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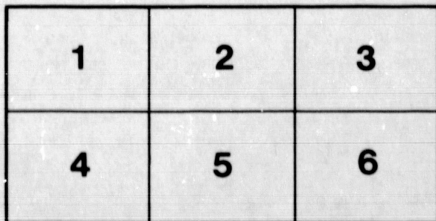
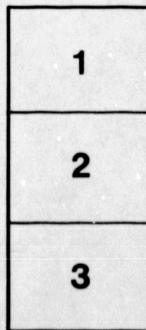
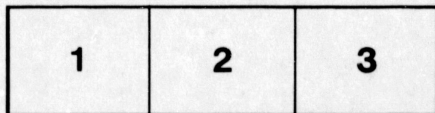
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CANADA'S NEW PARTY



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An Address to the People.

PLATFORM

RIGHTEOUSNESS AND TRUTH in public affairs as well as in private business, and no compromise with wrong.

2. **Equal Rights for all Creeds, Classes and Nationalities**, but exclusive privileges to none.

3. **A National Sentiment, a National Literature**, and in all matters of public policy—**Our Country First**.

4. **The Prompt and Absolute Prohibition of the Liquor Traffic**, and the honest and vigorous enforcement of all laws for the repression of vice and intemperance.

5. **Retrenchment and Economy in Public Expenditure**, with the view of reducing our enormous National Debt.

6. **Manhood Suffrage**, with an educational qualification ; that is, a vote to every freeman of legal age who can read and write.

7. **The Extension of the Franchise to Women**.

8. **An Elective Senate**.

9. **Civil Service Reform**.

Prefatory.—The Origin of the New Party.

For years past a conviction has been growing in the minds of thoughtful men that if certain great reforms were to be carried, a new party was indispensably necessary. At a convention of temperance workers, held in Toronto in the autumn of 1887, the question was discussed; a resolution affirming that the time was favorable for distinct political action was introduced, and carried by a large majority. When the convention adjourned, those who had voted for the resolution were called together, and a provisional committee was appointed with instructions to draft the outline of a Platform, and then to consult as widely as possible with friends of Temperance and Prohibition throughout the country, to see how far the proposed Platform would voice their sentiments. When substantial agreement was reached, a Convention was to be summoned for organization.

The line of action above indicated, was carefully followed by the Provisional Committee. To consult every friend of Temperance was manifestly impossible; but during the course of five months efforts were made by correspondence and personal interviews, to ascertain the opinions of leading temperance men in all parts of the Dominion. Those efforts revealed such a marked consensus of opinion, that only slight modifications had to be made in the Platform as at first outlined.

The next step taken by the Provisional Committee was to publish the Platform in the leading papers of Ontario and Quebec, accompanied by an invitation to all who were prepared to organize on that basis to meet in Toronto on the 21st of March, 1888. In accordance with that call a Convention assembled in Shaftesbury Hall. The proceedings throughout were of the most harmonious description. Various points were discussed with animation, but with perfect good feeling; the Platform, as published, was unanimously ratified as the basis of organization, and an Executive Council was appointed, with instructions to prepare an address to the people of the Dominion, and detailed plans for local organization. Such, in brief, was the origin of the party in whose name the following address is issued.

It will not be out of place to refer briefly to an incident connected with the Convention, which has been greatly exaggerated by the public press. The limitation expressed in the call of the Provisional Committee was in harmony with the instructions of the Convention of 1887, at which the Committee was appointed. The wisdom of this limitation soon became apparent. A few persons were very desirous to prevent the organization of a new party, and hoped to accomplish their end by an interminable wrangle over the Platform. Accordingly, when the hour of meeting arrived, two or three of these persons demanded admission to the Convention without acceptance of the Platform, and also that the whole Platform be open to discussion. This being refused, they took their stand outside the place of meeting, and by making strong and misleading statements to delegates who were arriving, induced a small number—some twelve or fifteen, we are told—to retire without entering the hall. These dissentients subsequently met in the *Citizen* office, and after an hour spent in fruitless discussion, passed a resolution expressing their sympathy with the objects of the proposed new party, and their concurrence with the Platform as a whole, but objecting to the course pursued in limiting the Convention to those alone who accepted the Platform as a basis of organization. We are glad to say that a number of these gentlemen have expressed themselves as quite satisfied with explanations that have since been given, and are now co-operating heartily with the new party in its work.

CANADA'S NEW PARTY.

An Address to the People.

THERE are signs in the political sky which indicate that our country is on the eve of momentous changes. The influences which led to the federation of half-a-dozen widely scattered provinces more than twenty years ago, have well-nigh spent their force, and the necessity for some new and stronger bond of union has become apparent. That our present national status cannot long remain unchanged is a foregone conclusion. Sectional interests are opposed to national unity. Antagonisms of race and creed are ominous of coming strife. Party feuds corrupt the electorate and divert attention from necessary legislation; and instead of patriotic endeavors to awaken national aspirations, and pave the way for national development, the energies of the people are wasted in party contests that are fruitful only of embittered feelings and mutual hate.

At such a time it becomes the duty of every patriotic citizen to think of his country; to investigate carefully the causes that have led to the present crisis, and to discover, if possible, some remedy for the dangers which threaten our national existence. That the provinces of the Dominion are held together by a very slender tie admits of no dispute. With so brief a history they have no common traditions such as unite other nationalities, no community of interests which, in the absence of national sentiment, might hold them together for a time; and unless it be possible to awaken the aspirations of the people for a career of true national development, it is difficult to see that the future can have anything in store for the Dominion save disintegration, and then piecemeal absorption by a foreign power.

The gravity of the situation, in so far, at least, as it affects existing parties, is felt by the political leaders, and they are casting about for some line of policy which, by diverting the attention of the people from real issues, may, for a while, put off the evil day. But it is high time for the people to consider if this young nation, with its splendid possibilities, is indeed shut up to lines of policy which, on the one hand, will doom us through all coming time to the leading-strings of political babyhood, or, on the other, will land us a long stage on the road toward annexation with a foreign power. It is the opinion of those who now address you that these are not the only alternatives. They think the solution of our national problems lies in the creation of a truly national spirit, and that this demands a policy in which the interests of our own country shall be the first and chief consideration; a policy that will not treat lightly the ties that bind us to the glorious Mother land, but which, at the same time, will encourage those national aspirations which will enable the Dominion to shape its own destinies, and to treat with other nations, on terms of equality, regarding its commercial interests and its international rights.

It cannot be denied that in attempting to develop a national spirit among the people of our scattered provinces, we must begin at the very foundation. Hitherto the trend of party politics has been in an opposite direction. There have been many appeals to prejudice, but none to patriotism. In the exigencies of party strife class has been set against class and creed against creed. Provincial interests, which should be identical with Dominion interests, are made to conflict, and the thought of the politicians is not how closely they can unite, but how widely they can diverge. To-day there is no question of principle dividing the existing parties, yet the bitterness of party rancor seems to have grown in inverse ratio to the importance of the interests at stake. These evils we believe to be legitimate fruits of the party system as at present administered, and it becomes the duty of honest men to find a remedy if they can. That remedy consists in setting Country above Party, and in substituting a reign of principles for a reign of corruption. To accomplish this, the Christian and moral sentiment of the country must come to the front. It must insist

that party schemes shall be subordinated to national interests, and that the will of the people shall no longer be frustrated by the manipulators of the party "machines."

For such a movement the hour is propitious. All the signs of the times point to a speedy disintegration of the old parties, and the formation of new alliances around living issues; but whether this shall be a new departure upon a higher plane, or merely a fresh marshalling of obsolete questions under new names, and subject to the old corrupting influences, the people alone can decide. Unless prompt steps are taken, the discredited partyism of the past will quickly reappear, not one whit kindlier, but only a little craftier than of yore. Do not misunderstand us. We bring no wholesale accusation against the men who compose the existing parties; our indictment is against the party system as at present administered. There are tens of thousands of "good men and true" ranged under the banners of their respective parties; but they are often compelled to stand aloof from the exercise of their franchise altogether, or else to give the sanction of their votes to acts which they cannot justify.

A significant fact in connection with the existing parties is the absence of a definite policy. In this respect they occupy common ground. But men who love their country will never consent to have its destiny shaped by such loose and uncertain methods. They justly demand from their political leaders a distinct announcement of the policy they intend to pursue, and the principles upon which the government of the country shall be conducted. If those who assume to be leaders cannot or will not do this, they are not entitled to the confidence of honest men, and as they have failed thus far to meet this reasonable requirement, they cannot complain if others take up the neglected task. A policy that will please everybody is not to be expected; but we are persuaded that an honest platform, framed in the interests of the whole country, would quickly unite the best men of existing parties, and rally a strength of sentiment and conviction that will tell with controlling effect upon the legislation of the future.

Such a Platform we venture to submit. Doubtless it will be objected to by partisans on both sides—that is to be expected;

but we are not without hope that it will commend itself to reasonable men of all parties, especially to those who believe in truth and righteousness, and who hold that these should be controlling factors in public affairs. We believe, also, that the young men of our country, who are beginning to exercise their rights as citizens, and have not yet abandoned themselves to the tyranny of party, will gladly come upon a platform where they can stand without any compromise of moral principle, or any sacrifice of their manhood or of their personal rights. A casual glance will show that the foundation principles of the Platform now submitted are completely at variance with the actual if not avowed policy of existing parties, and that the general adoption of these principles will produce an entire revolution of political methods and aims. This is precisely what we seek to accomplish, and we are convinced that by uniting the Christian and moral sentiment of the country on the lines proposed, it can be done.

In framing the Platform which is now submitted, two objects were kept in view: First, to ground the new party on principles that would allow no standing-room for crooked methods or selfish aims; and, second, to deal only with those specific questions which most directly touch the welfare of the people at the present time. It is for this reason that the Prohibition of the liquor traffic holds a foremost place. Other questions will arise from time to time, and can be dealt with on their merits, but if the reforms demanded by this Platform can be accomplished, the country can not afford to wait awhile for the settlement of less important issues.

In this connection, attention is called to the present attitude of the existing parties in regard to temperance legislation. During the present session of the Dominion Parliament a Bill to amend the Scott Act was introduced by Mr. Jamieson, a supporter of the Government, but its consideration was repeatedly postponed. When a motion was before the House to go into Committee of Supply, the Hon. Mr. Mills, a member of the Opposition, submitted an amendment to the effect that Mr. Jamieson's Bill ought to be a Government measure, and that the Government ought to provide the machinery for Scott Act enforcement. This amendment, being regarded as a mere party

manceuvre, was met by a strait party vote, and defeated by a large majority. The point to be noted is that as Mr. Jamieson and Mr. Mills are both private members, their action has no real significance touching the policy of their respective parties. That the Conservative party is opposed to Prohibition is well understood, and as the declaration made by the Liberal ex-leader, on the eve of the last election, that the Liberal party was not prepared to make Prohibition a plank in its platform, has never been modified or withdrawn, and as the present leader has steadily voted against prohibitory legislation, we are justified in assuming that the attitude of the Liberal party is still hostile to immediate Prohibition. At the same time, it is well known that there are large numbers in both parties whose voices and votes would be for Prohibition if they were not kept silent by party considerations, and we are convinced that the only way in which the convictions of such men can find expression is by the organization of a new political party, with Prohibition as its avowed policy.

In the carrying out of this project, an opportunity is afforded to all who are willing to put Country before Party, to unite in an honest endeavor to purify the political atmosphere, to secure the enactment of needed reforms, to educate public sentiment along the lines of patriotism and political honesty, and to give a new and better direction to the currents of political life. We aim at no selfish ends. Neither offices nor emoluments are sought or desired. To those who unite with us we can offer no rewards that appeal to cupidity or selfish ambition. We offer only the opportunity—enough, surely, to stir the heart of every true patriot!—of working to good purpose for the best interests of home and country, and of finding richest reward in something accomplished for the benefit of the land we love. That our aims will be deemed Utopian by those who regard the electorate as so many cattle to be bought and sold, is quite likely; but we are unwilling to believe that truth and honor and patriotism are mere forms of speech, or that the disreputable partyism of the past has so succeeded in corrupting the whole body politic as to render political reform an impossibility. The ends we seek cannot be accomplished in a day. Many a battle must first be fought. Courage and patience will be

needed, and for a time we may be a minority, but what of that ?

“If God be God, if truth be truth,
If Christian men be men,
Let them arise and fight the fight
Though it were one to ten !”

And when victory crowns our efforts, it will be but another illustration of the truth that it has often pleased God to redress wrongs and uplift the world by the agency of consecrated and clean minorities.

By order, and on behalf of, the Central Executive Council,

W. MUNNS,
Secretary.

A. SUTHERLAND,
President.

N.B.—Copies of this Address, for general circulation, may be had in any quantity from the Secretary. Address, “Parkdale, Ont.”

