to the people.

PROTECTING THE WORKMAN

One of the most important planks in the Liberal platform is that relating to compensation for injured workmen. The present Workmen's Compensation Act is limited in its scope and narrow in its application.

The recent explosion in a Nicola coal mine with its terrible loss of life sharply emphasizes the deficiencies of the act and the disabilities under which those whom it is supposed to protect are laboring. For instance, logging and all allied employments are not within the circle of occupations entitled to the benefits of the Compensation Act, and yet we cannot conceive of any employment whose hazardous nature more urgently requires protection of the statute than that of a logger. Again, a workman injured on a structure thirty-nine feet high is not within the scope of the present compensation act, while a man injured on a structure forty feet high or over, is.

Reverting to the mine explosion, we might point out that mining, being one of the great basic industries of this province and at the same time one of the most hazardous, those employed in this occupation are entitled to the greatest protection possible by legislation of this kind; yet in the present instance, if the relatives and the families of those deceased miners killed in that explosion happen to reside outside of this province, though entirely dependent upon the financial assistance contributed for their support by those sons or husbands, the case may be, they will be absolutely without the benefits of the Workmen's Compensation Act, for it has so been decided in a recent decision of the courts.

Again, the present act does not provide for reimbursement of hospital and medical expenses. It often happens in cases of this kind (inasmuch as the weekly allowance provided for by the statute does not exceed \$10.00 per week during the period of disability due to the injuries) that the total indemnity recoverable under the statute is not sufficient or no more than sufficient to pay these disbursements, and the practical result is that either the hospital and the doctor go unpaid, or the injured workman has nothing left after the payment. The act being in effect a system of state insurance, the injured workman should not be deprived of its practical benefits by having to meet heavy disbursements of this kind out of his small indemnity, which are necessarily and directly attributable to the accident in which he has suffered injury and for which this class of legislation should properly compensate him.

In the great majority of industrial accidents the workman has, as a rule, no other remedy than that provided, or which should be provided, by the Workmen's Compensation Act, owing to the many technical defences permissible in any action at common law and even under the Employers' Liability Act. It is therefore of the highest importance to the workmen of this province that the policy advocated by the Liberal party not only of extending the scope and application of the Workmen's Compensation Act should be given immediate effect to, but that the system of cheap state accident insurance adopted as a plank of the platform should be provided.

The Liberals advocate the establishment by the Government of a permanent Industrial Insurance Commission. This commission is to have full charge of a system providing positive compensation for injuries received during employment, without recourse to litigation, and giving employees the benefit of accident insurance at minimum cost.

Such insurance is automatic and may or may not be compulsory. The principle is the same as that in practice in railway construction camps, where workmen are assessed a small sum per month to cover hospital and medical expenses in case of accident or sickness. There would, however, be this difference, that the Government would be responsible for the administration of the insurance, whereas on railway construction the kind of service provided is largely optional with the contractors. Sometimes it is good, but in many cases both the hospital and medical services are farcical grafts.

The Compensation Act has remained in its present incomplete, narrow and restricted state ever since 1902, and the present Government having been in office practically ten years, have made not the slightest effort to render it more efficient or to remove some of its anomalies or to extend its practical benefits to employments to which in all reasonableness it should have been made to apply.



THE LIBERAL PLATFORM

A VOTE FOR McCONNELL IS A VOTE FOR THIS PLATFORM

FREE LANDS FOR SETTLERS—NONE FOR SPECULATORS.

We emphatically condemn the McBride government for its connivance at the evasion of the land laws by persons, syndicates and corporations who have been allowed to obtain millions of acres of the choicest accessible public land, which are held without use and to the detriment of the province as a whole.

We hold that agricultural land should be disposed of only under such conditions as will ensure its continuous use and occupation.

Free homesteads to actual settlers. Holders of pre-emptions to be given benefit of this provision.

Advances to settlers on easy terms to assist in land clearing, dyking, irrigation, and other permanent improvements.

Surveys of all accessible agricultural lands to be rapidly completed and survey sheets and all necessary information to be made easily available to the public.

Settlement in block to be encouraged by the removal of reserves, which scatter population and greatly increase the cost of roads, schools and other necessary facilities.

No public land for the speculator.

TRANSPORTATION.

The immediate construction of a railway to Peace River.

We will co-operate with the Dominion Government in securing all-rail connection between the railway systems of Vancouver Island and the railway systems of the mainland.

The construction of a line owned and controlled by the government to give direct communication, by the best route as to grades and distances, between the Similkameen and other Interior points and the Coast.

We favor the husbanding of the provincial credit to assist lines that will open up new territory.

Provincial credit and resources not to be wasted in paralleling existing lines.

No land subvention to railways beyond what is necessary for railway purposes.

Abolition of the system of giving away Crown lands for townsites free of taxation and under railway control.

Aid to railways not to exceed what is reasonably necessary to secure construction.

The prevention of over-capitalization of railways.

The province to co-operate with the Dominion in aiding railway and highway construction.

All franchises for the construction, operation and ownership or leasing of government-aided roads to be open for public competition.

Freight, passenger, and express rates and telegraph tolls of all government-aided roads to be under the jurisdiction of the Dominion Railway Commission.

With a view to meeting the demand for the transportation of grain from Saskatchewan and Alberta, the immediate construction of government-owned elevators.

The people to control the railways and not the railways the people.

TIMBER.

We condemn without reserve the wholesale disposal of timber lands to speculators, which has been the only timber policy of the present government.

We advocate the survey, cruising and valuation of timber lands by the government before the alienation and disposal of all such lands by public competition to actual users.

Improved methods of preventing timber waste and systemized re-forestation.

Hand loggers' licenses to be granted where conditions demand.

PUBLIC PROTECTION IN RESPECT TO COAL.

Coal land not to be alienated but leased under conditions to be fixed periodically by the Legislature.

Whenever practicable and necessary, government operation of coal mines to be at once undertaken with a view to reduction of existing prices.

We insist upon the appointment of a Royal Commission to investigate the present exorbitant coal prices.

PRACTICAL EDUCATION.

We condemn the present educational autocracy of the government.

We recommend the appointment of a representative advisory board in educational matters such as exists in all other provinces.

The present curriculum is so overloaded with subjects as to render thorough education in any branch impossible.

We advocate an increase of manual and agricultural training and domestic science teaching, and the establishment of an efficient system of technical schools.

The present school system bears unjustly on settlers in unorganized districts and should be immediately remedied.

REGISTRATION.

The government's policy as to revision of the voters' lists and precipitating the present election without a proper re-distribution of the constituencies is a complete subversion of all the privileges of representative government. We favor personal registration and insist on immediate redistribution.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

We favor woman suffrage.

TAXATION.

Abolition of the poll and personal property taxes and raising of the exemption of income limit to \$2,000.

Exemption of improvements on all lands paying taxes to the provincial government.

A re-adjustment of the system of taxation whereby the province may receive a fairer proportion of the unearned increment.

Immediate reform of the present costly, cumbersome and inequitable system of collecting school taxes in unorganized districts.

LABOR WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION WITHOUT LITIGATION.

A provincial department of labor to be created, and free government labor bureaus established.

Thorough and frequent inspection of all industrial premises to insure health, sanitation and safety.

The complete prohibition of child labor in factories and shops.

The present system of liability insurance bears heavily upon employees, and is a frequent source of injustice to workmen and their families. We advocate the establishment by the government of a permanent Industrial Insurance Commission. This commission to have full charge of a system providing positive compensation received during employment, without recourse to litigation, and giving employees the benefit of accident insurance at minimum cost.

The extension of the scope of the Workmen's Compensation Act, so as to cover all hazardous employments.

The payment of wages should be made at least fortnightly.

We favor a minimum wage established by law in government work and government-aided work. We favor the eight-hour day and the six-day week in all public works.

ORIENTAL IMMIGRATION.

We unhesitatingly condemn the hypocrisy of the provincial government as evidenced by its refusal to enact their own remedy, on the ground that it would embarrass the Conservative Dominion Government.

We stand for a white British Columbia and advocate continually increasing stringency in immigration laws until this result is attained. The Liberals of British Columbia are in favor of the total exclusion of Orientals from the province.

We insist that the provincial authorities shall enforce strict sanitary regulations in all congested districts.

EXTENSION OF MUNICIPAL POWERS.

Increase of local control in municipal matters.

The control of the traffic should be vested in municipalities, or, in unorganized territory, in locally elected authorities.

We favor a local option law.

In the protection of the public we insist on the frequent inspection of liquors offered for sale.

Election of license and police commissioners by popular vote.

PUBLIC OWNERSHIP OF UTILITIES.

We emphatically declare our adherence to the principle of public ownership of public utilities, and advocate limitation of terms of franchise to corporations, renewing the same, if in the public interest, on equal terms.

Public ownership of telegraph lines.

LOCAL CONTROL OF LIQUOR TRAFFIC.

The liquor traffic of British Columbia is at present under the absolute control of the provincial government and is used by it as a political machine.

We insist upon the complete removal of the liquor question from party politics.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

We denounce the McBride Government for withholding year after year the public accounts from examination by the public accounts committee.

We advocate the organization of an auditor-general's department independent of the government.

FISHERY CONTROL.

We advocate immediate steps to restore the fishing industry to white fishermen.

The protection of British Columbia fisheries from foreign poachers. The adequate policing of Canadian waters.

PROTECTION OF WATER SUPPLY.

We condemn the short-sighted policy of the provincial government in alienating the timber lands on watersheds tributary to cities, towns, and municipalities. It should be the immediate duty of the government to remedy the mischief caused by this mistaken policy.

TORRENS SYSTEM OF REGISTRATION OF TITLES.

The present system of land registration is expensive and cumbersome. We advocate the adoption of the Torrens system of titles, and the reduction of registration fees.

NON-PARTISAN CIVIL SERVICE.

We favor the organization of a civil service commission for both inside and outside services.

Appointments to the civil service should be based on fitness, and not on partisan service.

