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WORKINGMEN SHOULD CONSIDER PLATFORMS.

There are three candidates making direct appeal for the vote of the working class, or what is known as the labor vote, a straightout Liberal, a Conservative and a Socialist and labor leader. What they offer in their platforms is worth careful thought and study. Take that of the first named. It will be found in our inside pages. Read carefully from the words "A Provincial Department of labor to be created and free government labor bureaus established" down to "The minimum wage, the eight-hour day and six-day week on all government-aided work," and you have the whole platform so far as it refers to labor.

Prince Rupert has but a few industrial premises at present, but they are coming, and it is well to have laws for their proper control and sanitation. Nor in this part of the province do we have any child labor, but the present system of employers' liability insurance, as the plank states, bears heavily upon the employer and is a frequent source of injustice to workmen and their families. Instances of this will naturally occur to you. Some measure of protection is afforded workmen now by the Workmen's Compensation Act, but it is limited in its scope, both as regards the classes of employment with which it deals and the amount of compensation paid. The result is that injured employees or the relatives of men accidentally killed are apt to seek the larger awards which may possibly be obtained by actions brought under the Employers' Liability Act or at common law.

To meet the claims that arise out of injuries, or merely hazardous occupations, industrial insurance companies have come into existence with which the employers compound for the whole risk. Industrial insurance companies, however, have no bowels of compassion. They are in business for the purpose of receiving the highest possible amount in premiums and paying the least possible in losses. They fight every case in which there appears to be the slightest possibility of winning and the result is that of the money subscribed by the employer but a comparatively small portion goes for the purpose for which it was intended, that of paying ample compensation for injuries received.

The Liberal platform proposes to adopt a modified form of the German system, to the cost of which, however, it is not proposed that the workmen or employees shall contribute. In brief, it is suggested that industrial insurance shall be supplied to the employer at cost and that the whole of the money paid by the employer to the government, which will be less than it would be to the insurance companies, should be available for its proper purpose, the settlement of claims for compensation, the cost of administration being borne by the province.

Payment of wages fortnightly is a step toward relieving the wage-earners from at least some part of the high cost of living. Monthly settlements, as everyone is aware, make the credit system inevitable, with the result that those who pay at all pay for those who do not pay. We hope to see the day when the man whose wages are computed by the day or week will receive his pay in hard cash once every seven days. The institution of such a system throughout the province would be equivalent to an advance at least of 10 per cent. to those who now receive their cheques only monthly.

These are among the planks of the Liberal platform it will pay the workingman to study between now and election day.

William Manson, the candidate of the ring, is making a campaign trip up the Skeena river. There it is easy. He has had the road gangs at work there repairing his political fences, and all there is for him to do is to look over the work and offer a suggestion or two to the road boss here and there. In Prince Rupert there was absolutely nothing for Mr. Manson to do. He and the ring did their possible at the federal election, but the handsome majority given to Duncan Ross showed the city to be an impregnable Liberal stronghold.

The morning organ of the Conservative party comes out this morning with a defense of the alleged sandbagger of Rev. W. H. McLeod. "Dirty Politics," "Despicable Tactics." Now the respectable Conservative newspaper, the Empire, which is not a servile tool of the Manson gang but an independent exponent of public opinion, yesterday published a full account of the alleged sandbagging incident from the lips of the popular pastor himself, without a word of comment. There's a difference.

As to the result of the British Columbia elections, Premier McBride may lose forty seats, while he cannot possibly do better than gain one. At present the opposition consists of but one member.—Toronto Star.

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Reasons Why Wm. Manson Must be Defeated

- 1. The growth and prosperity of Prince Rupert is being hampered and retarded by the attitude of the McBride government in direct opposition, in order to serve the interests of the rival port of Vancouver. 2. That Prince Rupert can raise no voice of protest so long as she is represented in the legislature by the silent and obsequious William Manson. 3. That the said Silent William did once or twice gently purr in mere explanation of what this city was seeking from the legislature, but never sufficiently loud to wake up any other member of McBride's huge majority. 4. That even on Prince Rupert matters he always voted with the government. 5. That when a respectful petition was sent to him asking when the government wharf would be completed he never brought the matter before the house at all, and that this matter was brought directly before the house by the Liberal representative of another constituency, H. C. Brewster. 6. That with an able and energetic Liberal from Prince Rupert in the house, such as is Mr. Alex. M. Manson, the Liberal nominee, this city might shame the monopolists of political representation into giving at least a certain measure of justice. 7. That the Silent William never brought before the house the subject of the sale of government lots in Prince Rupert, but in default gives us his interpretation of what the premier is alleged to have said, namely, that the government was in the real estate business good and hard and as it had passed laws exempting taxation on these lots it could hold them without expense until the people had made them enormously valuable, and the people could go to. 8. That the Silent William is alleged to have presented a petition from the people of the city for a government wagon road around Kaien Island, and that as an ante-election statement he is now promising the road will be built, but he whispers in an aside that he does not know the amount of the appropriation. 9. That these are the things the Silent One claims to have attempted to do in the interests of this city. 10. That what he ought to have done and which he didn't even try to do would take from now until election day to enumerate.

To the Electors of Prince Rupert:

I had intended at first to retire in the event of a Liberal being nominated, but the dissatisfaction against the ring rule within the Conservative party is so widespread that I think it only right that those Conservatives who cannot conscientiously endorse the candidature of William Manson should still have the privilege of voting Conservative, and I will therefore remain in the field. I have no quarrel with the McBride government and will loyally support it, but I have a strong objection to the great Conservative party being made the tool of a petty clique who use it merely for their own selfish ends. Do not allow the ring to persuade you that Mr. Manson is the only man whom the government will recognize. We saw how Mr. Manson stood with the government when a deputation was sent to Victoria to press his claims for a cabinet portfolio. They would have none of him and they had tried him before. If elected I have no fear of not receiving full recognition from the premier, especially as I will have no personal axe to grind, but will work solely in the interests of my constituents. I ask every loyal Conservative who has the real interest of his party at heart to stamp out utterly on the 28th the ring rule which has cursed the party for the last few years. Remember, if Mr. Manson is elected the ring will claim a victory and it will be useless to attempt to dislodge it. Yours faithfully, WILLIAM BARRETT CLAYTON.

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