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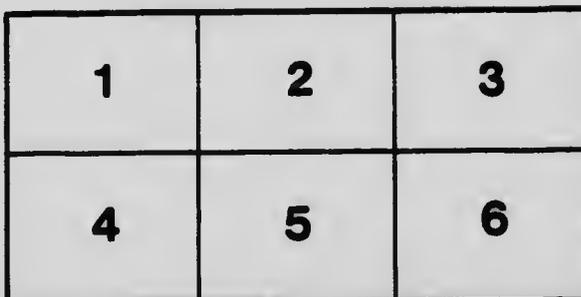
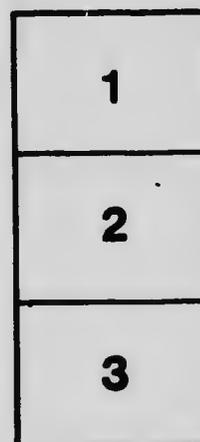
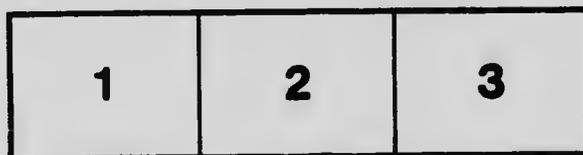
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# **A PROGRESSIVE POLICY**

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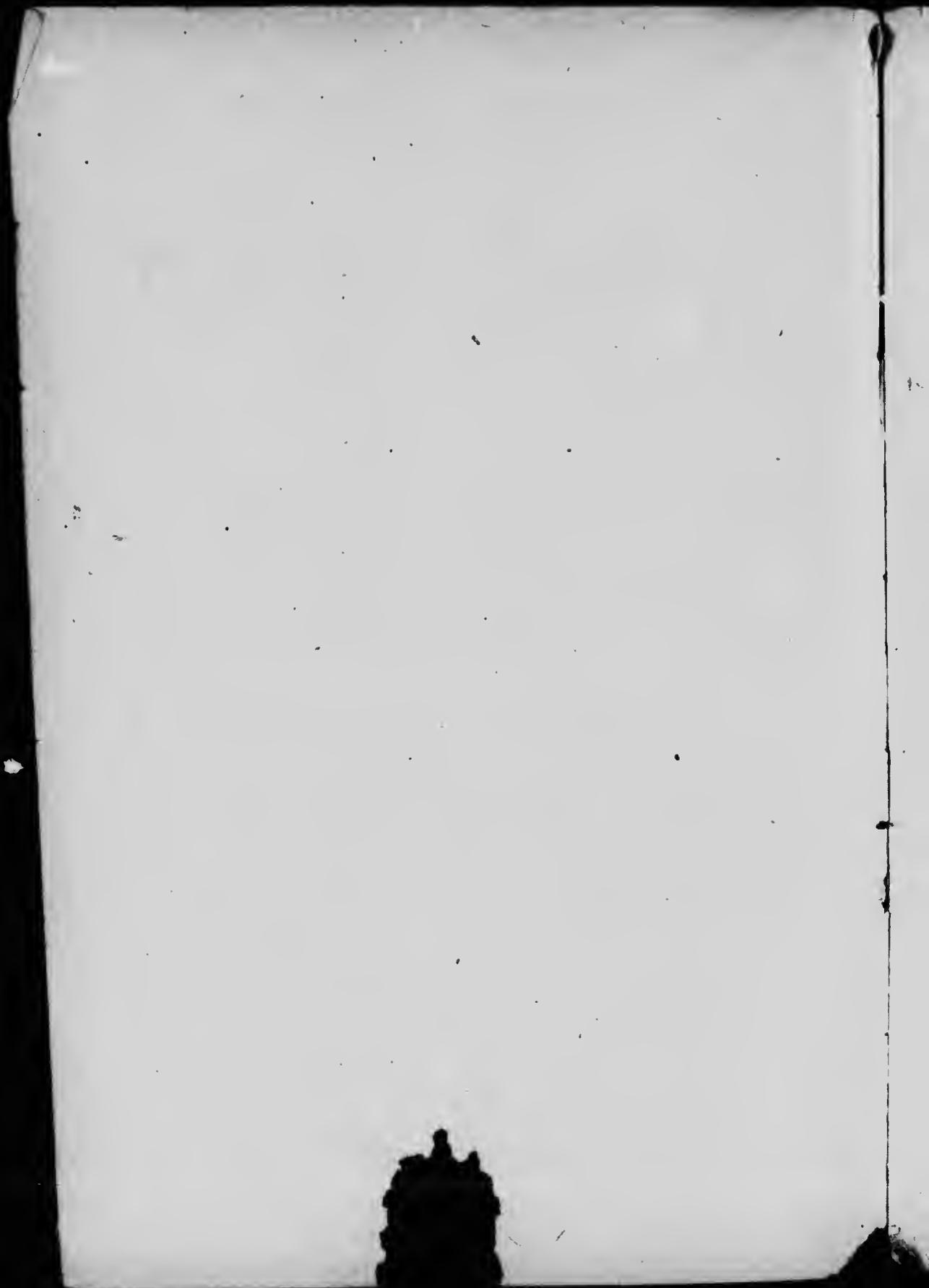
A Statement of the Provincial Platform  
of the Alberta Conservatives as adopted  
in Convention at Red Deer on February  
12th and 13th, 1909. :: :: :: :: ::

## **A POLICY FOR THE PEOPLE**

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**ELECTIONS: MARCH 22nd**



# TO THE ELECTORS

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Resolved, that in the opinion of this convention the system at present prevailing for the bringing on of a general election gives to the party in power an unfair advantage and is hurtful to the public interests by reason of the unsettling effects of the uncertainty which exists as to the time when the same will be held.

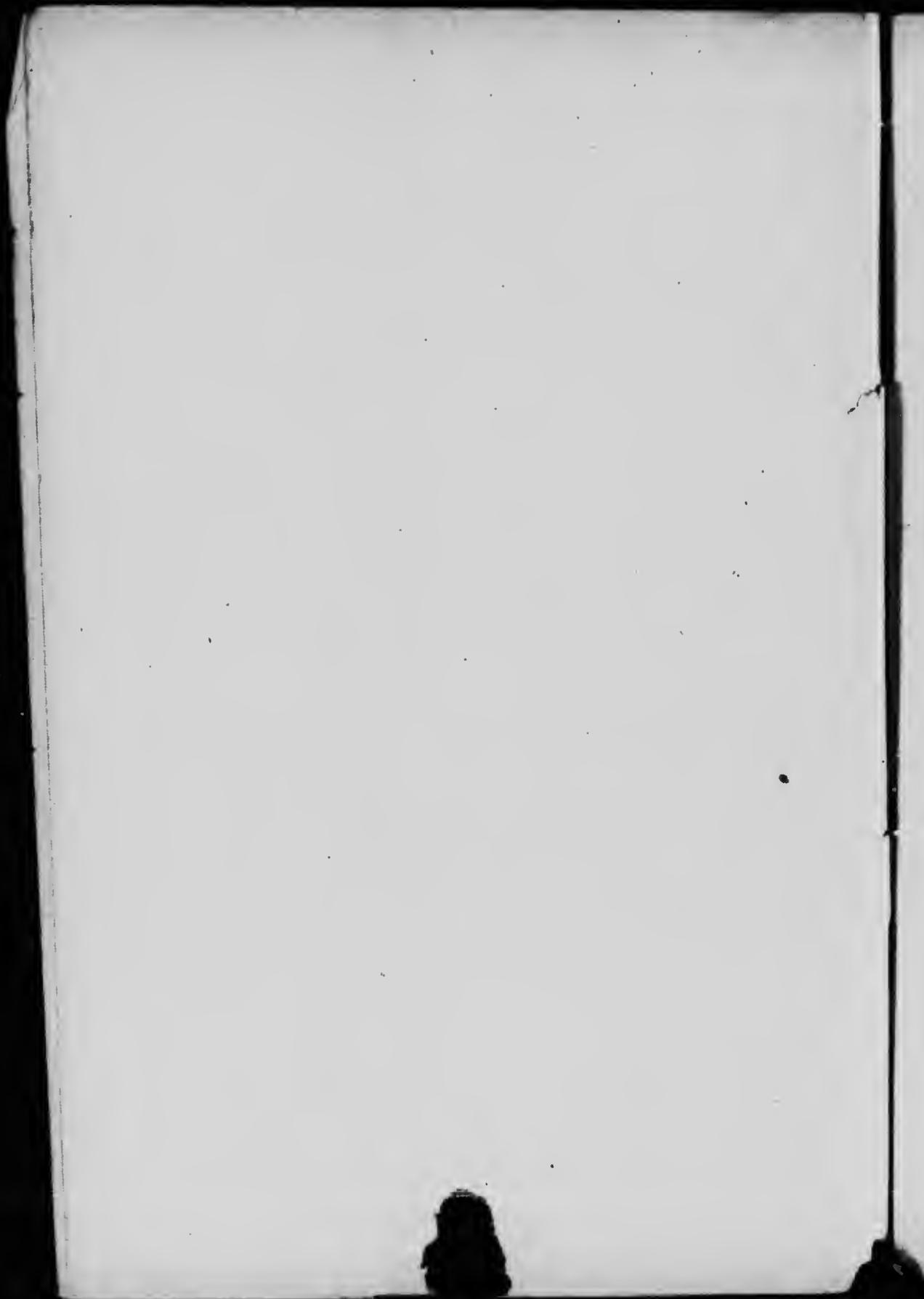
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The action of the government in dissolving the Legislature without the least warning, and within twenty-four hours after prorogation, must be reprobated by all who have regard for fair and honorable dealing. The issues involved in a general election at this time in the history of the Province are so weighty that ample time should be given for their discussion; particularly as another such opportunity may not be presented for five years, the legislative term having been extended. The affairs of the government is the most important business which the people of Alberta have to consider, and they should have ample time to do so.

Alarm is the only adequate explanation of the government's unseemly haste.

Since the Red Deer convention a feverish desire has been manifested to get through the business of the Legislature, which before that event was being conducted in a matter so leisurely as to indicate negligence. But within the last two weeks measures of the utmost importance have, in spite of the protest of the Opposition, been rammed through the House practically without discussion. Notwithstanding protests, the press was excluded from the meetings of the Redistribution committee after its first session. Not the slightest information relating to the boundaries of the constituencies was supplied to the press until a couple of hours before prorogation and within only twenty-four hours of dissolution. Why? In order that the information being withheld from the Opposition throughout the province they might not have adequate time to organize. Behold the gerrymander!

The people have a right to expect a square deal; but they have not had it from the Rutherford Government. In reality the Legislature is not a deliberative body. It meets only to confirm the legislation of the Attorney-General's department.



# RAILWAYS

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The immediate construction of railways through those settled portions of the province which do not enjoy railway facilities or competition is imperative and this convention pledges its earnest support to the same.

This convention is of the opinion that the construction and operation of such railways by the government of Alberta is the most desirable method to be adopted, but as under existing conditions such method cannot be immediately employed, such railways as are urgently needed should be built with the aid of a guarantee of bonds to a reasonable amount by the provincial government under such conditions as will ensure their immediate construction and will secure to the government control of the traffic rates over the same, and the right to purchase them on fair and reasonable terms.

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## NOT OBSTRUCTION, BUT PROTECTION. PUBLIC FRANCHISES ARE VALUABLE.

The Conservative party recognizes that railways are a necessity and that they should be constructed without delay. It will do its utmost to assist bona-fide companies to begin construction but it does not intend to sacrifice the public interest which must be protected against aggressive corporations as they engaged in transportation or any other business. While conditions are in a formative stage is the time to safeguard the public. At a later date the public can come to its own only through a long and bitter fight.

The Conservative party is of opinion that did circumstances permit of it the Provincial Government might very well undertake the construction of branch

lines of railway. The average cost of construction on the prairies is very low, probably \$12,000 per mile; while a large amount of business is assured as soon as they are built. The experiment of government railway construction and also operation, has been conducted successfully by the Ontario government, which has built 250 miles of road through a very rough country and which it operates at a good profit. But Ontario owns the public domain within her boundaries; Alberta does not. Because of this Ontario has valuable assets; Aubrey White, the deputy minister of lands and forests, estimates the value of her timber at \$370,000,000. Ontario's cash surplus is about \$2,000,000. Being wealthy she can borrow money easily and cheaply; Alberta cannot. Alberta's only assets are the public buildings and works which she has taxed herself to build and maintain. Hence her credit is not nearly so good as is Ontario's; nor is she yet as nearly well known in the money markets. That being so the prospect of raising many millions for railway construction is not bright. However desirable it may be for the province to own the railways the fact is that the government could not readily procure the money to build them. There is no alternative but to have the work done by private companies.

All the assistance that the province can offer is a guarantee of bonds. The C. P. R. will not consider that; for it can borrow money cheaper than can the province; so that the government is practically compelled to go to the G. T. P. and the C. N. R. for independent companies which are few in number. Some one may say: "Why does not the Dominion guarantee the bonds?" It has our assets and should be security." So it should. Here it must be said that the

Dominion government is not treating Alberta fairly. Last year it guaranteed bonds for the construction of over 500 miles of railway in Saskatchewan; but this year when Premier Rutherford and Attorney General Crose made a similar request for Alberta they were denied it. In the early part of February the government informed Mr. M. S. McCarthy in the House of Commons that it did not intend to assist railway construction in Alberta this year. So Alberta must help herself and must pledge her credit for a period of from thirty to fifty years to do so.

The principal points in the agreements concluded between the government and the companies whose bonds are guaranteed are as follows:

#### The Railway Bargain

The C. N. R. and G. T. P. Branch Lines Company get a guarantee of the principal and interest at 4 per cent. for \$13,000 per mile, which, by consent of the legislature, may be increased to \$15,000. The guarantee runs for thirty years. The standard of construction is to be equal to the C.N.R. main line. The C.N.R. guarantee is for 920 miles; the G.T.P. guarantee for 491 miles. The C. N.R. is to build at least 125 miles this year; the G.T.P. to build 50 miles. The whole of the mileage is to be completed by the end of 1911. No provision is made for provincial control of rates, nor for purchase by the government.

The Alberta and Great Waterways Railway is to be built from Edmonton to Fort McMurray, a distance of 350 miles. The guarantee is for the principal and interest at 5 per cent. up to \$20,000 per mile, for 50 years, also for \$400,000 on terminals at Edmonton. The work must be started this year and completed within four years. The government secures control of rates on this road and the right of purchase.

#### THE LIABILITY

<b>Principal Liability—</b>	
C.N.R., 940 miles, at \$13,000 per mile . . . . .	\$11,960,000
G.T.P., 491 miles, at \$13,000 per mile . . . . .	6,393,000
Alberta and Great Waterways, 350 miles, at \$20,000 per mile . . . . .	7,000,000
<b>Total principal liability....</b>	<b>\$25,343,000</b>

#### Interest Liability—

30 years' interest on \$11,960,000, at 4 p.c. . . . .	14,362,000
30 years' interest on \$6,393,000 at 4 p.c. . . . .	7,669,000
50 years' interest on \$7,000,000 at 5 p.c. . . . .	17,500,000

**Total interest liability . . . . . \$39,511,000**

**..Principal liability . . . . . \$25,343,000**  
**Interest liability .. . . . 39,511,000**

**Total liability . . . . . \$64,854,000**

In addition these lines are exempt from taxation for fifteen years. For the remainder of the guarantee term they are to be taxed at the rate of only \$30 per mile. The exemption will amount to several millions.

#### Companies Concede Nothing

These are liberal terms. The franchises alone are very valuable, to say nothing of the assistance which the companies receive from the guarantee, which practically enables them to build the lines without expending their own money. What does the province get from the C.N.R. and G.T.P.? Nothing but a guarantee that the lines specified shall be built within three years, and that the standard of construction shall be equal to the C.N.R. main line. The province gets no control over rates, nor other concessions of account.

#### What Manitoba Got

How different is this from the agreement made by the Roblin government in Manitoba and the C.N.R.! In return for a guarantee of bonds Manitoba secured control of rates from 1901 to 1930. The control of rates clause reads:

"In consideration of the guarantee of the said bonds and the assignment of said lease and option, the company hereby agrees that up to the 30th day of June, 1930, the Lieutenant-Governor in Council from time to time shall fix the rates to be charged or demanded by the company for the carriage of all freight from all points on the company's lines in Manitoba to Port Arthur, and from Port Arthur to all points on the company's lines in Manitoba, and from all points on the company's lines in Manitoba to all other points on said lines in Manitoba. Pro-

vided, always, that before any rates are so fixed, the company shall be heard, and their interests taken into consideration. The company agrees that it will not at any time after the rates have been so fixed charge or demand for the carriage of freight between the points aforesaid greater rates than those so fixed by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council."

Nor has this been a mere paper guarantee. Through the control thus secured the freight rates on wheat, oats and barley have been reduced 3 cents per 100 pounds since the agreement was made. The rates on ordinary merchandise, coal, etc., have been reduced from 15 per cent. to 30 per cent.; a fair average reduction would be 17½ per cent on all classes of goods.

#### What Ontario Got

In 1904 the Ross government in Ontario granted a cash subsidy to the Huntville and Lake of Bays railway. To the G.T.P. it also granted a cash subsidy of \$2,000 per mile and a land grant of 6,000 acres per miles. In return it secured numerous concessions, of which the following are some:

"The rates for passengers and freight which may be charged by each of the said companies on the said railways shall be such as may be approved of by the Railway Committee of the Executive Council of Ontario, and each of the said companies shall comply with any conditions now or hereafter imposed by any act respecting the granting of aid to railways."

The Ross government insisted upon control of rates even though the Railway Commission was then in existence. That it had the commission in mind is evident from the following section:

"Provided that the terms, directions and requirements of the said Railway Committee shall not be inconsistent with any order or regulation from time to time issued or made by the Board of Railway Commissioners for Canada or other competent authority under the provisions of any act of the parliament of Canada applicable to either of the said companies."

Other concession:

"Each of the said companies shall be obliged upon the request of any township or county municipality

through which the line of railway passes, to carry roadmaking material, gravel or stone, required for improving any of the roads within any such municipality at the actual cost of handling and carriage."

#### Concession for Settlers.

The Ross government also guaranteed the bonds of the James Bay railway (C.N.R.), and among other concessions secured the following very important one for settlers:

"To bona fide settlers and to persons seeking land for settlement who are duly certified as such by the director of colonization for Ontario, or by such other officer of the immigration or colonization department of the province as may be designated by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, the rates to be charged by the company shall be one cent per mile for transportation between points on the company's railways; and with respect to household and personal effects, farm implements and live-stock belonging to such settler or land seeker, the rates shall be one-half the rates fixed in the standard freight tariff of the company. The rates so charged to settlers shall be for carriage one way only, while actually proceeding to the place of settlement, but shall apply to all bona fide members of the immediate family of such settler; and the rates so charged to land seekers shall be for carriage in each direction prior to location or settlement. The Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council may approve of rules or regulations, not inconsistent therewith, giving effect to and deferring to the terms and provisions hereof."

#### CONCERNING RATES

The question may be asked: "Has not the Railway Commission control of rates on these roads?" Unquestionably it has control over the G.T.P. rates, but it has not control over the rates of companies operating under a provincial charter. So it has over the G. T. P. in Ontario, but the Ross Government insisted on its own control. Now the C. N. R. branch lines are nearly all being built under charter of the Alberta Midland, which is a company chartered by the province. Not until it is incorporated within the C.N.R. system

will its rates come under control of the commission. Why has not the government put the control of rates beyond all question, as did Ontario in dealing with the G.T.P.? In the matter of rates Manitoba bound the C.N.R. as far beyond its boundaries as Port Arthur.

The Conservative party holds that the province should have the right to acquire these lines at any time it may desire to do so. By the provisions of the Provincial Railway Act it may acquire the Alberta Midland or any other railway incorporated by the province; but it cannot by statute acquire the G.T.P. branch lines. Nor will the province be able by statute to acquire the Alberta Midland if it becomes incorporated within the C. N. R. As for the G. T. P. Branch Lines Company, it can sell its system only to the parent company, the G.T.P. As a matter of fact, it is part and parcel of the G.T.P., that company owning practically all the common stock, as the following section of its act of incorporation shows:

"The Grand Trunk Pacific Railway company shall acquire and take so much of the common stock of the company as may be issued, except shares held by directors, not exceeding one thousand dollars, and shall retain and hold the same so long as any of the bonds issued under the provisions of the deed of trust by way of mortgage set forth in Schedule A to chapter 98 of the statutes of 1905, remain outstanding and unpaid; and this act

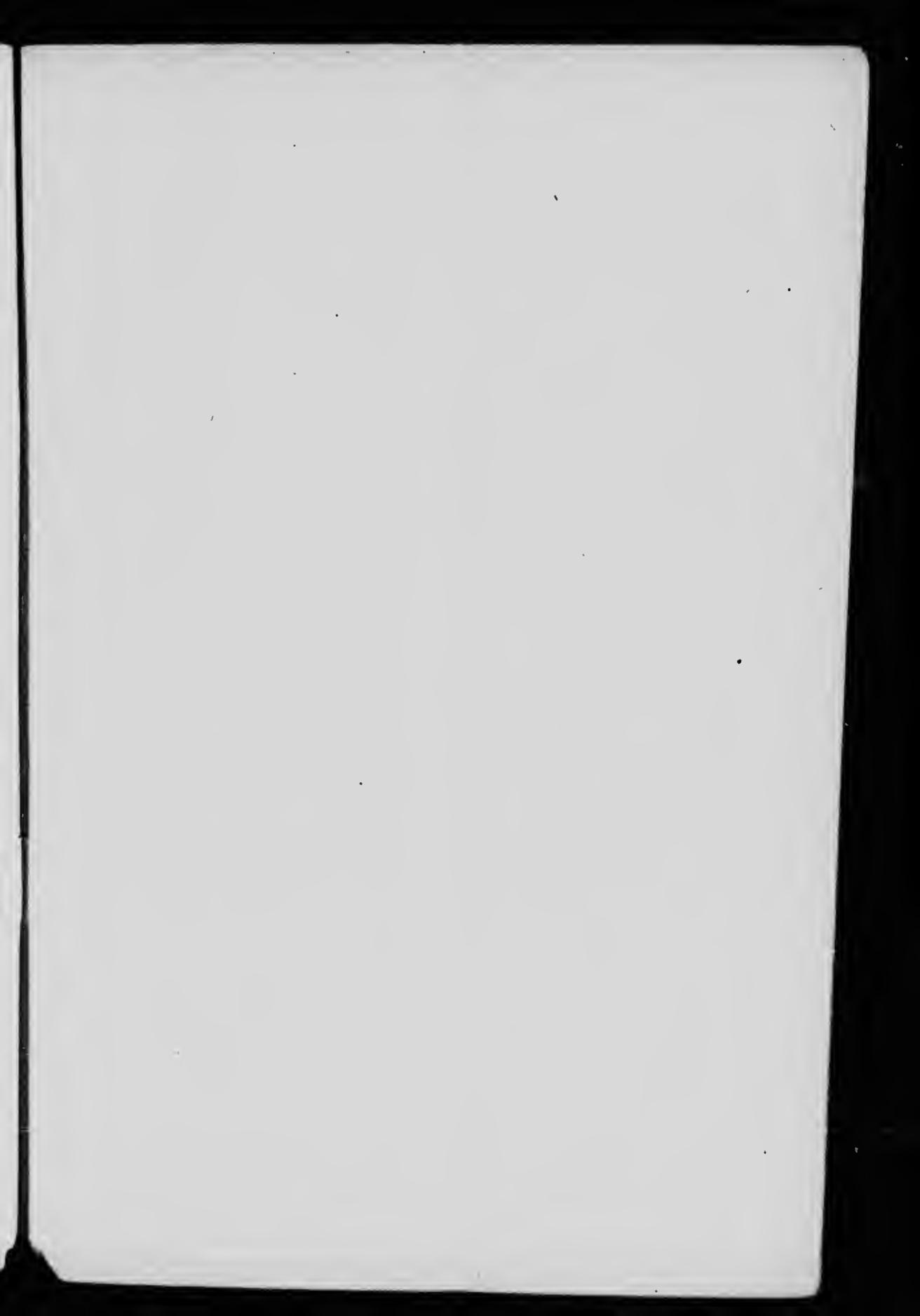
shall not come into operation until the said Grand Trunk Pacific Railway company has deposited with the secretary of state of Canada an agreement duly executed by the said Grand Trunk Pacific Railway company to acquire, take, retain and hold the said common stock as long as any of the said bonds are outstanding and unpaid as aforesaid."

The province should be in a position to acquire this road if it desires to do so. It is absurd to say that because the province has no power by statute to acquire the C.P.R. lines that the power should not extend to the G.T.P. or other roads.

The Conservative party believes in concession for concession. Is it to be wondered at that the C.N.R. gets a good thing? The law firm to which the Attorney-General belongs are agents for the C.N.R.

After he had returned from the conference held in Ottawa on the autonomy terms, Hon. G. H. V. Bulyea, now lieutenant governor, in an interview in the Regina Standard on March 31, 1905, among other things, said:

"Besides the Dominion government retaining the lands it naturally devolves upon them to assume the responsibility of opening up and developing the country and railways will have to go to them for assistance. During the conference the members of the Federal government agreed to assume this responsibility."



# INITIATIVE, REFERENDUM AND RECALL

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This convention approves of the introduction of the initiative or the power on the part of a specified percentage of the electors to originate legislation and the referendum or the referring to the popular vote of initiative bills or of bills passed by the legislature when such reference is petitioned for by a specified percentage of duly qualified electors and the recall of the power on the petition of a specified percentage of the duly qualified electors to compel the resignation of any person occupying an elective office.

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## THE INITIATIVE.

The Initiative means a method by which a certain percentage of the electors, the percentage to be agreed upon, may propose a measure to be enacted by the legislature or voted upon by the people. There are several methods by which the machinery may be set in motion, the most preferable form probably being that by which a measure when petitioned for goes to the legislature, which adopts, rejects, amends or refrains from action in the matter. The measure is then referred again to the electors. The system has been in operation in Switzerland for many years, also in many of the States of the American Union; the last one to adopt it being the newly formed State of Oklahoma.

The Initiative is the recognition of the people as the paramount consideration in legislation; that the promotion of their welfare is the be-all and the end-all of government. It also ensures a true expression of their will. Sometimes corporations may succeed in preventing the

popular will finding expression in legislation; but where recourse to the Initiative is possible such repression is impossible. The Initiative has a tendency to render the legislator the true servant of the people. If he knows that they may set in operation a force which can compel action he will pay great respect to their desires. In communities where the Initiative is law the knowledge that it may be invoked has made legislators so careful that recourse to it is not often necessary. It is not a revolutionary measure, being merely the application to provincial affairs of a power which exists in municipalities in which money and other by-laws are submitted to the people on petition, in other words, through the method of the Initiative.

## THE REFERENDUM.

The Referendum means a method by which any law may on petition be referred to the electors for their decision. It is a method of invoking the opinion of the ultimate authority, the people, on any particular enactment passed by their representatives. Where the Referendum is in operation the practice is as follows: If a certain percentage of electors petition within a given time, for the referring of a particular enactment to the decision of the electors at the polls, the enactment is held in abeyance until a vote shall have been taken. The percentage of votes necessary to a petition varies. In Switzerland it ranges from five to ten per cent., according to its character. The petition must be filed within sixty days, in some cases, and ninety days in others. In Oklahoma a referendum may be ordered either by petition of the electors or by the legisla-

ture through the exercise of its ordinary legislative power. Ninety days are allowed for the receiving of petitions. The Referendum is in operation in several other states of the Union.

The chief advantage of the Referendum is that it retains power in the hands of the people. It makes them rulers in reality, not of a kind whose authority may be invoked only at long intervals and whose action is spasmodic, but rulers whose authority may at any time be invoked and whose action is continuous. With the tendency towards large majorities in legislative bodies, there is a danger that a government, secure in office, may disregard public opinion. The extension of the legislative term to five years also weakens public control; for the electors may only have one opportunity within five years of calling their representatives to account. The Referendum counteracts these dangerous tendencies by providing for immediate repeal of legislation which is considered injurious to the public interest, and acts as a deterrent influence upon legislators who show a tendency to negligence. It promotes independence within a party by exalting the interests of the people above party welfare, which in Alberta particularly is much to be desired. It also enables the people immediately to

undo the possible work of greedy and corrupt corporations. Large concessions to corporations will be few if the people have the power of direct veto.

To show the need of the Referendum it will only be necessary to state the following facts, which indicate the haste with which the most important matters are hurried through the legislature. The Election Bill, containing three hundred sections and fifty forms, was put through committee in about two hours. The estimates providing for an expenditure of \$3,881,401 were put through in less than fifteen minutes. The bills guaranteeing railway bonds, which practically commit the government to a liability, including interest of \$65,000,000, were put through all stages within four hours, one-half of which time was taken up by the premier's address.

#### THE RECALL.

The Recall is a method by which electors may exercise direct control over a representative. If he acts contrary to their will, he may, on petition of a certain percentage of the electors, of his constituency, be suspended from office. A new election is then declared, at which the so-called representative may stand. The operation of the Initiative and Referendum tends to lessen the necessity for the exercise of this right.



## PUBLIC DOMAIN

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This convention reaffirms the position which the Conservative party has always taken on this question. It expresses the opinion that the withholding of the public domain from the province, is an act of great injustice and pledges the Conservative party to continue its demands upon the Dominion Government for a surrender to the province of the public lands, mines, forests and other domain, until justice is done to the province.

The Conservative party declares for the administration of the public domain by the province. This is one of the essential features of real autonomy. How can the provincial government be supreme within its own sphere while the Dominion controls the public domain within the province? The purpose of the fathers of confederation was to place all the provinces on an equality in civil rights. In 1905 the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan were created, but instead of them being placed on an equality with the older ones their legislative powers were unduly circumscribed and the lands, timber and minerals were withheld from them. Instead of being allowed to collect the revenue from these sources they were granted a yearly subsidy. In other words, Alberta, which has an area of 160,755,200 acres, does not own an acre of agricultural land, a ton of mineral, an acre of timber lands, unless she has acquired the same by purchase; nor does she control the waters within her boundaries.

### The Lands' Subsidy.

The subsidy in lieu of the lands was granted on the following calculation: The amount of good land of all kinds, (agricultural, timber and mineral), was

estimated at 25,000,000 acres, and valued at \$1.50 per acre. On this valuation the following payments are to be made annually:

- 1 percent. on a population of 250,000
- 1½ percent. on a population of 400,000
- 2 percent. on a population of 800,000
- 3 percent. on a population of 1,200,000

The rate can never exceed 3 per cent. Thus, no matter what the population may become the province can never get more than \$1,125,000 in lieu of its lands. In addition \$93,750 was granted for public buildings for five years. This expires in 1910. It should be borne in mind that the other subsidies have nothing to do with the lands, but are such as would fall to any province in proportion to its population; it being free from debt on entering the union.

It was understood that the Dominion was to pay for the maintenance of the Mounted Police. Speaking on this matter in the House of Commons on March 28, 1905, Hon. Rudolphe Lemieux said:

"Moreover, the Dominion will—and this fact should not be overlooked—still maintain our corps of Mounted Police in the Northwest Territories, a maintenance which entails an annual cost of \$300,000."

It has not done so. Since 1906 the province has paid \$75,000 annually for this service.

### Alberta's Wealth.

To estimate the area of good land of all kinds at 25,000,000 acres and to value it at only \$1.50 an acre was ridiculously low. Speaking of Alberta's resources, J. G. Turriff, a Liberal M.P., said in the House of Commons, in April, 1905:

"We must not lose sight of the fact that the province of Alberta has the greatest deposit of coal of any country in the world. I do not think that even British Columbia has as great

deposits as are to be found in Alberta. Wherever you go into the Rocky Mountains, from the American boundary right up to the Peace River Pass, vast deposits of coal have been discovered. Right in the Crow's Nest Pass there are seams of from ten to seventy feet in thickness of bituminous coal, and for hundreds of miles we find large deposits of coal right up to Edmonton and the Peace River Pass, so that outside the agricultural wealth of that country we will have in the years to come, large settlements growing up all along the Rockies, owing to the coal industries there. All along the Rockies, especially north of the main line of the Canadian Pacific railway, there are thousands of miles of valuable spruce and fir now beginning to be exploited, so that in a few years that country will be able to supply all the timber required by the settlers in the prairie country and in the east. So that although the proposed province of Alberta may have from 6,000 to 8,000 miles less of area than its twin sister Sasatchewan, the deficiency is more than made up by its coal deposits and timber limits. In making this comparison I am not taking into consideration the great Peace River country."

#### Peace River Country

Mr. F. S. Lawrence, for thirty years a resident of the Peace River district, delivered an address on its resources before the Canadian Club, of Toronto, in February, 1909, during the course of which he said:

"There is in the Peace River country 65,000,000 acres of land suited to the production of wheat, an area three times the settled districts of the province of Ontario. In time the whole country up to 60 latitude will be settled and western Canada will be producing 600,000,000 bushels of wheat a year.

"The mineral resources are almost beyond computation. Every stream running east and west from the Rockies, between the international boundary and the Arctic, contains gold, and from the Klondike alone \$120,000,000 worth of the precious metal has already been taken. There is, in the same territory the greatest deposit of

coal in the world, in veins from six inches to twenty-eight feet in thickness.

"In the Athabasca district there is the material for asphalt pavement covering an area of 1,000 square miles in extent and holding, according to estimate, 6,400,000,000 tons. What this means will be understood when it is stated that in the last thirty years only 200,000,000 tons have been used in paving in America and Canada, and that the material used was valued at \$120,000,000.

"The country is also rich in natural gas and petroleum. One hundred and twenty miles from Edmonton is the greatest gas well in the world. This was tapped some years ago and is still shooting up a flame 60 to 85 feet in height, the roar of which can be heard a mile away."

In the report of his evidence given before a select committee of the senate appointed to enquire into the resources of the north country, W. F. Bredin, M.L.A. for Athabasca, is reported as follows:

"During the debate on the capital question in the Alberta legislative assembly at Edmonton, the witness made an estimate of the good land north of Edmonton in Alberta, and it figured up more than the good land south of the city."—From Canada's Fertile Northland.

In the legislature on February 24th, 1909, Mr. Bredin said that he believed a second Cobalt would be found on the shores of Lake Athabasca.

#### Estimate and Valuation.

**LANDS**—In 1905 the area of the land in Alberta vested in the Crown was estimated at 129,596,593 acres. In 1906 the densely wooded area of Alberta was estimated at 154,770 square miles, or 99,652,800 acres. Does the estimate of 25,000,000 seem fair

**TIMBER**—E. Stewart, Dominion superintendent of forestry, in 1903 estimated that there would be 2,000 feet of lumber per acre in the timber lands. Value this at \$1.50 per thousand. Then calculate the average royalty of \$1, and ask the question, is the valuation adequate?

**COAL**—The department of interior has

estimated the coal areas of Alberta at 1,100 square miles. Cut this in half; cut in half also Dr. Dawson's estimate of 5,000,000 tons per square mile and on these figures, Alberta possesses 96,375,000,000 tons of coal. The Dominion government collects a large royalty. What a great revenue it has locked up in these deposits! In 1907 over 1,800,000 tons of coal were mined in Alberta and much over 2,000,000 tons in 1908, so that the Dominion now collects from this province over \$200,000 in coal royalties alone.

#### Immense Coal Deposits

Much as this appears, discoveries are being intermittently made which indicate that only the mere surface of the wealth has been scratched. The Edmonton Bulletin, of February 20, 1909, contains an interview with Mr. M. J. O'Brien, of the Yellowhead Pass Coal & Coke company, in which he gives some figures indicating the extent of that company's deposits. Mr. F. B. Smith, a coal mining expert, estimates that one seam alone in the company's areas contains 100,000,000 tons and there are five seams. Continuing, he said:

"There are few people who adequately appreciate what this means in the development of the country directly tributary to Edmonton. The coal between Edmonton and the Yellowhead Pass, and there is an enormous quantity of it, outside of the claim of the O'Brien company, will supply the demands of the prairie country between Edmonton and Winnipeg. The fact is, and it is indisputable, it will be possible to lay down coal in Winnipeg from the Yellowhead Pass at a price which will make it available for consumption there. In addition to this market, the extent of which it is difficult to express or realize, there will be the three transcontinental railroads to serve with coal from this district."

To show how rapidly the coal mining industry in Alberta is developing it will be sufficient to quote the following figures from the report of the department of public works for 1908:

- 1905— 811,228 tons.
- 1906—1,385,000 tons.
- 1907—1,834,745 tons.
- 1908—2,046,308 tons.

If the output could be doubled this year it would make no difference to the

amount of Alberta's subsidy, though the Dominion's revenue therefrom would practically be doubled.

So far as being able to increase Alberta's revenue from the public domain is concerned these great deposits of coal might as well have never existed. For the subsidy granted in lieu of the public domain was, in 1905, fixed for all time as far as parliament could bind the province. Speaking in the House of Commons in 1907 on the increase of subsidies arranged at the conference of the premiers in 1906, Sir Wilfrid Laurier said the understanding was that the matter was settled for good. The present lands subsidy is \$375,000. It can never be more than \$1,125,000.

A revenue of \$375,000 from 25,000,000 acres is equal to a yearly rental of 1½ cents an acre, which can never exceed 4½ cents. Is this an adequate rental for so much agricultural, mineral, timber and fisheries wealth?

Values increase with the increase of settlement and development. As a community grows in numbers a landlord collects a higher rental. But calculated by the return per capita the people of Alberta will, under the autonomy terms, receive in lieu of the public domain less per capita as population and development increases. Estimating Alberta's population at 250,000 then, as she receives \$375,000 in lieu of the public domain, her per capita return is \$1.50.

#### How It Works Out.

The following table shows the amounts Alberta will receive in the aggregate and per capita as population increases:

Population.	Land		Return Per Capita.
	Subsidy.	Per Capita.	
250,000.....	\$ 375,000	.....	\$1.50
400,000.....	562,500	.....	1.15
800,000.....	750,000	.....	.94
1,200,000.....	1,125,000	.....	.93
1,500,000.....	1,125,000	.....	.75
2,000,000.....	1,125,000	.....	.56
3,000,000.....	1,125,000	.....	.37
4,000,000.....	1,125,000	.....	.28
5,000,000.....	1,125,000	.....	.23

What will the coal, timber and other lands yield the Dominion when population reaches 3,000,000 or 5,000,000? It must be remembered that the reforestation of timber areas will make them a continual source of revenue.

Was the valuation of \$1.50 an acre just?

Hudson's Bay and C.N.R. lands sell from \$6 to \$12 an acre, school lands sell as high as \$21 at auction. Last year the Dominion government threw open the odd-numbered sections for settlement. Did it sell them at \$1.50 an acre? No, at \$3.00; the settler paying 5 per cent. interest. Thus, for a portion of the land for which the province in 1905 got \$1.50 an acre, the Dominion got \$3.00 in 1908. The province is paid 1 per cent., the settler pays 5 per cent. Of the area thus thrown open 2,079,139 acres were sold for \$6,229,699, and there still remains 41,500,000 acres of agricultural land undisposed of within the surveyed area.

#### What Others Receive.

Thus for one-twentieth part of the estimated area of good land, (50,000,000 acres named in the autonomy terms) in Alberta and Saskatchewan the Dominion receives \$6,229,699, which is equal to one-twelfth of the entire valuation placed upon the 50,000,000 acres. The following table shows the area and land revenue of the provinces in 1907:

	Area sq. miles.	Territorial Revenue.
Ontario .....	260,862 ...	\$3068,494
British Columbia	312,630 ...	3,403,628
New Brunswick ..	27,985 ...	343,292
Manitoba.....	73,732 ...	527,867
Nova Scotia .....	21,428...	633,933
Alberta.....	250,000 ...	375,000
Saskatchewan ..	250,000 ...	375,000
Quebec .....	351,873 ...	1,300,000

Manitoba figures include \$100,000 subsidy.

From this it would appear that the administration of the public lands is very profitable.

The latest returns show that the financial terms of the Alberta Act, whereby the province receives a subsidy in lieu of the lands, constitute a bad bargain. In the House of Commons recently Mr. M. S. McCarthy asked for a return showing the cash received by the Dominion during 1907-08 from the public lands in Alberta. The information is contained in the following despatch sent out by a non-partizan news agency:

Western Associated Press.

Ottawa, Feb. 28.—The returns tabled the request of M. S. McCarthy, M. C. Calgary, show that the cash received

from the sale of land in Alberta for the fiscal year of 1907-08 was \$177,926. The revenue from bonuses from timber berths was \$81,010, from coal mining lands \$324,635.

Alberta got \$375,000 plus \$93,750, the grant for public buildings which will expire next year. In other words Alberta paid the Dominion \$593,571 and received \$468,750. And this is only the beginning. After 1910 the grant for buildings will not be paid, while the payments made to Ottawa will increase with the development of the province.

#### Right to Lands

That the province has a good right to the lands is admitted in the Alberta act, which makes mention of a "subsidy in lieu of the lands." The argument has been advanced that the Dominion parliament purchased the lands from the Hudson's Bay company and that therefore the inherent right of the province to them could not be established. But this opinion is opposed even by good Liberals. Speaking in the House of Commons during the autonomy debates, Dr. Cash, a Liberal member from the Territories, said:

"Now, in regard to our public lands. When I say our lands I speak advisedly, as I think there are few who will be unwilling to admit that we have at least a beneficiary right to these lands. To speak of the Dominion having bought them is inadmissible. All that they bought were certain claims and mythical rights of the Hudson's Bay company, and Great Britain ceded her rights in this property to the Dominion to govern and enact laws for its well-being, and to hold in trust for the benefit of those who might in the future occupy and develop them. I do not agree with the Hon. member for Brandon when he says that the Dominion bought and owns these lands. I claim that these lands, when viewed from any reasonable standpoint, are the property of the people residing in the territories."

#### Cost of Immigration

The Liberals make much of the argument that if the province administered the lands it would have to bear the cost of their administration and also of im-

migration. As for the first argument its importance is unduly magnified. What does it cost the Dominion government to administer the coal lands? Certainly the Dominion is not losing money in handling the pre-emption area. As for the cost of immigration the Dominion government is as much interested in settling this province as is the provincial government. Estimating the population of the Dominion at 7,000,000 one finds that every immigrant who comes to our shores assumes fully \$40 of the national debt, while he contributes \$12 a year in taxation. Is it not then, to the advantage of the Dominion government to encourage immigration? Does the retention of the land by the older provinces prevent the Dominion from assisting immigration to them? In 1886 Quebec in settlement of the boundaries dispute, received 116,000 square miles of territory belonging to that out of which Alberta and Saskatchewan were afterwards created. Did it affect the efforts of the Dominion to settle that part? Certainly not. Nor is there any ground for the statement that to agitate for the transfer of the lands would involve the province in distracting litigation. In 1906 the subsidies to the provinces were almost doubled and that without contention. The agitation for provincial rights would not affect in the least the course of the provincial administration.

It has been said that Premier Roblin, of Manitoba would rather have a subsidy than the lands. Here is a statement in reply to a question on the subject:

J. A. Balfour, Esq.  
Balcarres, Sask.

Dear Sir:—

Your letter of July 1 received. The statement as reported by you is in a measure correct. The province of Manitoba demands a consideration for the loss of lands, timber and fisheries that have been taken from her by the Dominion and to be indemnified reasonably for such appropriation of public domain as the other provinces, except Alberta and Saskatchewan, have been allowed to retain.

We would prefer, of course, to have our own lands, our own timber and mines, and to be indemnified for those taken, but the trouble with us is that

nearly all our public lands have been used and we cannot therefore hope to get them back and must insist to be paid for them.

I do not know that there is anything further that I need say other than that we hope some day to have a government that will recognize the justice of our claims.

Yours truly,

R. P. ROBLIN.

Province of Manitoba, Premier's office.  
Winnipeg, July 6, 1908.

## PROVINCIAL FINANCES

The inadequacy of the financial provisions of the autonomy terms and the extravagance of the government has already brought the province to a serious position. Already the government has had to borrow \$2,000,000, and it will soon have to negotiate another loan to cover the cost of various public works. The result must be a disappointment to Liberals in general. So confident were they in 1905 that it would not be necessary to go into debt that at the Calgary convention they passed the following resolution:

"Thrifty administration—Resolved, that inasmuch as the revenues provided for the province under the Alberta act are sufficient to meet all the present requirements of the province, and are subject to large increases from time to time in proportion to the growth of our population, this convention declares its belief that there should be no immediate necessity to incur any provincial public debt, or to pledge, alienate, or hypothecate, the assets of the province to meet any real public need."

The following statement of receipts and expenditures since January 1, 1906, shows how the latter are outstripping the former:

	Receipts.	Expenditures.	Surplus.
1905 .....			\$520,329
1906—	\$2,251,455..	\$1,968,081....	..\$283,374
1907—	2,520,025..	2,460,375....	.. 59,650
1908—	2,893,500	2,823,831	69,669
Estimated 1909—			
	\$2,483,665	\$2,471,401	current \$12,264
			\$800,000 capital
			Also \$680,000 on Telephones

Until this year it has been the practise to meet all expenditures except those on the telephone system, out of current revenue. Of this the government has boasted much. In his budget speech of February 25th, 1908, Premier Rutherford said:

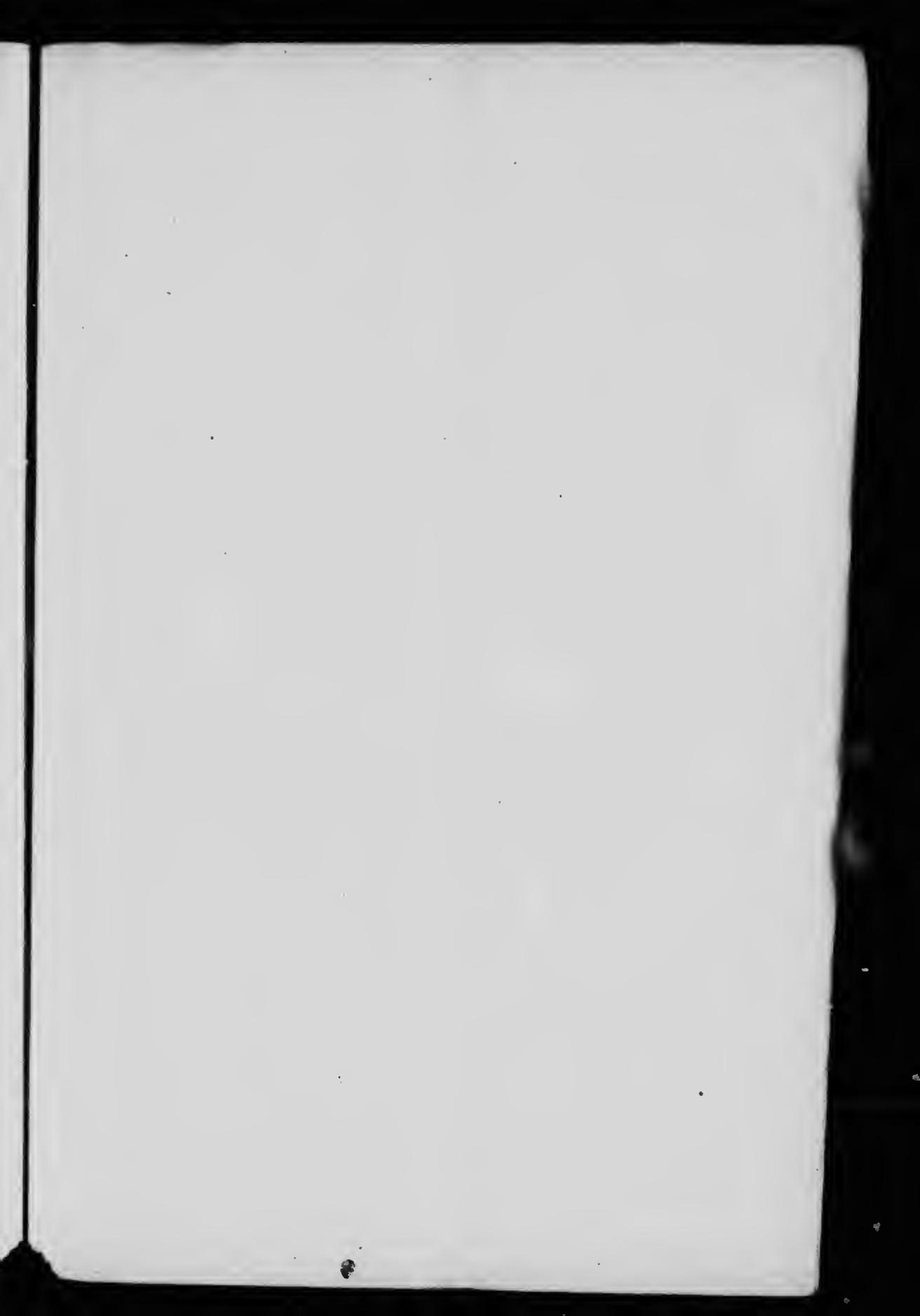
"In calculating this surplus I would draw the attention of the honorable members of the House to the fact that we have no charge as under the head of capital expenditure. Some other governments in order to make a surplus or to swell their surplus have a capital account. We have charged all our expenditure to the ordinary consolidated revenue of the province."

#### Feeling the Pinch

But this year feeling the pinch caused by a declining revenue and rapidly increasing expenditure, the premier has opened a capital account, thereby employing an expedient which, he said other governments employed to produce a surplus. Notwithstanding this, the estimated surplus is only \$12,264, which has been obtained by throwing \$800,000

into capital account. If, as in previous years the total expenditure, excepting that on telephones, had been charged to current account there would be an estimated deficit of \$787,736. How is this \$800,000 to be met? By another loan. The province is already paying \$80,000 interest; and will soon be paying \$120,000. She has also assumed a railway bond liability of over \$60,000,000.

Saskatchewan's position is equally bad. She has a debt of \$2,500,000 and will soon issue more bonds. Her railway bond liability is \$8,000,000. The finances of both provinces show conclusively the inadequacy of the autonomy terms. This state of affairs is the outcome of only 40 months' rule. Capital expenditures are only in their infancy, for numerous expensive institutions and other public works have to be built. British Columbia's revenue last year was \$5,979,054, her surplus \$1,431,447, and her revenue from various sources of the public domain being over \$3,000,000. Her population is no greater than is Alberta's, while being a mountainous country the cost of government is necessarily much heavier.



## LOANS TO SETTLERS

This convention pledges the Conservative party to the advocacy and support of the legislation which will enable government aid to be granted towards the making of loans to settlers and workers at a low rate of interest or legislation along the lines of that enacted in this respect in Australia and New Zealand.

The financial needs of settlers are well known, and if the government is able to afford relief without involving itself in embarrassing obligations it should do so. The loaning of money to settlers on easy terms finds ample precedent in New Zealand and Australia. New Zealand began it in 1894. This was a time of widespread industrial depression and settlers and farmers generally were finding it difficult to procure money and interest was high. The government was able to borrow for 3 and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., and it occurred to the government that, if it could borrow at that rate, it might in turn become a lender.

In 1894 an act was passed empowering parliament to borrow \$15,000,000. In the following year a 3 per cent. loan was floated in London. This was loaned on

first mortgage on land used for farming, dairying and market gardening, no loan being less than \$125.00, nor more than \$15,000. Loans are of two kinds, fixed and instalment—the first being for a short and the second for a long term. Payments are made half yearly; the rate of interest is usually  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. The average loan is \$1,500. In this way more than \$13,000,000 has been loaned to New Zealanders at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  and 5 per cent. The system has been very profitable to the government, the net proceeds being about \$250,000 a year. One of the great advantages is that the borrower saves the payment of commission and many other charges, payments being made through the post office. Several of the Australian states have followed the example of New Zealand, i.e., West Australia, South Australia, Victoria, Tasmania and New South Wales; in these states the total advances exceeding \$25,000,000.

The conditions under which money is loaned to the settler in this province bears very heavily upon him. Not only must he pay from 8 to 12 per cent., but the expense of placing the loan reduces the amount he actually receives by \$30 or \$40. Government loans, by eliminating the middleman, would reduce their cost to the borrower.

# AGRICULTURE

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## AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE AND EXPERIMENTAL FARM.

This convention pledges the Conservative party to the construction of a thoroughly equipped agricultural college and the establishment of an experimental farm by the Provincial Government, and places upon record its opinion that instruction on agricultural subjects should be given in the rural schools, and that all teachers of rural schools should be encouraged to take a part of their normal training in the agricultural college.

Agriculture is, and always will be, the chief industry of Alberta. The department of agriculture estimates the amount of good land in the province at 100,000,000 acres, of which only one per cent. is under cultivation. Addressing the grain conference in Calgary on February 3rd, 1909, Premier Rutherford said:

"We have four times the area of good land in Alberta that there is in the banner province of Ontario. Beyond what we call northern Alberta we have large areas of land that will support a large population at present quite unemployed."

Such being the possibilities of agricultural development, what is the government doing for agricultural education? What has it done to establish an agricultural college or an experimental farm? Little or nothing. On September 5th, 1908, the Edmonton Bulletin published a special edition, in which it recounted in glowing terms all the good deeds of the government. Of the agricultural college it said:

"The matter of an agricultural col-

lege is one of the very important questions before the government and a matter of thoughtful attention with the minister who is fully aware of the benefits of such an institution and the need of it."

The Conservative party would supplant a thinking by an acting policy.

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## MEAT-PACKING

This convention approves of the establishment of co-operative meat-packing institutions upon the same principle as nearly as possible as that under which the government creameries are operated.

The assured prosperity of the province is dependent upon the continuous fertility of the soil, to assure which the extensive raising of live stock is necessary. Hog raising can be made one of the most important branches of the live stock industry in Alberta, the climate being well suited to it and a large home market being assured. Evidence before the pork commission established that seventy-five per cent. of the cured pork used in Alberta is imported. On the other hand it was found that nearly one-half of the farmers who have engaged in the business of hog raising have been driven out of it either through lack of a market or low prices. There is something wrong when, though seventy-five per cent. of the cured pork in the province is imported, prices are so low as to make the business unprofitable. Instead of western hogs being shipped to Quebec to be slaughtered, as is sometimes done, they should be slaughtered

at home. Not only is the present demand heavy, but it is increasing rapidly. The north country requires a large amount of pork, and its demand will increase rather than decrease as settlement progresses. There is also the British Columbia market, which is important; while the market in Great Britain is always open. It is plain that the business is to be had. How can it be made profitable? The government can do much to improve conditions by introducing a system of grants, as has been done in the case of the dairy industry. The natural conditions permit of the attainment of almost equal success in both industries. The demand exists, and the farmers are willing to enter the business. The government should assist them. If placed in office the Conservative party will do so.

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## ELEVATORS

The Conservative party stands for the erection and maintenance by the government of initial elevators at leading points throughout the province as quickly and in such numbers as the financial conditions will justify and render possible.

The elevator question is a big one which to discuss fully would require more space than is available in this pamphlet. The desires of the farmers of the prairie provinces have been made known through the Grain Growers' Associations, having been the subject of extended negotiations between these bodies and the governments of the three prairie provinces. In the above resolution in the Conservative party has gone a long way to grant the request of the Grain Growers. That the elevator accommodation is inadequate is well known, and the government erection of initial elevators would do much to improve the situation. There is no constitutional obstacle to the undertaking of this work by the government, which can do it as readily as it can construct a telephone system.

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## HAIL INSURANCE

Adequate hail insurance should be provided by the government at the expense of the Insured and companies for that purpose should be permitted to engage in the business of hail insurance under such government supervision as will protect those who deal with them.

## SCHOOL LANDS

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In the opinion of this convention a vigorous effort should be made to induce the Dominion Government to transfer to the province the school lands, and to make to the province a grant of lands, to create a fund for the support of the Provincial University.

In the 70's the Dominion government set aside two sections of land in each township in the Territories for educational purposes. These lands were to be sold, when sales could be effected advantageously, and the monies realized to be invested in Dominion securities, in order to form a trust fund, the interest, after deducting the cost of management, to be paid annually to the government of the territory in which the lands were situated for the support of the public schools. The trust was placed in the care of the Dominion government, it being at that time the only government of sufficient stability to administer the fund to the best advantage. Since that time the governments of Alberta and Saskatchewan have been established with wide powers, and have the expenditure of several millions annually. Governments which can be entrusted with the expenditure of such large amounts may safely be entrusted with the administration of the school lands. Under the present system the government loses a large sum in interest. Dominion securities bear only  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.; the net return to the province after the expense of management has been deducted being only 3 per cent. But the province must pay 4 per cent. or more, for money. As it is estimated that there are nearly 9,000,000 acres of school lands the fund may reach \$80,000,000, which is sufficient to indicate that the investing of so large an amount in low priced securities, no better than those of the province or ordinary municipality, means much lost revenue.

## GOOD ROADS

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This convention advocates the construction at the cost of the province of a system of national highways traversing the settled portions of the province and the conferring upon local improvement districts of large borrowing powers with a view to the encouragement of the construction by them of roads connecting with such highways.

Good roads and many of them are absolutely necessary for settlement and development, as well as for the convenience of the people. All sections cannot hope to be adequately supplied with ample railway facilities for many years. Much time and much money are required for the construction of railways and very many of them have to be built. So much work has to be done that the Alberta Midland (C.N.R.), has been given six years to complete its lines, and it need not begin for three years. Whether the people get railways or not they must have leading highways and must get them without delay. Is the government meeting the demand as it should ?

No. A visit to any part of the country will convince one that it is not. If any department has to be stinted this should be the last. It is not enough to bring settlers into the province, some regard must be paid to their convenience after they arrive. They should at least get roads.

A comparison with the amounts voted in Saskatchewan during the past two years shows that Alberta is far behind its neighbor. During the fiscal year 1907-8, Saskatchewan voted for public works \$1,793,113. In 1907 Alberta voted \$1,293,000. Saskatchewan's vote for roads was \$225,000; Alberta's, \$150,000. Saskatchewan's vote for bridges was \$546,000; Alberta's \$310,000. (The difference in the period is due to the fact that Alberta's year ends on December 31, while Saskatchewan's ends on February 28.) In 1908-9 Saskatchewan voted for public works, minus telephones, \$2,108,553; Alberta, for similar purposes, \$1,110,500. Saskatchewan's bill for roads and bridges respectively, was \$547,000 and \$651,500; Alberta's vote respectively was \$200,000 and \$275,000. No one will allege that Saskatchewan has met all demands.

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## TELEPHONES

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Resolved, that this convention recommends that the management of the Government Telephone System be taken from political control and placed in the hands of a commission, and that farmers who have government telephons in their houses be given free exchange in their market town.

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It has been demonstrated beyond doubt that government operation of public utilities can be conducted both efficiently and profitably. New Zealand, Australia, Germany, Great Britain and the United States supply many examples of this. But it is unnecessary to go abroad for examples. Ontario and Manitoba supply them. However, efficiency and profit can be obtained only through the conducting of such enterprises on strictly business principles. Politics must be eliminated from their management. But it is almost impossible to eliminate politics as long as these enterprises are under the direction of a political department. Too often the effort of a government is to hold office at all cost. When this becomes its purpose the public service is converted into a body of party workers and party service rather than special ability for the duties of a department becomes the chief recommendation for preferment. This explains the failure to conduct efficiently such enterprises as the Intercolonial railway and government hail insurance.

Do you want your telephone system

to pay? Certainly, you do. Then put it in the hands of an independent commission. Manitoba has done so; why should not Alberta? In Manitoba three independent commissioners manage the telephone system; in Alberta it is managed by a minister. Every person admits that there is less likelihood of politics entering into the management of a public utility under a commission than under that of a political department. When the Dominion parliament desired to secure more effective control over railways it took the regulating power out of the hands of the railway committee of the privy council and placed it in the hands of a railway commission. The beneficial results are well known.

When Ontario proposed to build a government railway through the mineral district of Northern Ontario it assigned the task to a commission. The success of the Temiskaming and N. Ont. road is common knowledge. Over 250 miles have been built, and at least 200 are in operation. The service has been satisfactory and highly profitable, the excess of earnings over expenses in 1906 and 1907 being \$440,535. This demonstrates that government operation through a commission can be conducted both with efficiency and profit.

In declaring for operation by a commission Alberta Conservatives are at one with the Conservative party throughout the Dominion. The time has passed when the departments of government should be used to perpetuate the rule of any party.

## PROHIBITION

This convention pledges the Conservative party to submit to the vote of the electors of the province the question of totally prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors in the province and to pass an act for the total prohibition of the liquor traffic in this province to the full extent of the provincial power in that respect if upon taking of such plebiscite, 60 per cent. of the vote cast is cast in favor of such act.

Recognizing the principle that the will of the people should prevail, the Conservative party, realizing also the strength of the demand for further restriction upon the liquor traffic, has declared for a plebiscite upon prohibition. By the resolution, if 60 per cent. of the vote polled is in favor of prohibition then the Conservative party, if placed in power, will enact a prohibitory measure. It is just that the people should have the right to declare themselves on so important a subject and the Conservative party pledges itself to grant the people that opportunity. Let the will of the people prevail.

appointments were made without regard to the political opinions of the applicants. But today to secure a government position a person must be a Liberal; and it has been so for three years. The appointments from the departmental heads down to those of commissioners for the taking of affidavits have been made with one principal object, the strengthening of the Liberal machine, until today the province is in the grip of a political organization almost as well disciplined as the noted Tammany. License inspectors, weed inspectors, to say nothing of numerous other kinds of officials, use and abuse their authority for political ends. It is notorious the manner in which the Liquor License administration has been used as a political lever. Liberal hotelkeepers may break the law with impunity; but Conservatives are shown no mercy.

The business of the province should be conducted as efficiently as any private business. But in order that this may be done it is first necessary that appointments may be made according to merit. The advocacy of Civil Service reform by Conservatives in federal politics has done much to remedy evils in the inside service. A like agitation will produce good results in Alberta.

## CIVIL SERVICE REFORM

X This convention pledges the party to a thorough and complete reformation of the laws relating to the civil service so that future appointments shall be upon the report of examiners after competitive examination.

X The need of Civil Service Reform is apparent to all who are in any way familiar with the manner in which the civil service is used as a piece of political machinery. In the Territorial days

## LANDS TITLES OFFICES

This convention declares that the present Land Titles system whereby the work is centralized in Edmonton and Calgary is unfair to residents of those sections of the two existing registration districts which are situate at any great distance from these respective cities, involving them as it does, great inconvenience, expense and delay in their land transactions. Wherefore, this convention pledges the Conservative party to the establishment of such additional Land Titles Offices as will as far as possible remove their injustice.

# HONEST ELECTIONS

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The Conservative party is an advocate of honest elections and of such measures as will ensure ample time for a mature discussion of public affairs. It protests against snap verdicts. It declares for a fair and thoroughly modern election act; containing the necessary machinery for the thorough preparation of voters' lists, for the holding of impartial courts of revision and for the adequate punishment of persons guilty of election irregularities. But to enact legislation is not sufficient. Legislation must be enforced. Not only should such provisions be incorporated within the election act; but they should be set in operation immediately. Not suspended by a number of sections inserted in the middle of the act, as is the case of the election act which has just passed the legislature.

What are the facts in connection with that act? It was framed on the model of the Ontario and Saskatchewan acts; indeed, it is almost a copy of the latter. It provides for registration, courts of revision and the printing of voters' lists, but all the good features are suspended for the time being by clauses 88-104, which provide that until voters' lists shall have been prepared in the regular man-

ner the old order of things, i.e., elections held on lists prepared by enumerators, without courts of revision, shall prevail. All this work must be done eight days before polling day. Only eighteen hours are left for the making of corrections, and the enumerator may at his own discretion, add or remove names from the lists. Elections must be held within 27 days after the dissolution of the legislature. They may be held within twenty-three days, during which time all the work of laying out polling subdivisions and preparing voters' lists must be done.

What opportunity does this leave for an adequate discussion of public business, which should be the most important of all business? If it is advisable that good election machinery should be provided this year, why not use it now instead of delaying its operation for five years? The Conservative party declares for full, free and ample discussion of public business, which will permit of government of the people, for the people and by the people. No snap verdicts, which is boss rule. Government is the people's business. They should have time to discuss it.

# OTHER RESOLUTIONS

THE FOLLOWING IS A TEXT OF THE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE CONVENTION:

## POWER COMMISSION

Resolved, that in the opinion of this convention it is advisable that the fullest possible information should be acquired through the medium of a commission appointed for that purpose as to the water power available throughout the province for the generation of electricity for municipal and industrial purposes.

Electricity will soon be the chief motive power of this continent. Many reasons contribute to give it first place, cheapness being the chief one. The electrification of the western divisions of the C.P.R. is already being discussed. Cheap power is indispensable to manufacturing. The varied resources of Alberta make possible the development of important manufacturing industries. If cheap power can be obtained these will follow. In the numerous streams of the province is the latent energy which if harnessed may supply the much desired power.

The Ontario government through the Hydro-Electric Commission has evolved a splendid and comprehensive power scheme, which will be a great boon to numerous communities in that province. Investigation was the first work undertaken by the commission, which is the purport of the proposal contained in the above resolution. Investigation having demonstrated the feasibility of operating a government power distributing system, the work has been undertaken and a system is now being installed at great

expense. The Conservative party has declared for the appointment of a commission to investigate the subject, with the view of subsequent development. Why should private corporations be allowed the sources of cheap power? Surely the province can do what private corporations can do. There is power in the policy.

## LABOR LEGISLATION

Resolved, that labor legislation should be enacted aiming at a higher standard of comfort and living for the workers, and altering or adding to the following acts as follows:

### (1) The Coal Mining Act—

Providing, for instance, a proper and automatic safety clutch preventing the falling of any cage upon the breaking of a rope or the failure of a brake to operate.

### (2) The Compensation Act—

- a. Providing, for instance, compulsory insurance by the employers.
- b. In the alternative insurance by the government.
- c. On a combination of insurance between the employer and the government, whereby the workers may have a guarantee of compensation, and whereby also the employers may be protected from insolvency in the case of disastrous accidents.
- d. The removal of the clause preventing compensation for accidents in or about any building which does not exceed thirty feet in height.
- e. To include in the said act provision for industrial deceases.

## EXTRAVAGANCE

That this convention condemns the waste, extravagance and reckless expenditure of public money, and the appointment from time to time of incompetent officials by the provincial government.

## SCHOOL BONDS

Resolved, that in the opinion of this convention power should be taken by the government to guarantee the payment of bonds issued by school districts so that money may be borrowed upon the same at a lower rate of interest than would be exacted without such guarantee.

## LIFE OF THE ASSEMBLY

Resolved, that this convention disapproves of and condemns the legislation of the present session whereby the life of the Legislative assembly is extended from four to five years.

## JOINT STOCK COMPANIES

That this convention favors the enactment of legislation which will prevent the people of this province from being swindled through misrepresentation on

the sale of stock by joint stock companies, this legislation to follow the lines of that now in force in Ontario.

## REFORESTRATION

Resolved, that in the opinion of this convention the reforestation of the prairie sections and burnt areas should be encouraged, and adequate measures taken for the preservation of our forest areas.

## ENGINEERS

Resolved, that the convention protests against the injustice done to many experienced engineers in this province through the provision of the Steam Boilers Act, which prohibits the granting of a certificate except to an applicant who has been employed for a year in a shop for the repairing or building of engines and boilers of 300 horse power.

## WOLF BOUNTY

Resolved, that this convention is of the opinion that payment of the bounty on wolves and coyotes should be continued until these pests are exterminated.

## PAP FOR THE PRESS

It is no secret that the Liberals have direct or indirect control over three-fourths of the press of the province. A large number of the party organs are subsidized the appended return showing that the money is advanced to them "for work to be done later." It was produced through a motion of Mr. Robertson — "To move that an order of the house do issue for returns showing all original vouchers, cheques, documents, letters and copies of letters in connection with the advances to newspapers within the province for work to be done later, and in connection with amounts paid to any newspapers for any purpose whatsoever."

Payable to the order of the publisher, The Reporter, May 5th, 1908, \$500.00.

Payable to the Saturday News, Edmonton, May 29th, 1908, \$500.00.

Payable to The Alberta Homestead, March 6th, 1908, \$250.00.

Payable to the publisher of The Alberta Homestead, February 6th, 1908, \$250.00.

Payable to The Bulletin Company, Limited, April 30th, 1906, \$800.00.

Payable to the Bulletin Company, Limited, July 31st, 1907, \$500.00.

Payable to The Bulletin Company, Limited, November 4th, 1907, \$4110.35.

Payable to The Bulletin Company, Limited, October 31st, 1906, \$1500.00.

Payable to The Bulletin Company, Limited, February 6th, 1908, \$300.00.

Payable to The Bulletin Company, Limited, August 31st, 1907, \$2,700.

The Alberta Herald Publishing Company, November 18th, 1907, \$404.00.

The Courier de L'Ouest Printing Company, January 5th, 1909, \$500.00.

The News Publishing Company, Edmonton, May 14th, 1908, \$400.00.

Payable to the publisher, German Herald, February 13th, 1908, \$250.00.

Publisher of The News, Calgary, April 6th, 1908, \$500.00.

Payable to The Bulletin Company, Limited, January 2nd, 1908, \$719.19.

During 1907 The Bulletin received \$29,797.00.

The Bulletin has received over \$50,000 worth of work since 1905.

### CUSHING'S PREREQUISITES

Hon. Mr. Cushing has drawn \$21,500 salary within the last three years and six months. The firm of Cushing Bros., Company, of which he is a member, has done equally well or better. During 1906 their bill for supplies to the government was \$1,173.54; in 1907 it was \$16,246. The figures for 1908 have not yet been published.

## ELECTIONS: MARCH 22nd

