

The Daily News

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DAILY EDITION.



FRIDAY, MARCH 8

WHERE LIBERALISM WILL FIND ADDED STRENGTH.

Not only in Prince Rupert and in Stewart is the Conservative party split up into factions, but in other parts of the province they are beginning to split up, and we shall hear more of this from day to day as the campaign warms up. And the Liberal party of the province is recognized by the voters generally as a great fighting force whose vitality and virility is in close touch with the needs of the masses, their greatest need at the present time being freedom from the thralldom of the Two-Man government. Liberalism is the greatest political-educational force there is in this province, and it can be hoped that by force of its own numbers and the aid of a quickened public opinion a great victory will be won in this campaign.

There will be aid from the Conservatives themselves, from those free to think for themselves and with sufficient manhood to act independently for the public good, scorning the bribes of extravagant patronage. Here is an instance: C. M. Woodworth, who gave his name to our Woodworth Lake, is a leading barrister of Vancouver and at one time president of the Conservative Association of that city. He writes to the Province:

I have been asked by many Conservatives to allow my name to go before the Vancouver or Richmond nominating convention. Unless coupled with the condition that I should be allowed a very free hand I would refuse even an unanimous nomination from either convention. I am as decided a Conservative as ever.

I decidedly differ with the policy of the government on many important questions which vitally affect Vancouver and vicinity. Further I say that government by caucus is bad and when the opposition is weak it is dangerous. Government by the cabinet alone is worse.

Mr. Woodworth is a leading member of his party in such an important city as Vancouver, and yet he thus frankly and honestly expresses his independence; his desire to do something more calculated to meet public needs than can possibly be expected from the Two-Man government.

Even the Vancouver Province, well known as the leading government organ, is undoubtedly listening to the call of duty rather than blindly following the whistle of its party leader. The following amazingly candid statement is from its editorial columns:

Hon. Mr. McBride managed not to smile as moved that the public accounts for the last fiscal year be referred to the standing committee on public accounts.

The motion was seconded by the Attorney General and carried, although Parker Williams remarked that it was farcical, as it would be impossible for the committee to enter upon its duties with prorogation to take place probably today.

The members of the House, however, feel that under the present administration there is no necessity of having the public accounts examined.

Such examinations usually result in a great deal of noise being made without very much being found out. As a rule the witness and the majority of the committee are a unit in desiring that awkward questions shall not be answered.

Moreover, the rule is that the committee shall not have referred to it for examination any accounts of an earlier date than the last fiscal year.

As a consequence anything that is concealed in the public accounts of 1910-11 may now be regarded as buried for good and all, unless perchance in the distant future the dust-covered papers may fall into the hands of some inquisitive student of the provincial archives. Let us hope that the result of this campaign will place these privately-kept state documents in the honest hands of true representatives of the people.

RAPID DEVELOPMENT OF ALBERTA.

The growth of Calgary and all Alberta must indeed be phenomenal to judge from the special edition of the Morning Albertan. In celebrating its tenth birthday this excellent newspaper devotes ninety-six well illustrated pages to Alberta in general and Calgary in particular and then says that the development has been so rapid and extensive that it is impossible for any paper in one issue to deal fully with its growth and bright future. The Albertan makes a brave attempt at it at any rate, and turns out the finest special edition that has ever reached our desk.

The morning newspaper says in an editorial that the action of the police commissioners in requesting the co-operation of the police magistrate in the prosecution of blind piggers and such "is most unusual and moreover ridiculous." On another page of the same issue in regard to the Wright case, which came up for trial this morning, it has this headline: "Charge laid by police against local hotel is declared to be unfounded." Of course this means that "only supporters of McBride" are permitted to give a hint to the police magistrate what his decision is to be in pending cases.

Find It Through a News Want Ad.

Platform of the Liberals of British Columbia

Adopted at the Vancouver Convention, March 1st, 1912

1. Free Lands for Settlers—None for Speculators.

We emphatically condemn the McBride government for its connivance at the evasion of the land laws by persons, syndicates and corporations, who have been allowed to obtain millions of acres of the choicest accessible public lands, which are held without use and to the detriment of the province as a whole.

We hold that agricultural land should be disposed of only on such conditions as will ensure its continuous use and occupation.

Free homesteads to actual settlers. Holders of pre-emptions to be given benefit of this provision.

Advances to settlers on easy terms to assist in land clearing, dyking, irrigation and other permanent improvements.

Surveys of all accessible agricultural lands to be rapidly completed, and survey sheets and all necessary information to be made easily available to the public.

Settlement in block to be encouraged by the removal of reserves, which scatter population and greatly increase the cost of roads, schools and other necessary facilities.

No public land for the speculator.

2. Transportation.

The immediate construction of a railway to Peace River.

We will co-operate with the Dominion government in securing all-rail connection between the railway systems of Vancouver Island and the railway systems of the mainland.

The construction of a line owned by the government to give direct communication, by the best route as to grades and distances, between the Similkameen and other interior points and the coast.

We favor the husbanding of the Provincial credit to assist lines that will open up new territory.

Provincial credit and resources not to be wasted in paralleling existing lines.

No land subvention to railways beyond what is necessary for railway purposes.

Abolition of the system of giving away Crown lands for townsites free of taxation and under railway control.

Aid to railways not to exceed what is reasonably necessary to secure construction.

The prevention of over capitalization of railways.

The Province to co-operate with the Dominion in aiding railway and highway construction.

All franchises for the construction, operation and ownership or leasing of government-aided roads to be open for public competition.

Freight, passenger and express rates and telegraph tolls of all government-aided roads to be under the jurisdiction of the Dominion Railway Commission.

With a view to meeting the demand for the transportation of grain from Saskatchewan and Alberta, the immediate construction of government-owned elevators.

The people to control the railways, and not the railways the people.

3. Timber.

We condemn without reserve the wholesale disposal of timber lands to speculators, which has been the only timber policy of the present government.

We advocate the survey, equising and valuation of timber lands by the government before alienation, and the disposal of all such lands by public competition to actual users.

Improved methods of preventing timber waste and systematized reforestation.

Hand loggers licenses to be granted where conditions demand.

4. Public Protection in Respect to Coal.

Coal lands not to be alienated, but leased under conditions to be fixed periodically by the legislature.

Wherever practicable and necessary government operation of coal mines to be at once undertaken with a view to reduction of existing prices.

We insist upon the appointment of a royal commission to investigate the present exorbitant coal prices.

5. Practical Education.

We condemn the present educational autocracy of the government.

We recommend the appointment of a representative advisory board in educational matters, such as exists in all other provinces.

The present school curriculum is so overloaded with subjects as to render thorough education in any branch impossible.

We advocate an increase of

manual and agricultural training and domestic science teaching, and the establishment of an efficient system of technical schools.

The present school system bears unjustly on settlers in unorganized districts, and should be immediately remedied.

6. Representation.

The government's policy as to revision of the voters' lists and precipitating the present election without a proper redistribution of constituencies is a complete subversion of all the privileges of representative government.

We favor personal registration and insist on immediate redistribution.

We favor woman suffrage and personal property taxes, and the raising of the exemption of income limit to \$2,000.

7. Taxation.

Abolition of the poll tax. Exemption of improvements on all lands paying taxes to the Provincial government.

A readjustment of the system of taxation whereby the Province may receive a fairer proportion of the unearned increment.

Immediate reform of the present costly, cumbersome and inequitable system of collecting school taxes in unorganized districts.

8. Labor—Workmen's Compensation Without Litigation.

A Provincial department of labor to be created, and a free government labor bureau established.

Thorough and frequent inspection of all industrial premises to ensure health, sanitation and safety.

The complete prohibition of child labor in factories and shops.

The present system of employers' liability insurance bears heavily upon employers, and is a frequent source of injustice to workmen and their families. We advocate the establishment by the government of a permanent industrial insurance commission, independent of politics. This commission to have full charge of a system providing positive compensation to employees for injury received during employment, without recourse to litigation, and giving employers the benefit of accident insurance at minimum cost.

The extension of the scope of the Workmen's Compensation Act, so as to cover all hazardous employments.

The payment of wages should be made at least fortnightly.

9. Oriental Immigration.

We unhesitatingly condemn the hypocrisy of the Provincial government as evidenced by its refusal to re-enact its own remedy—the Natal Act—on the ground that it would embarrass the Conservative Dominion government.

We stand for a "White British Columbia," and advocate continuously increasing stringency in immigration laws until this result is attained. The Liberals of British Columbia are in favor of the total exclusion of Orientals from the Province.

We insist that the Provincial authorities shall enforce strict sanitary regulations in all congested districts.

10. Extension of Municipal Powers.

Increase of local control in municipal matters.

Election of license and police commissioners by popular vote.

11. Public Ownership of Utilities.

We emphatically declare our adherence to the principle of public ownership of public utilities, and advocate limitation of terms of franchise to corporations, renewing the same, if in the public interest, in equitable terms.

12. Local Control of Liquor Traffic.

The liquor traffic of British Columbia is at present under the absolute control of the Provincial government, and is used by it as a political machine.

We insist upon the complete removal of the liquor question from party politics.

The control of the traffic should be vested in municipalities, or, in unorganized territory, in locally elected authorities.

We favor a local option law. In the protection of the public we insist on frequent inspection of liquor offered for sale.

13. Public Accounts.

We denounce the McBride government for withholding year after year the public accounts from examination by the Public Accounts Committee.

We advocate the organization of an auditor general's department, independent of the government.

14. Fishery Control.

We advocate immediate steps

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15. Protection of Water Supply.

We condemn the shortsighted policy of the Provincial government in alienating the timber lands on watersheds tributary to cities, towns and municipalities. It should be the immediate duty of the government to remedy the mischief caused by this mistaken policy.

16. Torrens System of Registration of Title.

The present system of land registration is expensive and cumbersome. We advocate the adoption of the Torrens system of titles, and a reduction of registration fees.

17. Non-Partisan Civil Service.

We favor the organization of a civil service commission for both inside and outside services. Appointments to the civil service should be based on fitness, and not on partisan service.

WHITE PASS FREIGHT RATES

Counsel for Railway Tells Railway Commission That to Comply with Order Would Mean Bankruptcy of Road.

Ottawa, March 4.—At the conclusion of the final hearing by the Railway Commission of the arguments in an application of the Dawson Board of Trade for reduction in rates by the Yukon & White Pass Railway, Chairman Mabey announced that the board could reserve its decision until the "great mass of evidence submitted had been carefully analyzed. Mr. Mabey said that the board certainly would not reduce rates so low that the company would be unable to pay interest on its bonds. Mr. Chrysler, counsel for the company, declared that tentative rates authorized by the board last year would mean bankruptcy for the company.

A proposal which is receiving wide imperial support has been put forward that the West Indies, the oldest colonies under the Crown, should combine to form a West Indian Dominion.

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in connection with the above or calculate directly or indirectly to enhance the value and render profitable any of the objects of the company or rights, and to do so by any means whatsoever, suitable and convenient or proper for the accomplishment of any of the purposes of the objects of the company or any one or more of the objects enumerated or incidental to the objects herein named, or which shall at any time appear to be conducive or expedient to the protection of the company to be incorporated under the name of the Prince Rupert Fish and Cold Storage Company, Limited, with a capital stock of one hundred thousand dollars divided into five hundred shares of two hundred dollars each, and the chief place of business of the company to be at the Town of Prince Rupert in the Province of British Columbia. Dated at the office of the Secretary of the company of Canada, this 17th day of February, 1912. THOMAS M. STAY Under-Secretary of State.