

## Prairie Manifesto Project

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Province: ☐ Alberta ☒ Saskatchewan ☐ Manitoba

Party: LIB Election Year: 1934.

AA = Alberta Alliance  
CON = Conservative Party  
LP = Liberal-Progressive Party  
PC = Progressive Conservative Party  
SKP = Saskatchewan Party  
UFM = United Farmers of Manitoba

CCF = Cooperative Commonwealth Federation  
LIB = Liberal Party  
NDP = New Democratic Party  
SC = Social Credit  
UFA = United Farmers of Alberta  
WCC = Western Canadian Concept

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- ☒ Platform ☐ Constitution  
☐ Speech ☐ Brochure / Leaflet *P*  
☐ Newspaper ☐ Advertisement  
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SK = Saskatchewan  
MB = Manitoba

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UofC = University of Calgary  
UofR = University of Regina  
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# Platform Resolutions

OF THE

## SASKATCHEWAN LIBERAL PARTY

ADOPTED AT

## PROVINCIAL LIBERAL CONVENTION

Held at Moose Jaw, June 15-16, 1931

*And by the Central Council of the Saskatchewan  
Liberal Party on September 27, 1932,  
and January 18, 1933*

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# Synopsis of Platform Resolutions

The following is a condensed synopsis of Platform Resolutions of the Saskatchewan Liberal Party approved by the Moose Jaw Convention in June, 1931, and at subsequent meetings of the full Council of the Party. The full text of these Resolutions is printed following this synopsis.

## TAXATION

"The Liberal party pledges itself:

"1. To keep taxes as low as necessary services and the increased interest charges incurred by the present Government will permit. (See "Agriculture," page 8; "Efficiency and Economy," page 19.)

"2. To consolidate arrears of taxes and spread their payment over a period sufficiently long to permit of their payment without hardship. (See "Municipal Taxation," page 15.)

"3. To assist newer and less productive areas of the province in the establishment of their roads, schools and other necessary developments through a system of grants which will tend to lessen local taxation. (See "Education," page 12; "Roads," page 13.)

"4. To tax luxuries rather than the necessary cost of living among wage-earners and people of small income. (See "Freer Trade. Wider Markets," page 17.)

"5. To lower taxation by reducing the costs of government. (See "Efficiency and Economy," page 19.)

## AGRICULTURE

(See "Agriculture," pages 8-9; "Debt Adjustment Policy," page 11; "Education," page 12.)

"The Liberal party pledges itself:

"1. To continue assistance to farmers through an up-to-date agricultural department and agricultural college in maintaining the standard of their product and producing at the lowest possible cost.

"2. To investigate fully the possibility of setting up crop insurance against other weather conditions besides hail.

"3. To obtain better marketing facilities through encouraging co-operation and standardization of products.

"4. To establish permanent debt adjustment tribunals which will sit locally as the conditions require, and, with the power of ordering individual moratorium, to bring about adjustments which will maintain every bona fide home builder in his or her home, by taking into consideration the present value of his or her products or labor to obligations incurred when values of products or labor were higher, and such other factors as should be taken into consideration, and at the same time be fair to those who have assisted them through credit in establishing such home.

"5. To assure the lowest rates of interest possible, a survey be made of the financial position of the people of Saskatchewan that will provide reliable information upon which to base future credits.

"6. To make secondary education available to every rural pupil and keep higher education in this province related to agriculture.

## TRADE AND MARKETING POLICY

(See "Empire Trade Relations," pages 6-7; "Freer Trade—Wider Markets," page 17; "Roads," page 13; "Banking and Currency," page 16.)

"The Liberal party pledges itself to promote trade and a return to prosperity through:

"1. The establishment of free trade with Great Britain in agricultural products in exchange for those necessities of life, tools and machinery of production essential to the carrying on of agriculture in Saskatchewan.

"2. Removal of trade barriers against all countries which are willing to exchange the articles necessary to the production of farm products in Saskatchewan for the products of the farm.

"3. Arrangement of mutually beneficial trade treaties with every country willing to trade with us.

"4. Early development of every trade route which lessens the cost of transportation from the prairies to our markets whether domestic or foreign, particularly the Hudson Bay route.

"5. The establishment and maintenance of freight rates both by land and water which will keep costs of transportation as low as possible.

"6. Strong opposition to any attempt to interfere with the tendency of grain to follow the cheapest route.

"7. The maintenance of serviceable roads to local markets through co-operation with rural and urban municipalities both with regard to cost and location.

"8. The building and maintenance of through trunk roads to give service at a cost which will keep taxation as low as possible and give the service over the entire province.

## EDUCATION

(See Page 12.)

"The Liberal party pledges itself:

"1. To remove the discussion of educational matters from partisan political controversy through the creation of control independent of the Legislature in all matters except finance.

"2. To put our educational system upon a sound financial basis by providing sources of revenue which are not easily affected by the incidental change from an economical administration to a spendthrift government.

"3. To encourage the departmental organization to secure the best talent available to set courses and select text-books and leave that work entirely to them.

"4. To encourage in every way the provision of a staff for our schools which will adopt teaching and educational work as a life vocation.

"5. To bring all secondary and primary education, essential to the development of better rural life, nearer, and to make it more accessible to those on the farm.

"6. To relate higher education as far as possible to the needs of agriculture through a close association of the arts, sciences and agricultural college and an extension of research work.

"7. To maintain a system of grants which will assure an education to every child in the province, no matter how remote the district in which such child lives.

"8. To maintain the correspondence courses for pupils in out-lying districts which were inaugurated by the Liberal Government.

### ROADS

(See Pages 13-14.)

"The Liberal party pledges itself:

"1. To classify the roads as provincial highways, main market, inter-municipal, colonization and local roads.

"2. To build and maintain provincial highways, colonization roads, and large capital bridges, to continue its policy of timber bridge construction, and to re-establish grants to municipalities to assist in the construction of main market and inter-municipal roads.

"3. To confine the expenditure of capital borrowed over a term of years to works which are of a permanent character.

"4. To place upon the table of the Legislature within 15 days of the opening of the House all particulars regarding any contracts let by the department without tender during the preceding season.

"5. To keep the cost of road building and maintenance down to the minimum which will provide the necessary service.

### LANDS

(See Page 15.)

"The Liberal party pledges itself:

"1. To a revision of the Crown Lands sales policy now in force in this Province so as to lighten the costs and burdens now imposed on settlers on such lands, and to permit of home-steading under conditions somewhat similar to the former Dominion homestead policy, with a view to making Saskatchewan a Province of contented and prosperous home-owners.

### LABOR AND INDUSTRY

(See "Labor," pages 10-11; "Emergency Employment—Home Security," page 11; "Other Industries," page 10; "Dept Adjustment Policy," page 11.)

"The Liberal party pledges itself:

"1. To co-operate with the Federal Government to assure to labor a minimum wage that will provide a living throughout the year

as a first charge against the earnings of any industry receiving Government assistance.

"2. To co-operate with the Federal Government in the establishment of an adequate system of unemployment insurance.

"3. To arrange readjustment of payments and taxes of unemployed home owners during unemployment and until a reasonable period after re-employment, and thus provide security of tenure to such home owners.

"4. To establish an active branch in the Government service to promote the industries of fishing, mining, fur, forest and hydro development within the Province, particularly in the northern part.

"5. To promote the widest possible use of Saskatchewan coal and clay products.

### MONETARY AND BANKING REFORM

(See Page 16.)

"The Liberal party, while recognizing that the monetary and banking system is a matter coming wholly within the jurisdiction of the Federal Parliament, pledges itself:

"1. To encourage and support the establishment of a Central Bank of Rediscount under absolute Government control, which Central Bank should issue all currency.

"2. To advocate the granting to Provincial and Municipal Governments of the right, upon deposit of sound securities, to apply direct to such Central Bank for currency, the same to be issued to such Governments at cost or a minimum rate of interest.

"3. To urge amendment of The Bank Act to provide for the imposition of a penalty on any Bank charging more than the legal rate of interest stated in The Bank Act.

"4. To urge that the Canadian dollar be brought to a parity with the British pound sterling.

### PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

"The Liberal party, which during its 24 years in office, was responsible for placing upon the statute books of Saskatchewan some of the most advanced health legislation in the world, and inaugurated many free health and social services, pledges itself to a continuation and extension of such policies and services.

(See "Public Health," page 13. "Women's Activities," pages 17-18.)

### ELECTORAL REFORM

"The Liberal party pledges itself to the adoption of the single transferable ballot in Provincial elections."

# Full Text of Resolutions

## Provincial Liberal Convention

*Adopted at*

Held at Moose Jaw, June 15-16, 1931

*Also Resolutions Subsequently Approved by the Council of the  
Saskatchewan Liberal Party on September 27, 1932,  
and January 18, 1933.*

THE Saskatchewan Liberal Association in convention assembled desires to place on record our unswerving loyalty to HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE THE FIFTH. It is our earnest prayer that HIS MAJESTY may long be spared to us and by the inspiration of his example serve ever to draw more closely those ties which bind together the component parts of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

### EMPIRE RELATIONS

1. The Saskatchewan Liberal Party in convention assembled recalls with pride the benefits which Canada has derived through those ties of sentiment inspired by our British institutions of government which are ours as part of our experiences through being part of the British Empire, and proclaims its intention to further strengthen the ties of Empire by promoting in every way possible trade with all parts of the Empire, but more particularly with the Mother Country which is the natural market for the products of Saskatchewan.

To this end we pledge our party to:

- (a) A further extension of the principle of British Preference until all the necessities of agriculture are placed upon the free list so that goods which can be supplied more cheaply from within the Empire will be procurable at prices which will lessen the cost of production in agriculture.
- (b) Insist upon the opening of all trade routes which shorten the distance between different parts of the Empire and more particularly the Hudson Bay route, together with the establishment of such freight rates and insurance rates as will render them available to encourage trade within the Empire.

### General Trade Relations

2. Resolved, that the promotion of trade with every country which imports food products is essential to the welfare of the Province of Saskatchewan and that the Liberal Party in Saskatchewan pledges itself to insist upon the promotion of the best possible trade relations with all countries.

### LIBERAL ADMINISTRATION 1905-1929

This, the first Provincial Convention of the Liberal Party in Saskatchewan to be convened since the retirement of the Liberal Party from office in September, 1929, following twenty-four years of continuous administration of Provincial affairs, desires to place on record its full appreciation of the legislative and administrative work of Liberal Governments under the leadership of Hon. Walter Scott, Hon. W. M. Martin, Hon. Charles A. Dunning and Hon. James G. Gardiner.

Assuming office upon the creation of the Province in 1905, the Liberal Party likewise assumed the great responsibility of laying the foundations of the Province, providing it with a code of laws, establishing essential services for the development of Saskatchewan and to meet the economic, social and cultural requirements of its people.

During those twenty-four years the population of Saskatchewan was multiplied three times to become the third most populous province of the Dominion; its area was transformed from being largely unproductive territory into one of the greatest of the wealth-producing provinces of Canada; with only a meagre railway mileage at the outset, Saskatchewan as a result of Liberal policy today boasts the second greatest railway mileage among the nine provinces and the largest mileage per capita; schools multiplied and re-multiplied; a satisfactory municipal system was created; starting with no public buildings, no publicly owned services, no good roads, none of those institutions essential to our modern needs, the Liberal Party provided the Provincial Parliament Buildings, a great University, three Normal Schools, three Sanatoria to combat tuberculosis, two Mental Hospitals, a Home for the aged and infirm, Court Houses and Land Titles Offices, a telephone system unexcelled anywhere for efficiency and low cost of service, a Farm Loans scheme which has loaned millions to farmers at a low rate of interest, the commencement of a Provincial Power scheme, Maternity Grants, Mothers' Pensions, Old Age Pensions, assistance to various co-operative organizations designed to advance the welfare of our farming community, a Provincial Highway and Main Market roads system with thousands of bridges, numerous ferries, and thousands of miles improved and built to standard and the work of gravelling commenced, secured the active co-operation of all the people, irrespective of racial origin, religious creed, or the economic class to which they belonged, in the creation and promotion of a true Provincial spirit and outlook.

Despite this rapid development, unprecedented in history, Liberal Governments by watchful and careful administration succeeded in meeting the ever-increasing needs of the Province without imposing a burdensome public debt for present and future generations to pay, with the gratifying result that at the close of the 24-year period of Liberal administration Saskatchewan's public debt was the lowest per capita of any province west of Quebec, and the third lowest in all Canada, and every dollar of that debt was represented by a tangible asset, and, unlike other provinces, not as a result of deficits in current account being capitalized.

Most gratifying of all to the Liberal Party now assembled in this Convention is the fact that notwithstanding the most searching investigations proceeded with during the past two years by the Anderson Government through the instrumentality of departmental inquiries, special audits, detective agencies, court trials and Royal Commissions in a determined partizan attempt to unearth some wrongdoing on the part of previous Administrations, not one dollar has been found to have been misappropriated, not one cabinet minister has been found to have been dishonest in administration or derelict in duty, while the financial statements made to the people from year to year have been verified as absolutely true and complete statements of the Provincial finances.

It is with pride and gratification that this Convention reviews this outstanding record of the Saskatchewan Liberal Party during its long term of office, a record without parallel in any province, and it is with pleasure that it extends to the members of past Liberal Governments commendation and thanks for their statesmanlike service marked by such outstanding sincerity and integrity.

And this Convention further pledges the Liberal Party to bring about a return to such sane, economical, progressive and efficient administration following its return to power at the next Provincial general election.

## AGRICULTURE

### Land Tenure

Whereas land tenure has become a serious question with many farmers in Saskatchewan because of the increased indebtedness due largely to high interest and other charges which tend to dispossess the farmer; and

Whereas many of our best citizens are being forced through the pressure of indebtedness to decide between abandoning their farms and accepting them as leaseholders thus introducing the weaknesses of a feudal system into Saskatchewan without its benefits:

Therefore be it resolved that the Liberal Party, in an endeavor to make Saskatchewan a province of home builders, will, when returned to power, make a complete survey of the relations pre-

vailing between the creditor and debtor with a view to readjusting indebtedness both with regard to principal and interest in such a manner as to assure the debtor farmers the opportunity to meet their indebtedness.

This Convention expresses the opinion that to accomplish this end it will be necessary in the meantime:

1. To keep taxes both Provincial and Municipal down to the minimum essential to provide those services which lessen the cost of producing and marketing the products of the farm.
2. To secure for the farmers of this Province interest rates as low as those which can be obtained in Eastern Canada.
3. To set up and perpetuate an organization which understands agricultural needs and possibilities and has the confidence of the creditors as well as the debtors and which shall be given the power to arrange final equitable adjustments under which their financial difficulties can be met without dispossessing the present owner.

(See "Debt Adjustment Policy," Page 11).

### Promotion of Agriculture

The Liberal Party pledges itself to encourage every branch of agriculture by providing improved selling and purchasing facilities, lessened costs of production, lessened costs of transportation, improving the livestock and grain products and safeguarding the farmer against weed, insect, climatic and other difficulties through scientific investigation, the distribution of information, and the setting up of necessary regulation and organization to promote the same.

The Liberal Party adheres to the view that much can be accomplished toward the above ends through the application and encouragement of the principle of co-operation.

### Crop Insurance

Whereas the financial stability of this Province is seriously affected through either general or individual, partial or complete crop failures; and

Whereas such crop failures are in many cases caused by uncontrollable weather conditions:

Therefore be it resolved that the Liberal Party in convention assembled hereby pledges itself, as soon as it is returned to power, to appoint a special committee to fully investigate the feasibility of a system of crop or weather insurance applicable to the needs of the farming industry of this Province, which will look toward reimbursing our farmers for the cost of producing their yearly output.

## OTHER INDUSTRIES

While recognizing that agriculture is and will remain the foundation upon which prosperity rests in Saskatchewan, this Convention believes that wherever possible other industries should be encouraged and fostered.

### Coal

This Convention commends the Liberal Government for having adopted and inaugurated a policy for the encouragement of the use of Saskatchewan coal and is pleased that some effort is being made by the present Government to carry that policy into effect. We pledge the Liberal Party to a further extension of the policy by every means possible, including the use of coal (and wood where available) in the production of electrical energy, when returned to power.

### Clay Products

This Convention acknowledges with satisfaction the valuable assistance given through the Bureau of Labor and Industries, and later the Department of Railways, Labor and Industries, under Liberal administration, by providing an expert ceramics engineer to assist in the development of our clay products and resolves that every encouragement through the provision of scientific information and the use of Saskatchewan clay products should be given to the industry when the party returns to power.

### Industries of the North

Whereas our natural resources are now administered by the Provincial Government:

Therefore be it resolved, that an active branch should be set up for the promotion of the fishing, mining, fur, forest, and hydro development industries which have wonderful possibilities in the northern part of the Province.

Whereas certain industries when brought to Saskatchewan tend to lessen the seasonal unemployment:

Therefore be it resolved, that this Convention pledges the Liberal Party to make a survey of the market which our agriculture provides and encourage the coming of those industries which supply our market to the extent that they can give either winter or continuous employment to labor.

## LABOR

Whereas the present difficult period demonstrates that those who have produced wealth through their labor have not always shared in it sufficiently to be able to meet the inevitable transitions; and

Whereas the present ease with which industrial workers can move from place to place is tending to allow those who benefit from

their labor to shirk their responsibility to keep them continuously employed; and

Whereas a continuance of the practice of throwing men out of employment to increase the profits of industry simply because men can be secured when wanted without difficulty will prove disastrous to the nation if continued:

Therefore be it resolved, that the Liberal Party when returned to power is prepared to co-operate with the Federal Government to assure to labor a minimum wage which will provide a living throughout the year as a first charge against the earnings of any industry which has received government assistance.

Be it further resolved, that where continuous employment is not possible in an industry which is advantageous to the province any government formed by the Liberal Party promote any system of adequate insurance against unemployment which might be brought in through co-operation with the Federal Government.

### Emergency Employment—Home Security

Whereas unemployed home owners in towns and cities are through lack of employment unable to meet property and tax payments, and being dispossessed from their homes, with loss of equities built up over many years of frugal saving:

Therefore be it resolved, that a survey of relations between creditor and debtor be made, to arrange readjustment of payments and taxes until a reasonable period after re-employment, securing to the unemployed home owner security of tenure in the meantime.

## DEBT ADJUSTMENT POLICY

Resolved that the Liberal Party is prepared, when returned to power, to establish in Saskatchewan permanent debt adjustment tribunals which will sit locally as the conditions require, and, with the power of ordering individual moratorium, to bring about adjustments, which will maintain every worthy homebuilder in his or her home, by taking into consideration the present value of his or her products or labor to obligations incurred when values of products or labor were higher, and such other factors as should be taken into consideration, and at the same time be fair to those who have assisted them through credit in establishing such home.

We would further resolve that to assure the lowest rates of interest possible, a survey be made of the financial position of the people of Saskatchewan that will provide reliable information upon which to base future credits.

### Exemptions Act

Resolved, that it is the opinion of this Council that the Exemptions Act in the Province of Saskatchewan should be re-drafted to more fully meet the needs of the people under our present methods of farming, taking into consideration the mechanized system now in vogue in a very great portion of this Province.



## EDUCATION

1. Whereas the School Question has been a matter of controversy in this Province since 1905; and

Whereas the Conservative Government has now been in power for two regular sessions of the Legislature, during one of which there has been a Conservative Government in power at Ottawa, and no action has been taken to amend the Constitution; and

Whereas it is essential to the future welfare of Canada that all partisan controversy be separated from a consideration of school matters:

Therefore be it resolved, that the Department of Education should be so administered as to remove the discussion of school matters entirely from partisan political controversy.

2. Whereas the Liberal Government took over such schools as had previously been established in what became the Province of Saskatchewan in 1905 and continued to improve our educational system with the object of assuring to every child an efficient elementary education, special care being taken that every child obtain a thorough knowledge of the English language; continuously added to the efficiency and permanency of the teaching profession until we were finally turning out from our Normal Schools and maintaining in the profession sufficient teachers to staff all our schools; and brought secondary education nearer to the homes of the farming population than any other Province in Canada; and

Whereas the present Government has not found it possible to make any improvements by change in the system, the staff in the Department and institutions of learning, or in the organization of the department itself:

Therefore be it resolved, that the Liberal Party when returned to power continue to build upon a foundation so well laid that even its opponents could not improve it in any material way, increasing the opportunities for elementary education, improving and rendering more permanent the teaching profession, and extending education to the rural people by bringing it nearer still to their homes and giving due consideration to the seasonal nature of farm work.

3. This Convention desires to go on record as stating that the Liberal Government was right in maintaining in 1929 that a revision of the whole financial structure supporting education with a view to equalizing cost and opportunities to obtain an education, with special attention to the necessities of the outlying rural areas, was of paramount importance. The makeshift policy of the present Government which consists entirely in making special grants is not one upon which an efficient school can be organized and conducted. The Liberal Party pledges itself to a revision which will place the weaker school districts in a position to map out their work in advance rather than wait for the decisions of a Government from year to year. Special grants will be provided in emergency cases.

4. This Convention declares that any government in power should select through the proper channels staffs properly qualified to deal with such matters as the curriculum, text books, and school management and then hold them responsible without interference from politicians. Political parties are not the proper bodies to decide such matters.

## PUBLIC HEALTH

Whereas the Liberal Party and former Liberal Governments have always actively recognized that the preservation of the health of citizens is the first duty of a government; and

Whereas former Liberal Governments, in exercising constant vigilance over the health of the people of the province, have placed on the statute books some of the most advanced health legislation to be found in the world, and that largely as a result of this effort the Province of Saskatchewan since 1922 has had the enviable record of having the lowest death rate of any country in the world recording Vital Statistics:

Therefore, the Liberal Party in convention assembled resolves as follows:

That the agencies and services created by former Liberal Governments to safeguard the health of the people be continued and extended to provide the greatest possible service in matters of,—

- (a) Sanitation;
- (b) Communicable diseases;
- (c) Free tuberculosis treatment;
- (d) Generous grants to hospitals and sanatoria;
- (e) Free and efficient laboratory service to the people of the province;
- (f) Free treatment of venereal diseases;
- (g) Efficient nursing service as applied to public health;
- (h) Free clinics for the examination of children of pre-school age;
- (i) The organization of health districts;
- (j) Maternity grants to expectant mothers;
- (k) The most up-to-date and progressive service in counteracting the menace of cancer, mental disabilities and protecting the mental health of children through mental and social adjustment by creating a mental hygiene division of the Department of Public Health;
- (l) Creating a dental division of the Department of Public Health for the purpose of dental education.

## ROADS

This Convention condemns in the strongest possible terms,—

1. The waste of public funds upon highways under the methods followed by the present Government.



2. The capitalization of expenditure upon highways merely for the purpose of keeping down enormous deficits on Revenue account.

3. The letting of contracts for construction and gravelling without tender at flat rates which has already resulted in party friends receiving the most favorable contracts and truck drivers being underpaid.

4. The placing of an army of men temporarily upon the highways to do maintenance work during the last Federal election, thus doubling the cost of road maintenance.

5. The following of a policy which is exhausting the ability of the Department to give long distance road service before five main highways are completed when a large percentage of the population will be thereby deprived of service.

This Convention declares that the objective in road building should be primarily to assist in the production and marketing of farm products without adding too greatly to the cost of production through increased tax rates and that the development of long distance roads in accordance with the primary objective should be so carried out as to render as easy and certain as possible the movement of all traffic by highway into and throughout the province. And to that end,—

**Resolved:**

1. That the roads of the province be classified as Provincial Highways, Main Market, Inter-Municipal, Colonization and Local roads.

2. That the Provincial Government should assume full responsibility for the construction and maintenance of the Provincial Highways and continue its programme of bridge building; and

3. That tenders should be called for all construction work on roads and for all gravelling and the job let to the lowest bidder excepting under extraordinary circumstances in which case a full explanation and all records dealing with the same be placed on the table of the House within fifteen days of the opening of the next session of the Legislature.

4. That at least the amount of the Gasoline Tax, Automobile License, and any other tax levied on account of vehicles used upon roads be spent annually upon the roads from Revenue account and that as large a proportion as possible of such fund be spent upon Main Market, Inter-Municipal and Colonization roads in such a manner as to give equality of service.

5. That there should be a clause in all contracts for road work entered into by the Provincial Government, guaranteeing a minimum wage which takes into consideration the seasonal nature of the employment and thus provides against either laborers or truck drivers who have been steadily employed being without means during the winter months.

6. That only those works properly chargeable to Capital account should be so charged.

7. That whereas all governments in Canada agreed that unemployment relief is a municipal responsibility, all monies to be spent as a matter of road relief be turned over to the Municipal Councils for expenditure under inspection.

8. That the costs of road building and maintenance per mile be kept down to the minimum which will provide the necessary service.

9. That during periods of depression farm teams and manual labor be employed to the fullest extent possible rather than machinery on all road construction and maintenance.

## DISPOSAL OF CROWN LANDS

Resolved, that this Convention go on record as disapproving of the policy of the Department of Natural Resources in connection with the disposal of Crown Lands, in view of the fact that such lands where available are generally heavily timbered and very expensive to prepare for cultivation; and

Whereas many of the people seeking to secure such lands are Saskatchewan farmers who are being compelled by weather conditions to leave their present holdings and attempt a new start in the north; and

Whereas in normal times open prairie lands were homesteaded on payment of a ten dollar entry fee, the present minimum price of \$1.00 per acre, which is increased to \$3.00 or more, constitutes a heavy burden on the would-be settler:

Therefore be it resolved, that such lands should be available for entry by the first eligible applicant in each case who pays a reasonable fee similar to that charged under the Dominion Lands Act.

Be it further resolved, that, whereas the present regulations of the Department of Natural Resources call for the cultivation of twenty-five acres per quarter section, and this being an impossible task for practically all settlers securing such lands, this Convention declares that, when next the Liberal Party is charged with the duties of government, such cultivation duties be reduced to the equivalent of a reasonable acreage of bare prairie lands.

## MUNICIPAL TAXATION

Resolved, that it is the opinion of this Convention that legislation should be passed by the Legislature of Saskatchewan at once providing the right to the municipalities of the province to consolidate all arrears of taxes down to the end of the year 1931, and in such event requiring the municipality to redeem all properties from

tax sale, that such arrears be then spread over a period of ten years commencing in 1932, and one-tenth of such arrears to be added to each year's taxes plus interest not exceeding five per cent, arrears of taxes' sale to still apply, and in event of tax sale, that such sale include all consolidated taxes down to and including taxes of the year of sale. That such municipalities be empowered to issue ten year debentures on the general credit of the municipality against such arrears in order to acquire necessary funds for such purpose.

### BANKING AND CURRENCY

The Liberal Party in Saskatchewan believes that there should be established in Canada under absolute control of the Federal Government, a bank of rediscount, and that among other things this bank should issue all the currency. This currency for commercial purposes should be issued through the commercial banks, but governments, including provincial and municipal, should have the right on deposit of gilt-edged securities, to apply direct to the central bank for currency issued, and when currency is so issued only the cost of issue be charged the governing body.

#### Interest

Resolved that The Bank Act be amended to provide the imposition of a penalty on any bank charging more than the legal rate of interest stated in the said act.

#### Gold Standard

Resolved, that the Liberal Party believes that the Canadian dollar should be brought to a parity with the British pound sterling.

#### Combines and Cartels

The Liberal Party in Saskatchewan is of opinion that a considerable part of the difficulty in the world today is due to the fact that governments during the war, to encourage production, slackened their attacks upon combines and cartels, and would emphasize the importance of a return to the attack, and further pledges itself to take every action within its power when returned to power to render such combinations and cartels illegal.

### PRICE OF GASOLINE

Whereas, the problem of the farmer is to reduce production costs in order to meet world prices, and, owing to the extent to which Saskatchewan farms have been mechanized, the price of gasoline includes a large portion of such costs; and

Whereas, the present Federal Conservative Government by raising the tariff and by giving to the Minister arbitrary powers to fix valuations for duty purposes has prevented the drop in price

of gasoline and other oil products which has taken place in other countries and is placing the entire oil industry in the hands of a monopoly:

Therefore, be it resolved that this Association in Convention assembled go on record as being opposed to the recent tariff increases and arbitrary regulations on gasoline.

### Petroleum Products

Resolved, that in view of the wide variability of quality of petroleum products that investigation be made as to the feasibility of standardizing the qualities of petroleum products offered for sale in the Province of Saskatchewan.

### FREER TRADE. WIDER MARKETS

Resolved, that this Liberal Convention believes that agriculture is the paramount industry in Canada and especially in Saskatchewan and further believes that under the present Conservative Governments at Ottawa and Regina, agriculture is not receiving its just dues, but on the contrary is throttled and stagnated by the protective tariff of the Bennett Government and supported by the present Saskatchewan Government.

We affirm our allegiance to the principles of low tariffs and freer trade lessening the undue burdens on the basic industries of agriculture, mining, fishing and forestry, firmly believing that with primary industries prosperous the secondary industries will also be prosperous.

We believe that the effect of the tariff measures proposed by the Bennett Government will be to intensify the stagnation brought about largely by the disparity between the prices received by those who must sell their products in the world's markets and the prices which must be paid for goods and service in a highly protected market.

We believe that the British and other preferences given by Liberal Governments in the past, culminating in the Dunning Budget of May 1, 1930, which tended towards free trade with Great Britain, are those best suited to this country and firmly believe that these preferences should be further extended toward the ultimate goal of free trade with Great Britain and the Sister Dominions of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

And we further believe in the Liberal principle of trade treaties with other countries looking toward the widest measure of freer trade with those countries that wish to trade with us.

### WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES

This Convention recalls with pride the fact that Women Suffrage, The Homestead Act, Maternity Grants, Widows' Allowances, Old

Age Pensions, Bureau of Child Protection, Juvenile Courts, and arrangements to provide for the education of the Deaf, Dumb and Blind, were all provided for under the Liberal Government while in power.

We pledge the Liberal Party to a continuation of progressive action regarding all matters of Social and Public Welfare when returned to power.

### **PURCHASE OF SUPPLIES**

Whereas the Government of the Province of Saskatchewan has during the past two years purchased large supplies of seed, feed and fodder from points outside of the province at a time when such supplies were available in Saskatchewan.

This Convention resolves, that, when such supplies can be purchased within the province to the advantage of the government and people thereof, they should be so secured.

### **LEGISLATION**

This Convention condemns in the strongest possible terms the tendency of the present Government to pass the responsibility for legislation over from the Legislature to the Courts as being an improper, most costly and objectionable method of legislating.

### **REDISTRIBUTION**

Resolved, that this Council commends the attitude of the membership of the Liberal Party in the Legislature of Saskatchewan in its determined opposition at the last session towards the Redistribution Bill as enacted, and to reiterate their stand that the terms of this Bill fly in the face of every element of justice and fair play.

That the predominant factor of every democracy is representation by population, which factor was recognized in the Constitution of Canada when provision was made that legislative representation in the Parliament of Canada should be adjusted after every ten-year census in order that the people of Canada may be represented therein on the basis of population.

That the Bill as enacted was introduced with the sole object of providing for the control of the Legislature of Saskatchewan by a minority of the people of Saskatchewan, and that such an attempt is reactionary, unsound, unjust, and a reversion to Parliamentary methods which were eliminated in every British country in the earliest days of the growth of Parliamentary governments.

That the Council of the Liberal Party here assembled wholeheartedly condemn this gross inequality of representation resulting as it does in this flagrant violation of the elementary principles of

decency and good government, and urge all people of Saskatchewan to work towards the removal of this blot upon the statute books of our Province.

### **Single Transferable Ballot**

Resolved, that the Liberal Party is in favor of the single transferable ballot.

### **EFFICIENCY AND ECONOMY**

This Convention condemns the inefficient, wasteful and extravagant administration of the present Government of Saskatchewan which has resulted in tremendous increases in the annual cost of government together with an alarming increase in the Public Debt.

The Liberal Party pledges itself, when returned to power:

- (a) To an efficient, economical and businesslike administration;
- (b) To eliminate waste and extravagance and to reduce the cost of government, consistent with the services necessarily rendered.
- (c) To a utilization of the Public Credit for such purposes only as will be for the benefit of our citizens.
- (d) To restore to the fullest extent possible the credit of Saskatchewan which has been severely impaired by the present Government.

### **FIRST OBJECTIVE OF GOVERNMENT**

This Convention is of the opinion that a Government in the Province of Saskatchewan should have as its first objective the administration of the departments in such a manner as to promote that contentment in both urban and rural homes which comes from a realization that we are benefiting to the fullest extent,—educationally, physically, socially, and otherwise,—that our production of material wealth would warrant us in expecting. We believe that the Liberal Government while in power laid sound foundations upon which to build a province inhabited by an intelligent, prosperous, contented, united, and loyal Canadian people, bent upon homebuilding. We regret that the last Provincial election campaign put on by our opponents tended to disrupt communities, disunite our people, and generally create dissension. We regret also, that the record of administration of the resulting Government has already affected the sound financial position occupied by the province from 1905 to 1929. We are alarmed by the active support which the Provincial Government gave the Federal Conservative party in the election of 1930 in an endeavor to burden Canada with a policy which while nationally a mistake falls most heavily upon the Province of Saskatchewan. The Liberal Party when returned to power will

do everything possible to overcome the bad fortune which has befallen the province during the past two years, and again establish that contentment among our people which comes through mutual trust and goodwill associated with a knowledge that we are enjoying the highest degree of intellectual opportunity and the comfort which the economic condition of the world will permit.

## Supplementary Platform Resolutions of the Saskatchewan Liberal Party

*Adopted by the Council of the Party  
January 9-11, 1934*

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### DEBT ADJUSTMENT

Be it resolved that the following explanation be added to our Platform in respect to Debt Adjustment:

This general policy means:

The Liberal Party will set up such number of Debt Adjustment Tribunals as may be required. Such Debt Adjustment Tribunals shall be available to all resident debtors in the Province of Saskatchewan. The services of such Tribunals shall be free. These Tribunals will sit in such localities as conditions warrant, and be clothed with the necessary power and authority in the case of any debtor who applies thereto,—

(1) To make a full and complete investigation of the affairs of such debtors by ascertaining the value of all his or her real (and) or personal property; the origin, amount and priorities of secured and unsecured debts, and the rates of interest and other charges thereon; the value of his or her farm lands, implements and costs of farm supplies at the time such debts were incurred, the costs of production and the sale prices of farm products at such time; the present value of farm lands and the value and the state of repair of farm implements and the cost of farm supplies; the number and extent of crop failures, the existing sale prices of farm products, the costs of production, the costs of a fair standard of living for the debtor and his family, and the debtor's ability to pay;

(2) And after due consideration of the foregoing factors and such further and other matters as such Tribunals may deem necessary, to bring about, as between debtor and creditor, a fair and equitable adjustment or reduction of such debts, both as to principal and interest, and to consolidate and amortize the same, if found necessary and expedient; to settle all agreements for the repayment of such debts including the term of years for such repayment and any extensions or prepayments thereof; to settle exemptions from all legal process in such manner and to such extent as will secure to the debtor and his family the title and tenure of his lands and implements of production, and the costs of production and living expenses during the whole period of twelve months between successive crops;

(3) To order an individual moratorium with respect to any debtor, if and when the said Tribunals deem necessary;

(4) To take such further and other steps as the experience of the future may disclose the necessity for, to protect the debtor and his family, in order that the object in view may be achieved no matter what difficulties intervene, that object being the reduction

of debt to the point at which it can be paid and the re-establishment in Saskatchewan of our farmers and workers in contented and comfortable homes of their own with freedom from the worries of an impossible debt, carrying on their calling under conditions which will ensure them security in their old age, and induce their children to remain with them and succeed them.

#### **RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

Resolved, that in order to render the results of debt adjustment permanent and enduring, this Council recommends to the Government that it urge upon the Dominion Government the necessity for a grant of substantial proportions to be used for the purpose of re-establishing agriculture in the drought-stricken areas of the prairie provinces.

#### **UNEMPLOYMENT**

Whereas, unemployment has reached such proportions that it is impossible for the Province or the municipalities to handle the situation; and

Whereas, it is inequitable that the municipalities which are in the greatest distress because of unemployment should be called upon to pay the greatest cost; and

Whereas, unemployment has become and should be recognized as a national problem;

Therefore, the Liberal Party of Saskatchewan urges that a National Non-political Commission be established by the Federal Government to administer relief, with power to take such steps as may be necessary to regulate industry and relieve unemployment throughout Canada, and that such Commission be financed entirely by the Federal Government.

#### **CENTRAL BANK**

Resolved, that this Council of the Liberal Party of Saskatchewan strongly objects to the capital for the proposed Central Bank being privately subscribed, and believes that the interests of the people of Canada can best be served by a Central Bank the capital of which is fully owned and controlled by the Government.

#### **AUTOMOBILE LICENSES**

Resolved, that this Council of the Saskatchewan Liberal Party favors a substantial reduction in automobile and truck licenses.

#### **STATE MEDICINE AND HEALTH INSURANCE**

Resolved, that the Liberal Party when elected to power undertake a thorough investigation of the subject of State medicine and health insurance with a view to the formulation of a definite policy relating to the same.

#### **PENSIONS FOR THE BLIND**

Resolved, that the Federal Government be requested to extend the scope and operation of The Old Age Pensions Act to include adult indigent blind persons.