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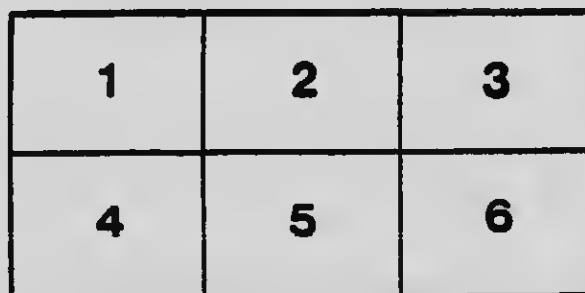
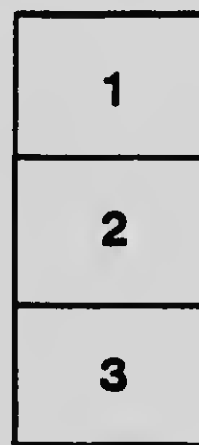
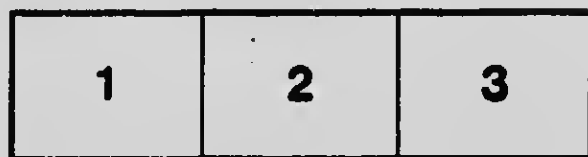
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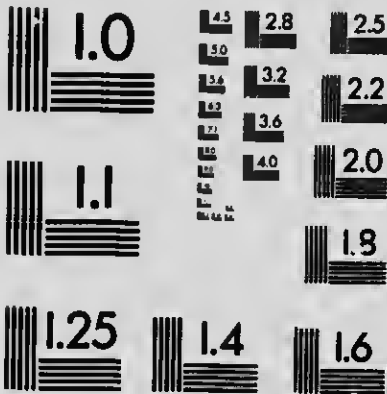
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MANIFESTO

— OF —

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SIR E. P. MORRIS, Kt., K.C., LL.D.



LEADER OF THE PEOPLE'S PARTY.

Manifesto of Sir E. P. Morris, Kt., K.C., LL.D.

LEADER OF THE PEOPLE'S PARTY

TO THE ELECTORS OF NEWFOUNDLAND :

GENTLEMEN,—The House of Assembly having been dissolved, you will, in a few weeks, be called upon to choose the men who shall represent you in the next Legislature.

The real issue upon which you will have to pass on Polling Day is whether the present Government shall continue in power, or whether the Colony's affairs shall be entrusted to other men.

In the confident belief that the best interests of this country would be served by a change in the administration of its public affairs, I have, as stated in my preliminary Manifesto, issued to you in March last, acceded to the request of a number of representative electors, including members of the Opposition in the Legislature, and organized a Party, known as **THE PEOPLE'S PARTY**, to oppose the present Government at the Polls. **THIS PARTY IS COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVE MEN**

OF ALL CLASSES AND CREEDS; AND IT APPEALS, NOT TO PASSION OR PREJUDICE, BUT TO THE INTELLIGENCE AND PATRIOTISM OF THE PEOPLE OF THE COUNTRY, WHOSE PARTY IT IS; AND, THEREFORE, I SOLICIT YOUR SUPPORT FOR ITS CANDIDATES WHO WILL SEEK ELECTION AT YOUR HANDS.

MY RECORD.

For nearly a quarter of a century I have been a Member of the House of Assembly, and actively interested in the public affairs of the Colony, not alone in the introduction and enacting of progressive and remedial legislation, but also for sixteen years as a member of the Executive Government, in which latter capacity I assisted in the shaping and adoption of many of the measures that have contributed

to the material prosperity of our Island Home.

In July, 1907, resigned the Attorney Generalship and my seat in the Executive Council as a member of the present Government, because I felt that I had not received their sympathy and loyal support in my efforts to raise the pay of the workingmen of the country. This policy of raising the workingmen's pay had been advocated by the Liberal Party as far back as 1889, but no serious or effectual attempt had been made to give vitality to the principle until it was made by me.

THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY.

In appealing for your votes as Leader of **The People's Party**, I would be quite within my rights to confine myself in this Manifesto to a criticism of the policy, or, more accurately speaking, want of policy, of the present Administration, and its failure to carry out those promises to fulfil which it was elected.

The discussion in the press during the past year of the policy and measures of the present Administration has rendered you so familiar with the chief subjects which have evoked public criticism, that it is unnecessary for me to refer to them in detail here. Moreover, I take it that the people of the country **WILL BE MORE INTERESTED IN ASCERTAINING THE POLICY OF THE PEOPLE'S PARTY WITH REGARD TO THE FUTURE THAN IN THE DISCUSSION OF THE FAIL-**

URES, OR BLUNDERS, OR INEFFICIENCY OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT.

Let it suffice for me to point out that the Government's policy on the questions of Cold Storage, the Development of our Coal and Mineral Areas, the utilization of our Peat, the Smelting of Iron Ore, the opening up of New Markets for our Fish, the Expansion of our Local Industries, the Introduction of New Methods into the Herring Fishery, the Enlargement of our Lumber Industry, the Development of our Agricultural Resources and, generally, the Providing of New Industries and Avocations whereby our people could be kept at home and profitably employed instead of having to seek a livelihood in other lands—has failed completely, and these questions, as I write, are as little in evidence as if they had never been referred to.

If the political Party with which I have the honor to be identified is entrusted with the conduct of public affairs, we shall devote ourselves, to the best of our ability, to **the carrying out of a policy which shall ensure for our people the greatest possible advantages, through a prudent conservation and energetic development of the material resources of the colony.**

NO CONFEDERATION.

In my preliminary Manifesto, issued to the country in March last, amongst the matters which I then set forth I laid it down clearly that the **MAINTENANCE OF SELF GOVERNMENT AND NO**

CONFEDERATION was a chief plank in my platform. Not alone myself, but every candidate for **The People's Party** who will seek election at your hands is solemnly bound by this pledge. Yet to my astonishment, and, I am sure, to that of thousands of our fellow-countrymen, I observe that the Leader of the Government, in his Manifesto issued a few days ago, devoted considerable effort to insinuating that **The People's Party** were in sympathy with Confederation, and sought to win support from the ranks of our followers, and to deceive the electorate, by representing that union with Canada was our ultimate purpose **THIS HE DID IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT ONE OF HIS EXECUTIVE COLLEAGUES, HON. JAMES S. PITTS, ONLY A FEW DAYS AGO AT QUEBEC WAS HONEST ENOUGH TO DECLARE THAT CONFEDERATION WAS NOT AN ISSUE IN THIS ELECTION AT ALL.** For months the Opposition press has been warning the electors that the Confederation cry would be used to frighten them at the last moment, but nobody could have supposed that the Prime Minister of a British Colony would descend to the publication, over his own signature, of a statement which he knew to be untrue, and the use of which is as discreditable as it is dishonest. **I THINK I AM CORRECT IN SAYING THAT ONE MAY SEARCH IN VAIN THROUGH THE ANNALS OF THE BRITISH**

COLONIES OR THE MOTHER COUNTRY FOR ANY INCIDENT WHICH FORMS A PARALLEL TO THIS.

I am, and have been all my life, a staunch, unwavering opponent of Confederation on any terms. I was not old enough when the question was before the country in '69 to vote against it, but as a boy I attended its funeral. In 1888, when the question was again mooted, I was one of the few who met together and arranged for a public meeting, in which I took part, and at which resolutions were passed to prevent delegates being sent to Ottawa. In 1895, after the Bank "crash," when the White-way Government had failed to obtain a loan, or assistance from the Imperial Government, a delegation consisting of the present Premier, the present Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Emerson, and myself were appointed to visit Ottawa and learn the terms of Union which Canada was prepared to offer. The terms proposed were such as this Colony could not entertain. **Those who were with me on that occasion know the part I took in this Conference, and will bear me out when I say that no one was more pronounced in the refusal to entertain the terms offered than I was.** I came back to this Colony with the terms, announced them in the Legislature, and advised their non-acceptance. Since then, in all my private and public utterances, I have pointed out that the true mission for this Colony is to work out her own

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destiny, independent of Canada, for, in my opinion, all that the most ardent Confederate might hope to obtain from union with Canada can be accomplished by ourselves as an independent Colony.

The newspapers supporting the present Government, having no policy to advocate, and no record to claim credit for, but solely to gain the support of the country by frightening the voters, daily assert that there is a danger of Confederation being brought about if the People's Party be elected. My only answer to this accusation is that I am to-day, as I was and as I have ever been, consistent on this question—an Anti-Confederate, who will not consent to union with Canada on any terms; and that before the question will be taken up in any form by me, or those associated with me, I shall resign my seat in the Legislature.

Whether those who are now trying to gain advantage from the cry of Confederation have as clean a record on this question as I have, I must only leave to an intelligent electorate to decide. I have full confidence in the ability of this country, with a common-sense Government, to maintain its independ-

ence, and become one of the most flourishing colonies of the Empire.

THE QUESTION OF EDUCATION

I regard as of prime importance to the whole island. The Teaching Profession represents a power in this Colony, which, measured by its influence and its capacity for good, stands foremost among the great agencies of progress. The teacher it is upon whom the responsibility largely rests of developing and training all the faculties of our children, moral, physical and intellectual.

Under our present system of education we have a body of men, clerical and lay, constituting the School Boards, who give their services gratuitously, and who are doing splendid work. The same may be said of the Council of Higher Education. The matters at present calling for immediate attention are the increasing of teachers' salaries, the augmenting of the grants for destitute places, and the improvement of school-rooms and school-buildings from a health and sanitary standpoint; and these matters shall have our prompt and earnest attention.

I may be pardoned for speaking with some warmth on this question, since it was my privilege in 1904, in response to a request from a deputation of the Church of England Synod, to undertake, when acting as Premier, to increase the education grant of the Colony by \$60,000—more than it had been increased the previous thirty years.

REDUCTION OF TAXATION,

so that it will bear equitably on the working classes, can be best accomplished by placing on the free list such items as tea, sugar, pork, and the other prime necessities of our people on which very heavy taxes are now imposed. That this can be easily accomplished without in any way affecting the necessary revenue required to maintain the various public services of the Colony is shown by the fact that nearly \$100,000 has been collected annually for the past eight years over and above what was required to meet the demands of the public services.

BRANCH RAILWAY EXTENSION

by the construction of branch lines to points in Trinity Bay, in the District of Bay-de-Verde from Carbonear towards Grate's Cove, Bonavista Bay, Fortune Bay and Bonne Bay, as well as to Trepassey, is a work which will immediately engage our attention. During the eight years in which I was a member of the Whiteway Government—from 1889 to 1897—nearly six hundred miles of railway were built—a trunk line across the country. When this enterprise was set on foot we were told that the road would never earn enough to pay for axle-grease, but to-day all will agree that it has more than justified the expectations of its advocates, and contributed materially to the prosperity of the Colony, as well as to the betterment of the people. It is, how-

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ever, incomplete, in that it lacks branches to the different sections of the Island above stated, and it shall be our privilege to construct these branches without delay. The people of these portions of the Island are contributing their share towards maintaining the burden which Railway Building entailed, and it is but just that as soon as it can be shown that such extension can be carried out without entailing additional taxation on the people of the Colony, the work should be set on foot. That **THE CONSTRUCTION OF THESE BRANCH LINES IS FEASIBLE, (ACCORDING TO SIR ROBERT BOND), WITHOUT ADDING TO THE PRESENT BURDENS OF OUR PEOPLE,** is proved by the following declaration of the Right Honorable the Premier of the Colony, made in the House of Assembly during the last session of the Legislature, on February 13th, 1908. Speaking to a petition presented from Bonavista praying for Railway Extension there the Premier said:—

“ No Legislation is necessary
“ at present in order to effect
“ the accomplishment of the
“ branch railways, as it is pro-
“ vided in the Railway Con-
“ tract that whenever it is
“ shown to the Government
“ that there is a sufficient
“ volume of traffic to warrant
“ the construction of a rail-
“ way, the Government may
“ call on the Government Con-
“ tractor to undertake the work
“ of construction at once. But
“ the fact that there is a suffic-

"icient volume of traffic to war-
 "rant the expenditure of the
 "necessary money must first
 "be shown. Of course, the
 "Government has to foot the
 "bill finally."

The leader of the Government in his manifesto issued last week seeks to represent that the finances of the colony will not be able to meet the annual interest on the cost of carrying into effect this and other measures advocated by me in this manifesto. Sir Robert Bond seems to have forgotten that during the past ten years the revenue of this colony has increased from \$1,541,420 in 1898 to \$2,750,690 in 1907. This large increase is in addition to the fact claimed by the Premier that taxation has been reduced by \$177,000 annually. Surely, then, we can confidently look forward to a still larger increase during the next ten years. But assuming that instead of an increase of \$1,200,000 in ten years we only increase one fourth of that amount, or \$300,000, in that period we should still have ample means, and without one cent of additional taxation, to meet the interest and cost of all the new services advocated in this Manifesto.

OUR FISHERY POLICY.

While the attention of the Legislature has been occupied with measures, in many instances, of doubtful value to the country, the great question of making our fisheries much more profitable to our people has not been grappled with in the manner in which it should be in a fishing country like ours.

The lamentable experience of our people to-day, with the price of fish reduced to one-half its normal value, emphasizes the fact that the question of most vital importance to this colony now, and for many years to come, must be the adoption of such a policy as will at once raise the price of fish, and maintain it at a high figure. In my opinion this can best be accomplished in the following ways:

(1) **The Opening up of New Markets** in the United States, Mexico, Central and South America, and other parts of the world where at present our fish does not enter.

(2) **The Providing of Steam Subsidies** to the West Indies and elsewhere, so as to assist in the marketing of our catch.

(3) **The introduction of modern methods of preparing codfish** for sale, such as are in vogue in America (where codfish is put up at Gloucester in 64 different varieties) which would lessen our export of fish in bulk and drums, and also largely increase the price to be paid our fishermen.

(4) **The Adoption of Cold Storage** in the export of fishery products, as there seems no reason why it should not be possible to export our varied fishes, fresh, seeing that mutton is to-day carried from New Zealand to England by such means.

The whole of our West Coast winter catch of Codfish, Herring and Halibut should be exported fresh into Canada and the United

States. The market is there, and good prices can be realized; and, in addition, the foreign markets for salted cod will in this way be relieved by every quintal of Cod-fish that is sold fresh.

I propose:

- (A) **THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BAIT FREEZERS AT POINTS AROUND OUR COAST** easily accessible to our fishermen, so that at all times when bait is not to be had by our people ~~out~~ of the sea, and fishing is possible, they may be able to carry on their industry successfully by means of bait from the freezers.
- (B) **TO ENCOURAGE THE PROSECUTION OF THE HER-RING FISHERY** in such manner as will best conserve the interests of the Colony, and of the fishermen engaged in this industry.
- (C) **THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DAILY FISHERY TELE-GRAPHIC SERVICE** by means of all telegraphic stations on the Island and Labrador, to furnish information as to bait fishes, fish and weather conditions.
- (D) **THE EXTENSION OF OUR TELEGRAPHIC AND TELE-**

PHONIC SYSTEMS, so as to serve as many of the outports as possible.

- (E) **THE EXTENSION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE MARCONI SYSTEM** along the coast of Labrador.
- (F) **THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WEATHER BUREAU FOR NEWFOUNDLAND AND LAB-RADOR**, so as to forewarn our fishermen of impending storms, and thus prevent the destruction annually caused to the fishing fleet.
- (G) **THE PROHIBITION OF STEAMSHIPS FROM ENGAGING IN THE LABRADOR FISHERY.**
- (H) **THE DREDGING OF SHALLOW HARBORS AROUND OUR COAST.**
- (I) **THE EXTENSION OF LIGHTHOUSES, FOG ALARMS, PUBLIC WHARVES, BREAK-WATERS, AND OTHER MARINE WORKS.**
- (J) **THE PROVIDING OF A WINTER COASTAL SERVICE** to Northern Ports and such additional Bay Steam Service as trade requirements may demand.

AN AGRICULTURAL POLICY

should go hand in hand with a fishery policy. To-day we import from abroad nearly one million dollars' worth of farm products which should be raised at home. This does not include the \$2,400,000 which we paid last year for 366,000 barrels of flour consumed by our people. This large consumption of flour is double that per head of the population of any other country in the world, the food of our people being largely restricted to flour. What is needed is that we should eat less flour, and use more meats, vegetables, etc., raised at home, thus enlarging our agricultural operations, and keeping amongst us all the gold now annually going out of the country. To effect this we must give our people a bonus for clearing land, and encourage them to settle on the land; give them new seeds, a good breed of cattle and sheep, and low rates by steamer and train to market their produce.

OUR MINERAL WEALTH

is undoubtedly large and varied, and its richness should be made the basis of an industrial development greatly in excess of anything we know of to-day. At this moment, in spite of all our vaunted progress, only two mines in the Colony are working extensively—the Copper deposit at Tilt Cove and the Iron deposit at Bell Island. This is all the more regrettable because some years ago we had

several other mineral deposits in process of extensive exploitation, and the tendency in other countries is for the development of their mineral wealth to increase from year to year. It seems to me that our undesirable condition of affairs is due in a great measure to the fact that in Newfoundland the man who actually discovers a valuable mineral deposit rarely succeeds in acquiring the ownership of it, as from various causes—its being on land granted to other people or his lacking the means to work it, etc.—it usually passes out of his hands. In other countries every man is a prospector, but with us the incentive to this is dead. TO STIMULATE PROSPECTING FOR MINERALS OF COMMERCIAL UTILITY, and to rectify the injustice of such a condition of affairs as the above, I propose the enactment of a measure whereby every person discovering minerals on lands granted to others, should be paid, on the successful working of the same, a certain amount by the beneficial owner of such property, as a reward or recompense for such discovery, the amount to be determined by regulations framed by the Legislature.

HOUSING OF WORKMEN.

I also propose the enactment of Legislation REQUIRING THE PROPER HOUSING OF WORKMEN AT MINES AND OTHER INDUSTRIAL CENTRES, and the provision of adequate measures of sanitation.

PROTECTION OF MINERS.

I PLEDGE THE PEOPLE'S PARTY TO A STRICT ENFORCEMENT OF THE LAWS REGULATING MINING AND THE USE OF EXPLOSIVES, so as to guard against accidents, and the enactment of more stringent mining laws where such may be found necessary. Last winter a series of fatal accidents occurred in some of our mines, and it was suggested that the explosives used might be the cause of these, whereupon it was announced that the Government intended laying the matter before the Imperial authorities, with a view to having tests of the explosives made, but if such was done, the result of the investigation was certainly never made public.

AN INDUSTRIAL POLICY.

The natural complement of a fishery, mineral, and agricultural policy should be an industrial policy and the local manufacturing concerns in this Colony are an object lesson of what it is possible to accomplish in this respect by judicious fostering and encouragement.

It will be my special aim to promote other similar industries in our midst, and in that way afford employment to our people and keep them at home, thus preventing the tide of emigration which is draining away the life blood of the Colony, its young men and women—and also the loss to our people of the millions of dollars sent away to purchase commodities which

might be produced within our borders. Such a policy would include encouragement to ship building and kindred industries.

COAL AND PEAT.

THE SERIOUS SITUATION CREATED BY THE PRESENT PRICE OF COAL is so far-reaching, touching as it does every fireside in the colony, as well as every industry, that it has become a national grievance. Coal in Sydney to-day sells as low as \$3.00 a ton, yet it costs our people in many settlements in the colony as high as \$7.20 a ton, though a cargo of English household coal was brought across the Atlantic, a distance of two thousand miles, and sold in St. John's recently for \$5.90 a ton. A means must be found for effecting a reduction in the price of coal, and, if elected, we shall take steps to bring about such a result. We also propose to set on foot a thorough scientific examination of our coal fields and peat areas, so that either, or both, may be at once developed in such a way as to provide an alternative against imported coal for the use of our people.

TRADESMEN AND LABORERS.

I propose the enactment of a measure to give TRADE AND LABOR UNIONS in this Colony the same legal status that they occupy in Great Britain. At the present time in Newfoundland the funds of Labor Unions can be attached for the acts and indebtedness of individual members. The

injustice of this is such that we purpose, at as early a date as possible, to relieve the Unions of this ever-present menace to their funds.

I also propose the enactment of a measure requiring the payment of Miners and Lumbermen weekly and giving all wage-earners a lien for their wages on the property worked on.

THE PROVIDING OF OLD AGE PENSIONS

for our people is a matter that demands immediate attention, and this it shall receive at our hands. Legislation of this character is already in operation in Australia, New Zealand, Germany and Great Britain. With the examples of these countries before us a feasible scheme applicable to our circumstances—and one within the means of the Colony and not requiring additional taxation, can be devised.

In addition to this we shall arrange for the payment of all poor relief in cash.

OUR TREATY RIGHTS

It shall be the policy of **The People's Party** to **STRONGLY UPHOLD** every position taken by this Colony in defence of our constitutional rights under the **Treaty of 1818**, and to endeavor to secure, if possible, the appointment of a special representative for this Colony on the arbitration tri-

bunal to which our fishery dispute with the United States has been referred; as I submit that no man outside the Colony can possess the familiarity with our local conditions which it is essential that our arbitrator should enjoy in order to fully protect the interests of the people of Newfoundland.

LABRADOR.

The time has now arrived when the growing importance of Labrador calls for intelligent action on behalf of the permanent residents of that coast, as well as the thirty thousand fishermen who annually go down to prosecute the fishery there. It is essential that an additional steam service should be at once provided for the Coast, thus giving a weekly service, and bringing more ports in Newfoundland and Labrador into communication. The establishment of more lighthouses, beacons, and other aids to navigation; the charting of northern Labrador, thus giving our people a more extended area for fishing operations, and the development of the resources of that region are all matters which point to the necessity of Labrador being represented in the Legislature.

With reference to the Labrador boundary dispute between this Colony and Canada my position is well known by every member of the present Government to have been one of unyielding resistance to every claim of the Dominion; and I pledge myself to maintain that attitude if elected to office.

I think it only due to myself in this connection, in view of the insinuations made by the Premier in his recent Manifesto, to state that it was I who prepared the Colony's Case with regard to the Question, and conducted the researches which resulted in the accumulation of a mass of testimony that in my opinion renders the Case for the Colony impregnable, a conclusion concurred in. I am happy to say, by eminent English and Canadian counsel to whom the case prepared by me has been submitted.

ELECTIVE ROAD BOARDS.

Owing to the cumbrous and costly character of the law dealing with the question of **THE ELECTION OF OUTPORT ROAD BOARDS**, the people of the Colony have not been able to avail of it. I propose the adoption of a simple and inexpensive measure whereby they may enjoy this advantage—so that they may have **A FULLER SHARE IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THEIR OWN LOCAL AFFAIRS**. I also propose the adoption of amendments to the St. John's Municipal Act, which will enable the Municipal Council to compel absentee landlords to contribute their share towards civic taxation; and which will redress other civic grievances.

OUTPORT HOSPITALS.

The need for Outport Hospitals has been made manifest during the past year or two by several deplorable incidents, and as industrial centres spring up, the frequency of these may be accentuated. I propose the establishment of **SMALL COTTAGE HOSPITALS AT SUITABLE OUTPORT CENTRES**; and also the improvement of the accommodation for sick and injured fishermen on the Labrador mail steamers.

The foregoing is briefly MY MESSAGE TO THE PEOPLE OF NEWFOUNDLAND. I have not penned it without the most serious thought and consideration. All that it proposes I am satisfied can be accomplished without imposing additional burdens on our people or increasing taxation. I, **THEREFORE, APPEAL TO THE ELECTORS OF NEWFOUNDLAND**, both old and young, to give me and my associates an opportunity to carry out this policy, and prove to the country that we can succeed where others have failed.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

E. P. MORRIS.

St. John's, Oct. 3, 1908.

