

The Daily News

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DAILY EDITION. MONDAY, MARCH 11

NOT OF "BOTH-FEET-IN-THE-TROUGH" PARTY.

We hasten to apologize for a stupid blunder that crept into our news columns some days ago by which a worthy gentleman was misrepresented. The paragraph stated that old guard Conservatives were mentioning as a desirable candidate T. Vaughn Rhys of Stewart with growing confidence.

The Editor Prince Rupert News: The joke is either on you or on me. But why did you make it the "Both-Feet-in-the-Trough" branch of the Conservative party?

The joke is certainly on us, for Mr. Rhys happens to be the worthy president of the Stewart Liberal Association.

GEORGE GRAHAM AND PARTY LEADERSHIP.

George Graham, who for some time has been as a sword not taken out of its sheath, will now unsheath himself again. This does not mean that he will be the leader of the Liberal party, observes the Vancouver Sunset. Sir Wilfrid Laurier is too loyal to his party to retire yet.

But George Graham, whom the House of Commons has missed more than any of those who were left at home by the voters last September, will be second in command. He is the heir-apparent and will come to the throne in the course of events.

The Fort George Herald says that the Liberals are well organized throughout the district, and if their candidate be a man capable of dispassionate and logical condemnation of a policy that has many shortcomings, they will be a force to be reckoned with, even in a district that will reap so much direct benefit from the forthcoming railway policy as this district of Cariboo.

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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 as a whole.

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 town-sites 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, cruising 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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TORY TO RUN AS INDEPENDENT

Vancouver's First White Citizen Will Throw Down the Gauntlet and Defy the Two-Man Government.

Vancouver, March 6.—Stating that he cannot receive fair play at the hands of Premier McBride, and Attorney General Bowser, Mr. Samuel Greer announced yesterday that he would run as an independent candidate at the forthcoming election.

This will mean that the famous "Greer case," than which no more interesting argument was ever discussed in the courts of British Columbia, will again be brought before the public. It is with the object of "showing up" Mr. Bowser particularly that he will contest a seat in Vancouver.

For a Marine Court. "That the secretary be instructed to write to the Marine Department to the effect that a court of competent jurisdiction be appointed to sit upon marine cases on this coast." This resolution was unanimously carried at a largely attended meeting of the Vancouver Shipmasters' Association.

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