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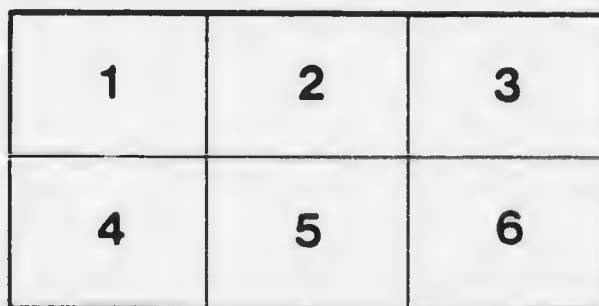
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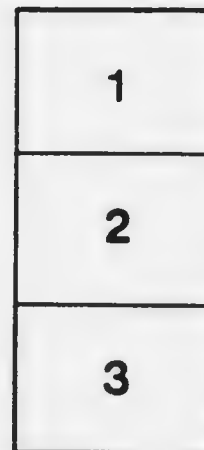
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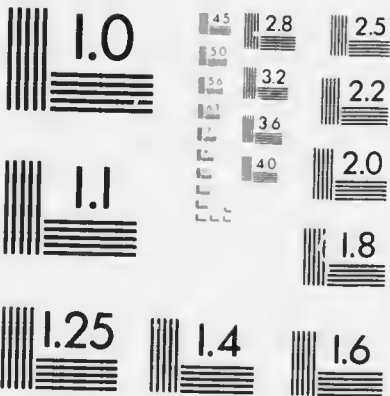
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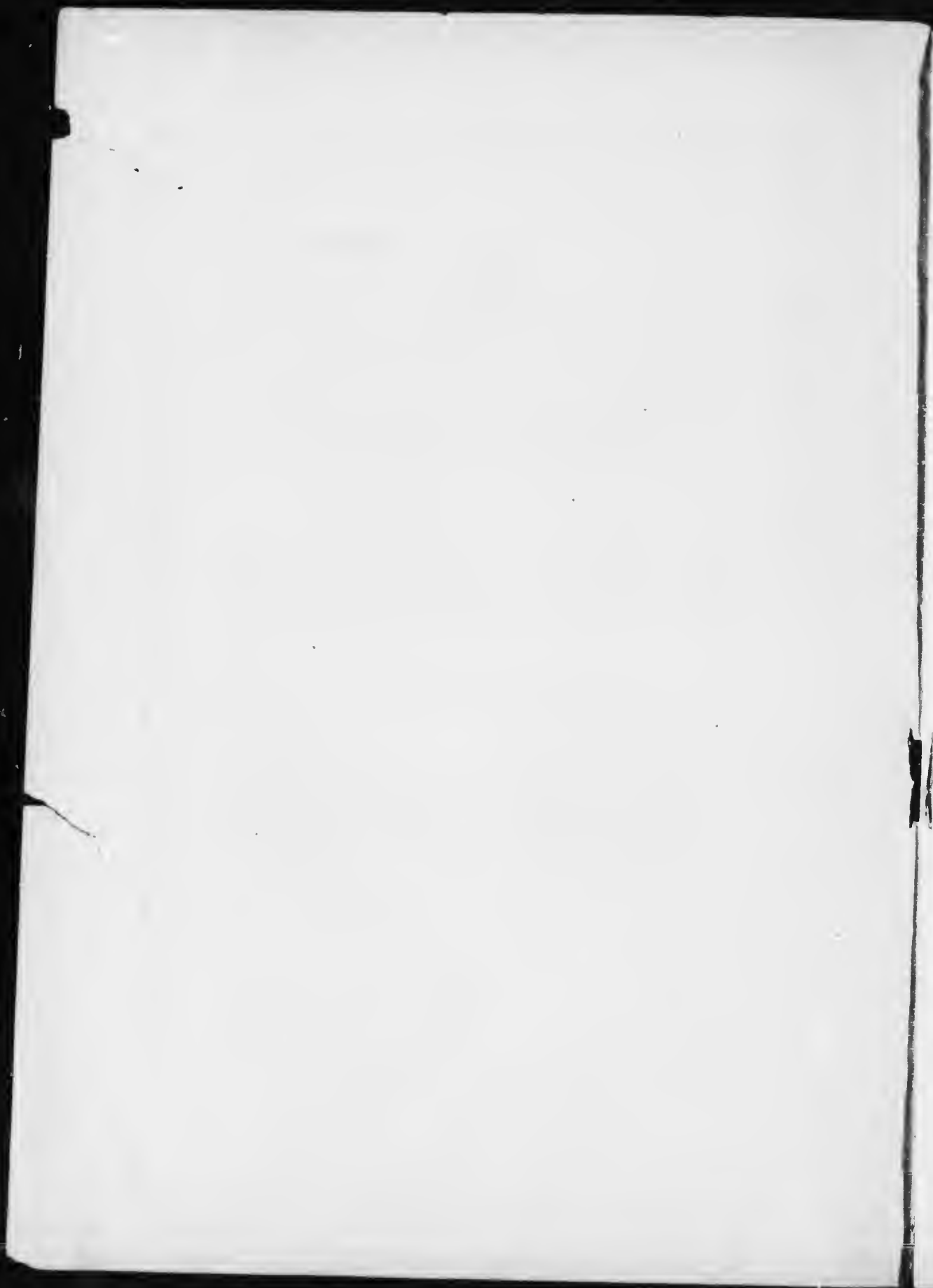


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PREMIER'S
ADDRESS
TO THE
ELECTORS





To the Electors of Alberta:—

Gentlemen—The First Legislative Assembly of the Province of Alberta has brought its labors to a close by the enactment of a measure for an increase in the numbers of the representatives of the people. On March 22nd next it will be your duty to elect members of the enlarged Assembly. At that election the Government over which I have the honour to preside, the Government which you confirmed in office in 1905, asks for your verdict on its work.

The following are a few of the subjects to which the Government pledges itself to give its best energies if it is returned to power:—

1.—RAILWAYS.

The past Session has produced legislation which is the starting point for the future action of the Government. It is the object of the Government to secure railway facilities for every part of the Province now needing them and to increase those facilities as the need increases. It purposes to do this in a form that will insure rapid building of the roads while safeguarding the financial interests of the Province, by guaranteeing the bonds of the lines built, such guarantee being secured by mortgages on the lines.

2.—TELEPHONES.

The whole Province is already feeling the good effects of the bargain made with the Bell Telephone company. Already the work of extending the old lines in many directions has been commenced. It will be the aim of the Government to continue that extension with the greatest possible celerity.

The past record of the Government and the programme sketched above form the platform upon which I stand confidently to appeal to you for your renewed support.

My colleagues in the work of administration were chosen with a single eye to efficiency. They were men you trusted then and for four years they have shown that ability and integrity, which merits your further confidence; throughout every branch of the service the public good has been the one and only watchword.

Session after session the utmost vigor of capable minds has been centred on the work of legislation. Among the measures passed initiated by the Government, for which I accept the full responsibility, may be mentioned the following:—

Mechanics' Lien Act.
Land Titles Act.
Supreme and District Courts Act.
Taxation of Corporations Act.
Railway Taxation Act.
The Coal Mines Eight Hours' Act.
Workmen's Compensation Act.
Railway Act.
Local Improvement Districts and Village Acts.
Liquor License Ordinance Amendment's Act.
Public Health Act.
Neglected Children's Act.
Election Act.
Redistribution Act.

These are only the more conspicuous items of the body of legislation which has been submitted to the First Legislative Assembly by the Government. I doubt whether any Government could point to such a monument of its industry and public spirit.

In administration, as in legislation, the aim of the Government has been efficiency and progress. Its record pledges it to a continuation of the work. In educational matters it can point to the school areas and school houses which are continually springing into existence, and to the free school readers which have earned for Albertan schools the envy of the older Provinces.

Agriculturalists have ample reason to speak well of the Government and are voicing their approval. The Creameries of Alberta are winning markets at home and across the ocean.

The strict enforcement of The Prairie Fires Ordinance and The Noxious Weed Act have saved thousands of dollars to the farmers of the Province. Scientific research in matters of Agriculture has been placed at their service.

The administration of The Public Works Department has been of enormous value to our virgin land. In all directions roads, bridges and ferries have opened up the way to the farmer lumberman and the miner. The construction and repair of roads and colonization roads has to a very large extent absorbed the attention of the Department, and inasmuch as the government fully realized that this was the most important and most pressing work to be done by any Department of the Government, the amounts voted yearly towards this object have formed much the largest item of the Provincial expenditure. The Government are satisfied that the maximum of value was got for every dollar spent and have every reason to point with pride to the really excellent work done by the Public Work Department upon road and bridge construction. The public buildings, of which the Province was so sorely in need, are proceeding apace.

The peace and good order of the land continues to be the care of the Royal North-West Mounted Police, whose magnificent organization has been and will be still at the service of the Province. The Department of the Attorney-General, besides having the chief care of the legislation, has provided the Province with a system of rural justice which inspires confidence in every quarter.

The Revenues of the Province are known to you from the Public Accounts. The expenditures also are before you. The Treasury Department, over which I have the honour to preside has had as its aim, accuracy and simplicity. Expenditure has increased and must increase with the growth of the Province, but with that growth, too, there has come and will come increase of revenue from the Dominion, from taxes on corporations, from fees and other sources. The Act to Supplement the Revenues of the Crown, the Act Respecting Taxation of Land for Educational Purposes, and the Act Respecting the Taxation of Corporations have all been instruments in raising an ever-increasing revenue without touching the ordinary citizen. The Conference at Ottawa with the Dominion Government and the other Provincial Governments on the question of Subsi-

des resulted in a large increase of the Dominion grant. That grant will go on increasing with our population. The money spent has in reality been invested. What better investment than education could be found for the \$820,440 so spent? Than the roads, bridges, ferries and public buildings of the Province for the \$3,339,192 which they have accounted for? And so with the rest.

The Railway Policy, which I have seen through its first stages in the Session just closed, was the result of serious thought and conviction. It had become apparent that unless the Government intervened it might be many years before railways would feel themselves sufficiently strong to essay unassisted the work of development. In the meantime the settlers who were already turning the prairies to fruitful fields, would be hampered in their work, and it would be impossible to attract new inhabitants for lands further from the main line. The Government is pledged to see that wherever lines are required for the development of the vast resources of the Province, there they shall go. It is not only pledged to that policy but it has made it practicable and secured its commencement by the promise of a guarantee of the bonds of companies building lines which will enable those companies to finance them. Already almost you can hear the construction gangs at work. But that work can only be proceeded with if the policy which the Government has elaborated is secured.

It is now three and a half years since you accepted my promise to do all that in me lay for the welfare of the Province of Alberta. I appeal to your justice whether I have or have not fulfilled that promise. If you now renew your acceptance of myself and my colleagues as the custodians of your public affairs, you may rest assured that those affairs will be my sole consideration and care in a further term of office.

A. C. RUTHERFORD.

