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PLATFORM

OF THE

Provincial Conservative Association

of Alberta

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Adopted in Convention at
Red Deer

12th and 13th February, 1909



Herald-Western Co., Limited, Calgary, Alta.

Platform of the Provincial Conservative Association of Alberta

Adopted in Convention at Red Deer on the 12th and
13th days of February, 1909

1. RAILWAYS:

The immediate construction of railways in those portions of the Province which do not now enjoy railway facilities or competition is imperative, and this Convention pledges its earnest support to the same.

This Convention is of 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.

2. PROHIBITION:

This Convention pledges the Conservative party to submit to the vote of the electors of the Province the question of prohibiting the sale of and traffic in 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 the taking of such plebiscite 60 per cent. of the vote cast is cast in favor of such Act.

3. LAND TITLES OFFICE:

This Convention declares that the present Land Titles System whereby the work is centralized in Edmonton and Calgary, is unfair to the 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, in 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 this injustice.

4. PUBLIC DOMAIN:

This Convention re-affirms 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 the surrender to the Province of the public lands, mines, forests and other domain, until justice is done to the Province.

5. 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.

6. 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 part of their normal training in the Agricultural College.

7. HAIL INSURANCE:

Adequate hail insurance should be provided by the Government at the expense of the insured, and Companies formed 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.

8. HIGHWAYS:

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 adequate borrowing powers with a view to the encouragement of the construction by them of roads connecting with such highways.

9. INITIATIVE REFERENDUM AND RECALL:

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, or the power on the petition of a specified percentage of the duly qualified electors to bring about the holding of a new election in respect of an elective office.

10. 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.

11. LOANS TO SETTLERS:

This Convention pledges the Conservative party to the advocacy and support of 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.

12. 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.

13. TELEPHONE SYSTEM:

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 telephones in their houses be given free exchange with their market town.

14. GOVERNMENT GUARANTEE OF SCHOOL BONDS:

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.

15. 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 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, etc.

(2) *THE COMPENSATION ACT:*

- (a) Providing for *compulsory insurance by the employers.*
- (b) In the alternative, *insurance by the Government.*
- (c) Or 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 accident.
- (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 provisions for industrial diseases.

16. CIVIL SERVICE REFORM:

Resolved, that this Convention is of opinion that a thorough and complete reformation of the laws relating to Civil Service should be made, so that future appointments shall be made upon the report of examiners after competitive examination.

Resolutions Adopted at the Conservative Convention held at Red Deer on February 12th and 13th, 1909

THE DOMINION LEADER:

That this Convention desires to express its entire confidence in Mr. R. L. Borden, K.C., M.P., as Conservative Leader for the Dominion, and earnestly hopes that he may long be spared to his party as its leader.

THE PROVINCIAL OPPOSITION:

Resolved, that inasmuch as vigorous opposition is absolutely essential to the carrying on of representative government under our system, the thanks of the Conservative party in the Province are tendered to Messrs. Robertson and Heibert for their services in the Local Legislature.

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.

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.

FIXED DATE OF ELECTIONS:

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. Therefore be it resolved that such legislation should be enacted as will definitely fix the date upon which such elections shall be held.

SCHOOL LANDS:

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.

EXTRAVAGANCE:

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.

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

ENGINEERS:

Resolved, that this 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.