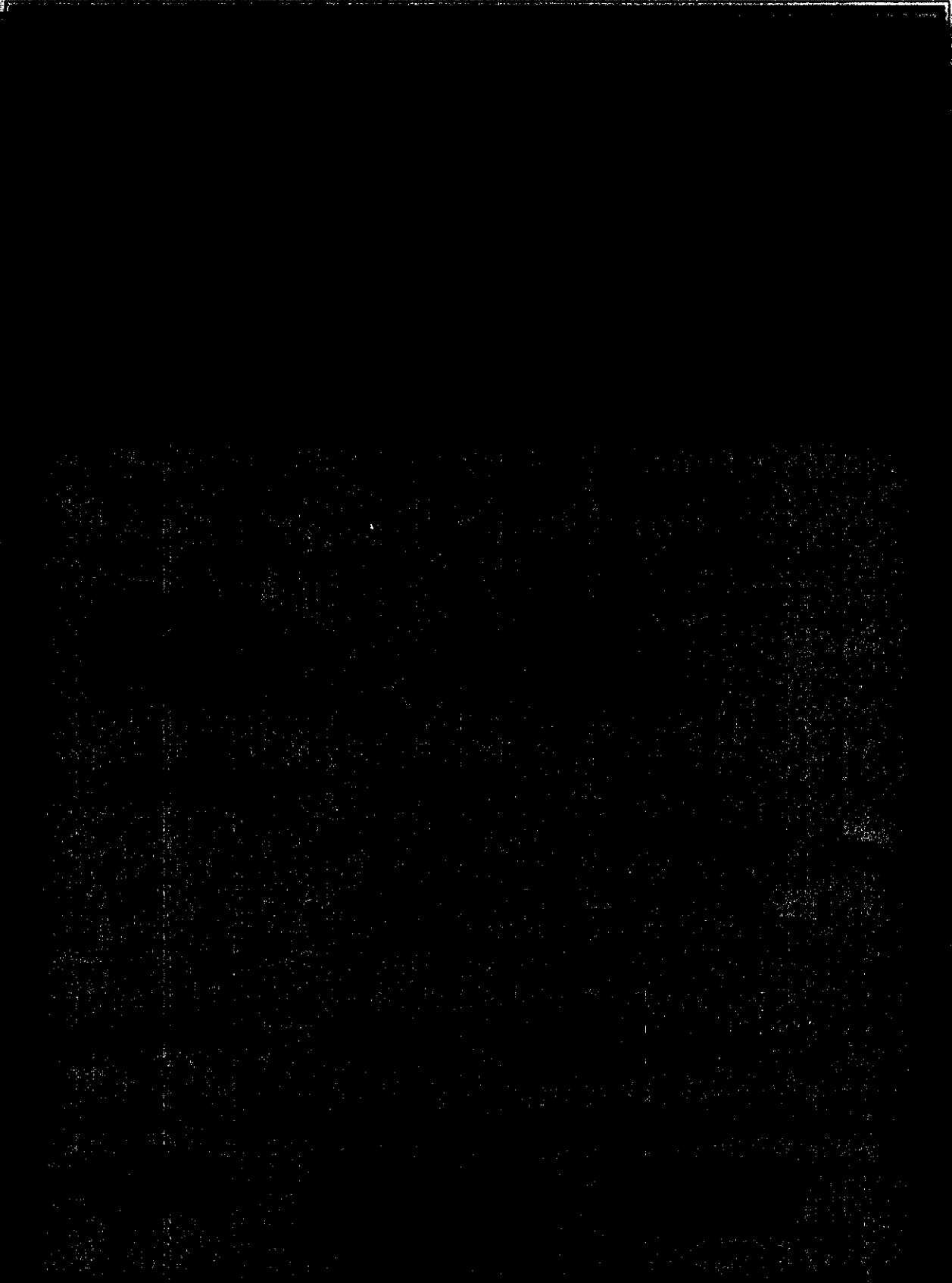


MB-LP-36



Prairie Manifesto Project

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Province: Alberta Saskatchewan Manitoba

Party: LP Election Year: 1936

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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AB = Alberta
SK = Saskatchewan
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UofA = University of Alberta
UofC = University of Calgary
UofR = University of Regina
UofS = University of Saskatchewan
UofM = University of Manitoba
BU = Brandon University

PARC = Provincial Archives
LEG = Legislative Library
SPC = Special Collections
ULIB = University Library

1936

CONCLUSION

Ladies and gentlemen, I have come now to the end of my remarks. I have touched briefly upon the Government's record and have asked for its endorsement at your hands. I have asked, on behalf of myself and my associates in the Liberal and Progressive group, a mandate to try to bring about a better deal for agriculture in the national economy, a better deal for the Provinces and Municipalities in our Federal system, the adjustment of their debts and a new start for the drought-stricken people of the South-west, and a more equitable relationship between certain classes in the community.

And I have asked, as well, for the approval of our programme with respect to several other major policies.

The issue now is in your hands. The Government leaves it there, confident that the general direction of its policies is in the public interest, confident that its position is sound on all its major responsibilities, and equally confident that when you express your views on election day, you will do so with such a united voice that all will know that the people of Manitoba propose to solve their problems, not by the reactionary unconcern accepted in days gone by, nor yet by the radical and untried experiments of more recent times; but rather by means of studied progress, and a middle of the road programme, aimed to bring us something more of equity, something more of social justice and something more of progress than has been our lot in recent years.

FOR MANITOBA'S SAKE

Vote Liberal and Progressive

MANITOBA LIBERAL and PROGRESSIVE
ELECTION MANIFESTO

MANITOBA LIBERAL AND PROGRESSIVE PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE
Great West Permanent Bldg., Winnipeg.



MANITOBA LIBERAL AND PROGRESSIVE ELECTION MANIFESTO

As Delivered by Premier John Bracken
Winnipeg, July 3rd, 1936.

The Government submits its record and asks for three things:—

1. An endorsement of the administration of the last four years;
2. A mandate respecting four different matters; and
3. The approval of the general direction of its policies on five others.

THE PROGRAMME IN OUTLINE

1. The Government asks for an endorsement of its sound, economical and business-like administration of public affairs.
2. It asks for a mandate on certain proposals aimed to bring about four things:
 - (1) A better deal for agriculture in the interests of every citizen of Manitoba.
 - (2) A better deal for the Provinces and Municipalities in our Federal system of Government.
 - (3) The adjustment of their municipal debts and a fresh start for the people in the drought area, and
 - (4) Lower interest rates on private, municipal and government borrowings.
3. The Government asks also for approval by the electorate of the general direction of its policies on five other matters:—
 - (1) Unemployment Relief.
 - (2) The development of promising indigenous industries.
 - (3) The furtherance of preventive remedies for human and industrial ill.
 - (4) The maintenance of a reasonable standard of health, education and social services, and
 - (5) The restoration of confidence on the part of all legitimate business enterprise whether of a personal, co-operative or corporate character.

A SOUND, BUSINESSLIKE AND ECONOMICAL ADMINISTRATION OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Government asks for an endorsement of its business administration on the grounds that Manitoba now has—

- (1) The lowest annual expenditure of any Western Province.



- (2) The lowest capital debt of any Western Province.
- (3) The smallest accumulated deficit on current account of any province in Canada over the last decade.
- (4) A smaller increase in current expenditures during the last fourteen years than any other Prairie Province.
- (5) The smallest increase in debt, both during the last thirteen years as well as during the last three years, of any province in Canada west of the Maritimes.
- (6) The lowest tax burden of any Western Province.
- (7) A higher credit rating at the present time than any other Western Province.

OTHER GROUNDS

The Government asks for endorsement of its general, as distinguished from its business administration, on four further grounds, viz:—

- (1) In its legislative programme the measures presented have been many, they have been progressive in character without being radical and they have been carefully designed to meet the best interests of the Province as a whole. It may be pointed out, for the information of our labor friends who are often critical of the Government, that the labor legislation placed on the Manitoba Statute books in recent years is not only in line with progressive policies but is recognized as being the most advanced even from the point of view of labor itself, of any Province in the Dominion.

(2) In its administration of relief, while it has received less assistance from Ottawa by way of loans and grants than any other Western Province, it has received general commendation on its businesslike yet sympathetic handling of this most perplexing problem. The Federal loans to Western Provinces for relief and related purposes have been as follows:

Saskatchewan	\$48,300,000.00
British Columbia	27,500,000.00
Alberta	25,000,000.00
Manitoba	15,500,000.00

- (3) In its general administrative work the Government has developed a Civil Service that is efficiently officered, free from partisanship, not over-stuffed, and imbued with the spirit of faithful service to the Province.

- (4) In its financial administration it has a record unexcelled by any Province during the last fourteen years.

The Government submits this brief summary of its administrative record in the confident expectation that the public will endorse it in no uncertain way; and we pledge ourselves to approach the problems of the future with the same sense of public responsibility that has characterized our actions in the past.

A BETTER DEAL FOR AGRICULTURE

With respect to agriculture, the Government seeks a mandate from the electorate to pursue an aggressive programme aimed toward—

- (1) Increasing farm income,
- (2) Adjustment of farm debts, and
- (3) Improving farm practices.

With respect to farm income we propose—

- (1) To foster policies aimed towards raising the prices of farm products to a parity with those of other products, and farm income to a parity with that of people engaged in other industries.

The price of wheat, even at today's fixed figure of 87½¢ per bushel, is less than the price paid the farmer before the war. Yet the price the farmer pays for the commodities he buys averages 25% above pre-war prices. The farm bushel of wheat today buys only 70% as much of other commodities as it did before the war. The farmer thus operates on a 30% handicap.

The farm family's income has averaged under \$700. per year during the last six years. During the preceding six years it averaged more than twice that figure. Since 1930 the basic industry of the three Prairie Provinces, upon which Winnipeg and other cities must depend for their economic welfare, has had its income reduced and therefore its purchasing power lowered by an amount exceeding one thousand million dollars. In the interest of equity, of social justice and of progress, this situation ought not to continue. It is of equal concern to every other citizen, whether urban or rural, as it is to farmers. If the purchasing power of agriculture is to remain at permanently low levels no other business or industry or profession can hope for an early return to normalcy, and unemployment will remain a major charge upon the country.

- (2) To persistently keep before the Federal Government and the people of Canada the necessity of more adequate export markets if agriculture in the West is not to be slowly strangled to death.

The major export commodity of Western Canada is wheat and wheat flour. In the last five years our export markets have taken some 90,000,000 bushels per year less than in the five years preceding. Unless this market is regained one or other of two things will happen; either the people of Western Canada will become hewers of wood and drawers of water for the rest of Canada, or the nation will have to bonus the growers of wheat as practically every other wheat-growing nation is doing. If the price of Canadian wheat were fixed on the basis of equity instead of on the basis of world demand it would be \$1.25 instead of 87½¢.

- (3) To assist in the development of more efficient and more effective co-operative buying, producing and marketing practices.
- (4) To encourage the production for sale of nothing but high quality products.
- (5) To co-operate with the Municipalities and Unorganized Territory in providing better transportation facilities to agricultural areas by assisting in the construction of auxiliary and market roads.

With respect to farm debts we propose—

(1) To continue the Debt Adjustment legislation as long as necessary, or until its administration can be co-ordinated with that of the Farmers' Creditors' Arrangement Act.

(2) To urge upon the Dominion the retention of the Farmers' Creditors' Arrangement Act and the modification of the administration of it so as to require more sympathetic consideration of the cases of unsecured as related to secured creditors.

With respect to farming practices we propose—

(1) To continue and gradually extend our co-operative efforts along educational lines to help improve production, marketing and purchasing practices in connection with all branches of farming, including crops, live stock, dairying, poultry husbandry, horticulture and bee culture.

(2) To continue to co-operate with the Municipalities in providing assistance for the protection of crops against grasshoppers and insect pests.

Manitoba has led the way in this form of insurance against serious loss. We have spent large sums during the last five years in co-operating with the Municipalities to lessen the loss from the grasshopper menace. The estimated saving has been 50,000,000 bushels of grain at a cost to the Government of \$250,000, and to the Municipalities of \$150,000, in the protection campaign.

(3) A further gradual development of the agricultural extension service and Women's Extension Service for the above purposes, and

(4) To continue to co-operate with the Dominion in furthering research and plant breeding activities relating to the control of wheat rust and other plant diseases.

A BETTER DEAL FOR THE PROVINCE AND MUNICIPALITIES

The Government seeks a mandate to press for a better deal for the Provinces and Municipalities from the Dominion.

At Confederation the responsibility for certain services and the source of revenue for both the Dominion and Provincial Governments were set out and specifically allocated to each. Upon the Provinces has fallen the cost of Education, Mothers' Allowances and Child Welfare, part of Old Age Pensions, Hospitalization, care of the Mentally Unfit, Unemployment Relief, Care of the Indigent, Road Construction and many other services, including the administration of justice and maintenance of law and order. To the Provinces, for revenue purposes, was given the right only to certain subsidies and to the field of direct taxation.

Since Confederation the cost of the services allotted to the Provinces has been found to have increased much more rapidly than was anticipated, and more rapidly than the provincial sources of revenue provided by the B.N.A. Act would care for.

At Confederation the Provinces gave up their rights to revenues from customs and excise and were given subsidies instead. In 1868 the total subsidies payments made to the Provinces of the Dominion constituted 23.78 per cent. of the total Dominion receipts from customs and excise, whereas in 1926, prior to the depression the total Dominion receipts from customs and excise had so increased that the total subsidy payments were only 7.26 per cent. of them.

In the case of Manitoba, the subsidies received in 1875 and as late as 1886 constituted 90 per cent. of Manitoba's total expenditures. In 1896 provincial services had so increased that the subsidies provided only 50 per cent. In 1906—thirty-nine per cent.; in 1926, fourteen per cent.; and in 1936 they constituted less than twelve per cent. of the total Provincial expenditures.

The result is thus seen to be that a heavier burden has been placed upon the Provinces than they should be expected to carry with their limited revenues.

The nation has power to correct this fundamental weakness in its constitutional structure.

It is in the interests of Canada as a whole that this weakness, which places an unfair load upon the less wealthy provinces, should be corrected.

Because of the relatively low income returns of certain of the provincial units, this weakness in our constitutional set-up should be corrected, by the Dominion assuming responsibilities for more of the public services, either directly or by additional money grants, in preference to giving the Provinces wider powers of taxation and leaving them with their present heavy responsibilities for these services.

The Provincial Government proposes to press for the adopting of this policy in preference to the policy of widening the field of taxation for the Provinces. To the extent that this result can be obtained, to that extent can the Municipalities, including our cities and suburban areas, be relieved of existing burdens and put into a better position for meeting their school and other responsibilities.

In the meantime, and until the financial relationship of the Dominion and the Provinces is adjusted along these lines, the Province of Manitoba will press for:—

(1) The taking over by the Dominion of the total relief debt of the Province and of the Municipalities of the last five and a half years.

(2) The payment of a larger share of the cost of relief by the Dominion.

(3) The taking over by the Dominion of the whole cost of Old Age Pensions.

In view of the immediate difficulties of certain Municipalities, it might be stated also that arrangements have been made to review their financial position, particularly some of those in the Winnipeg Suburban area, with the purpose of getting these Municipalities into a position where they can administer their own affairs without outside assistance and without recourse to "Supervision" or "Administration."

TAXATION

From this statement of facts it must be apparent that until such time as the financial conditions of the Province improve and the primary producers are assured of a more adequate return for their products, any promises to reduce taxation would be entirely misleading and incapable of immediate fulfilment. The cost of essential services, including relief, cannot be paid for with buttons; and essential services cannot be discarded except at a much greater indirect cost to the community.

The Government proposes, nevertheless, as soon as financial conditions permit, to take such steps as are necessary to bring about a change in its revenue legislation so as to remove such tax impositions as are possible and combine the tax commonly but incorrectly spoken of as "the wage tax" with the income tax which makes provision for graduated exemptions.

ADJUSTMENT OF DEBITS AND A FRESH START FOR THE DROUGHT AREA

This proposal implies—

- (1) That the debts to the Government for agricultural and direct relief advanced to Municipalities in the drought area during the last five years shall be placed in the same category as direct relief and written off.
- (2) That this adjustment shall be passed on by the Municipalities to their citizens in such manner as each Municipality may determine is equitable to its ratepayers.
- (3) That agricultural representatives be placed in the drought area to assist in the rehabilitation plans and in the establishment of suitable production practices.
- (4) That the Dominion Government be urged to extend the loaning policy of its Farm Loans Board to cover the essential requirements of farmers in the drought area for rehabilitation of buildings and the repair or replacement of equipment.

LOWER INTEREST RATES

The Government asks for a mandate to bring about a further lowering of the interest rates on private, municipal and Government borrowings.

On their record as honest borrowers, the people of Manitoba, and the Municipalities of Manitoba and the Government of Manitoba are entitled to lower rates of interest. On the basis of equity, in sharing the costs of the depression, they are entitled to lower rates; and the Manitoba Government on its record of careful and economical administration is entitled to expect lower rates than are now being charged.

Considerable progress has already been made in securing lower interest rates on current loans to individuals, commercial concerns and Governments, and on the refunding issue of maturing Government bonds, but interest on unmaturing Government and Municipal bonds has not been reduced.

Can lower rates of interest on current borrowings and on new or refunding issues be secured, and if so, how?

Can lower rates on unmaturing bonds be brought about, and if so, how?

The answer to the first of these two questions is "Yes," and the first step in accomplishing it is to deserve the right to it and the second step is to re-establish confidence by discontinuing threats of default.

As to lower interest rates on unmaturing bonds, it is impossible to get a reduction except by voluntary agreement, or by refunding following a more or less general consent, or by default in payment.

It is always within the power of the two parties to a contract—the lender and the borrower—to alter the contract voluntarily. It is probably within the power of the Government to arbitrarily violate its contract with people who bought our bonds.

The Government of Manitoba has sought to accomplish a mutual adjustment of interest charges by collective action of the Dominion, the other Provinces and the creditors. It has not and does not propose to arbitrarily violate its contract with the people who have invested their funds in its securities, so long as the carrying out of that contract does not deprive the citizens of the Province of the public services necessary for their wellbeing and to which they are entitled. The possibility of such deprivation was imminent three years ago, when under the threat of interference by the then Dominion Government it was avoided by imposing the burdensome 2% tax on wages and other incomes. If a similar threat should occur again, as it may, I need scarcely say that the same means of meeting it will not be repeated. The solution must be found in other directions.

The desirability of bringing about an adjustment of interest charges by negotiation or in some other manner least likely to disturb the credit of the Dominion and of the Provinces has been recognized for at least four years; and Manitoba has consistently urged collective action with respect to it. Up to the date of the Dominion-Provincial Conference in December, 1935, no favorable results had been obtained from our efforts in this direction. The Provincial Government has made heavy reductions in its own expenditures, its own salaries, and had increased taxes, but no interest adjustment scheme on all outstanding securities had been possible of achievement short of arbitrary repudiation or default.

At the Dominion-Provincial Conference in December, 1935, definite approaches were made and suggestions advanced and approved as to the manner in which the Dominion could be of assistance to the Provinces in their interest commitments. Amendments to the B.N.A. Act to permit this were proposed by the Dominion and were actually passed by the House of Commons at its 1936 Session, but they were rejected by the Senate.

Prior to this time, however, the Manitoba Government, by private negotiations with creditors, had obtained reductions in the rate of interest on maturing securities, and in addition, as a result of the economies effected and the careful administration given, it had reduced the interest rate on new borrowings for refunding purposes on the world market from a rate of 6.75 in 1932 to a rate of 5.99 in 1935.

In the situation that now exists as a result of the Senate's decision, the Government of Manitoba, in pursuance of its original policy, asks for a mandate to take the initiative in bringing this matter before the National Committee on Finance recently proposed by the Minister of Finance, and to once again press for collective action in securing a reduction of interest rates. In this connection, the saving of the credit structure of the Province and of the Dominion is the primary aim we have in mind. A refunding by general consent at lower rates of interest, after negotiation with representatives of bondholders, is the ultimate end we hope to achieve.

If no solution satisfactory to the Province on a collective or other basis can be reached at that Conference, the Province will have no alternative, but to face the problem by itself and take such action as it then considers necessary in the best interests of its people. That responsibility the Government is prepared to assume. It means no threat to bondholders; it promises no "savings" of millions to taxpayers; it solicits the confidence of the public; as it seeks to deal with this important matter in a manner that will result to the credit of the Province and not to its disadvantage for all time to come.

APPROVAL OF POLICIES

I have touched upon four matters upon which we seek a mandate from the people. I shall now refer to five policies upon which we desire your approval.

1. UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF

Since September, 1930, the problem of providing relief has been a major one. Since September, 1932, over 80,000 people per year have required state assistance for food, clothing, or shelter. During the last five and a half years \$40,000,000 has been required to meet this need. Of this large sum the Province supplied somewhat over one-third and the Municipalities somewhat less than one-third. The money was spent for direct relief, for certain works, for re-establishment of some families on farms and for bonussing the employment of men on farms. In these ways and with these expenditures, a minimum of material needs has been provided for those requiring it.

These plans are obviously not a satisfactory permanent solution of unemployment. They are, at best, temporary expedients. The only satisfactory remedy for unemployment is employment.

Employment may be given as it always has been in the past by private and co-operative enterprise, or it may be provided in emergency cases by the Government.

If employment were to be given by the Government to all needing it, it would cost \$25,000,000 a year—about three and one-half times the present cost. The public has given ample evidence that it would not stand for any such large expenditure for this or any other purpose. In any case, such a policy would not be wise even if the public would permit it, because the work done would be, to some extent at least, unnecessary and unproductive and uneconomic, even if beneficial in some respects.

The direction of our policy for the future will therefore be along the following lines:—

- (1) No individual who is willing and able to work, or his dependents, shall be obliged to go without food, or clothes, or shelter;
- (2) Direct relief, where necessary, will be provided but at the lowest possible cost consistent with the maintenance of health;
- (3) Governmental work shall be undertaken only in limited amount and only in projects that can be justified on the basis of community need, developmental value, or self-liquidating character.
- (4) Bonussing labor to take work in economically sound activities will be encouraged in preference to spending Government money on other than essential public works. This applies as far as the Province is concerned to labor for farms and to the Farm Settlement Scheme now in operation. In the Federal field it applies to labor on railway and other work.
- (5) Re-establishment of confidence in business and industrial enterprise, so that all legitimate business and industry, whether of a co-operative or private character, will be warranted in taking on more employees and thus enable the community to steadily approach a state of maximum employment.

A maximum of confidence will give a maximum of jobs and necessitate a minimum of cost for insurance against loss of jobs. In that direction lies the sanest way out of our unemployment problem. It is the direction we shall continue to take.

(6) As to the financing of relief costs, the Government will press upon the Dominion the necessity of its carrying a larger proportion of this expenditure and will pass on to the Municipalities an equitable share of any such increase.

(7) As to Unemployment Insurance, this can be justified and must come; but Unemployment Insurance is not a remedy for Unemployment. It is, like unemployment relief, the heavy price society will pay for any failure to provide employment.

2. DEVELOPMENT OF PROMISING INDIGENOUS INDUSTRIES

The annual increment of material wealth in any state is measured by the amount of its annual production and the price received for that portion which is exported.

Agriculture has been in the past and is today, the chief basis of our material wealth. This industry, through no fault of its own, has been forced to retreat in recent years. It does not produce as much as it did, it has less acres in crop than it had, and it is receiving for its export surplus less than it formerly did. The simple truth is that agriculture as a wealth producer in Manitoba has been going backward in recent years.

In the last seven years the value of Manitoba's agricultural production has averaged some \$80,000,000 a year less than in the seven years previous. Agriculture in Manitoba, through no fault of farmers, has become unprofitable under the stress of the present conditions and is steadily contributing less and less to our national wealth. Some other native resources, on the other hand, have, in these years, been found capable of profitable development.

Agriculture must be aided to regain its economic health, otherwise grass will soon grow on the streets of Winnipeg and the long line of unemployed will soon stretch to lengths not heretofore contemplated. At the same time, we must not let other opportunities go ungrasped. It is in the interest of the state that every other resource that promises economic returns, be developed and made to contribute to our material welfare. Among these are mining, water powers, forests, fishing and furs.

The tourist industry is also deserving of encouragement, although aside from its road programme, the Government has not found it possible to assist in this activity as much as it would have liked.

I have spoken of agriculture in another place. I wish now to refer briefly to the other native resources.

MINING

Since the present Government came into office, and largely as a result of its initiative, the production of metals has increased from \$5,299,000 to 10½ million dollars per year. The total wealth production from metals and non-metals has increased from 2½ millions to over 12 millions in the same period. This development has provided an impetus to business. It has increased the number of jobs available. It now contributes more in annual wealth pro-

duction than does the whole live stock industry of Manitoba, more than the dairy industry, and three times as much as the poultry industry. It has possibilities of much further development in the public interest. We purpose encouraging its further development by co-operating in providing transportation facilities, by stabilizing taxation at the lowest practical rate possible, by surveying and mapping and by the fullest possible co-operation with producers.

WATER POWERS

The potential value of Manitoba's water powers is scarcely yet appreciated. The output of hydro power has quadrupled since 1922. Figuring its average value to consumers as a manufactured product at 6/10¢ per K.W. hour, it has increased in value from some \$1,800,000.00 to \$6,500,000.00 since the year the present Government assumed office.

The present annual value is more than that of the forest industry, the fishing industry and the fur industry combined. The consumption dropped off some since the depression commenced, but promises to be higher this year than ever before. The utilization of hydro power is being encouraged in industries and homes in the larger cities, by the Provincial Hydro in other centres, and by mining enterprise in the North. It may be noted in passing that 6,000,000 widely distributed undeveloped horsepower yet remain to challenge the initiative and enterprise of the community.

FOREST RESOURCES

Manitoba's forest resources contribute now some \$2,500,000. per year in value of lumber, pulpwood, railway ties and cordwood. Before the decline in the building industry, it yielded nearly twice as much. Its future is closely related to building construction, to paper manufacturing, the use of railway ties and wood fuel. At present considerably less than the annual increment is being used each year. The manufacture of paper from wood pulp is proceeding again at Pine Falls. This industry was a welcome addition to the forestry group and its operation at full capacity is hoped for at an early date. The industry is having sympathetic consideration along the line of conservation and development, but aside from pulpwood and paper manufacture, they do not, at the moment, promise major opportunities for increased employment or for increased wealth production.

However, present methods of conservation and utilization, if continued, hold promise for large increase in employment and production, with a stabilized industry of three times the present output.

FISHING

Fishing is a million dollar industry which employs for portions of the year some 4,000 men. The total production increased from less than \$1,000,000.00 in 1922 to \$1,750,000.00 in 1930 and then dropped back to \$1,250,000.00 last year.

The major problem is one of markets. This has received the personal attention of the present Minister, with the result that considerable progress has been made in getting better prices.

Conservation is assuming importance as the supplies diminish. This year, the Government is building three fish hatcheries in the three largest lakes, to help keep the lakes and streams of Manitoba replenished with white fish and pickerel. Fish spawn of other varieties is brought in from time to time for distribution in the smaller lakes. In these ways and by careful regulation

of the catch and by establishing definite fishing seasons, as well as by increased reproduction, it is planned not only to preserve the industry but to build it up to the maximum consistent with the markets—home and foreign—that can be secured.

FURS

The fur industry produces over \$1,000,000.00 in annual wealth. It dropped to less than two-thirds of a million after 1929 but now is approximately one and a quarter million dollars. Conservation is the chief problem over large areas but development is the chief necessity in some. The Saskatchewan River marsh lands, comprising nearly 2,000,000 acres, offer perhaps the greatest opportunity for profitable development. It has been demonstrated that by intelligent planning in this area alone the value of the Province's annual fur catch can be doubled. The Government is this year commencing a development project of a part of this area. It is confidently expected that it will result in providing the means of full subsistence of 1,000 or more trappers, where now only a few score get a meagre return from a few weeks' work each year.

3. PREVENTIVE REMEDIES FOR HUMAN AND INDUSTRIAL ILLS

The production of material wealth is an essential function of society. But it ought not to be the only economic aim of the people. It is as important to save what is produced as it is to produce more; and it is to society's advantage that human waste and loss of life, as well as material waste, be kept at the lowest possible minimum.

It is estimated that the economic waste each year due to illness, accidents, fire, strikes, unnecessary bankruptcies and crime exceeds the present annual value of Manitoba's crops. The human waste is an additional loss.

Human illness through loss of time and money outlay is said to cost the people of Manitoba \$20,000,000.00 per year, or as much as the present income to farmers from live stock and dairy industries combined.

Accidents to workmen cost the organized industries of Manitoba a million dollars a year and accidents in other industries probably cost more to the individuals affected. The economic waste resulting from accidents is therefore, more than the output of the fishing industry and the fur industry combined.

Strikes and labor disputes constitute another large item of waste to the community. Bankruptcies, due to unfair competition of concerns using labor at unfair rates of pay for long hours, constitute another loss. The cost of crime and control of criminals is in the same category.

Preventive measures in every one of these lines have been in process of development for many years. It is now clearly recognized by every well-organized society that a well-planned programme of prevention, prosecuted with energy by the Government and accepted generously by the public, goes a long way toward lessening these losses. Such a programme has been in process of development in Manitoba for many years. It is being extended more and more by the Government for the reason that in all these lines, prevention of disease, and accidents, and fire and other casualties and crime is far more economical to society than the cost of attempts to cure them after they have occurred.

Our public health services during the past fifteen years have not only reduced the death rate from diphtheria by 90%, from typhoid fever by 75%, infant mortality and maternal mortality by 40% and tuberculosis by 25%, but these services have also cut down the loss of time from work and thereby increased the earning power of all those affected.

Accident prevention work in connection with our industries and throughout the whole field of human activity, including the automobile traffic on our roads, is slowly but steadily reducing the economic waste from accidents as well as injuries and loss of life from them.

Loss by fire has been steadily reduced from \$3,200,000.00 in 1924 to \$1,000,000.00 in 1935, or from \$4.91 per capita to \$1.40 per capita.

Strikes have been lessened by fair-wage and minimum wage regulations and by improvement in the health and sanitary conditions required by provincial statutes and municipal regulations.

Bankruptcies due to unfair trade practices are being lessened by enforcement of modern labor and other legislation.

The detection of and punishment for crime continues to levy its heavy toll of cost upon the community, but considering the times through which we are passing, the record in Manitoba has been one of steady improvement.

The Government seeks from the electorate not only the endorsement of its general approach to these problems, but it seeks also the generous cooperation of the public in reducing to the minimum this large waste of human and natural resources.

4. MAINTENANCE OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND OTHER PUBLIC SERVICES

The cost of health, education and other public services, such as Mothers' Allowances, Child Welfare, Hospitalization, the care of the aged and the care of the mentally afflicted is a heavy one for the community. The cost of neglecting these services would, in direct ways, be much heavier upon the community. The question for the Government to decide is, where, in the best interest of the public, is the line that most closely approximates the minimum needs of the community for these services and the minimum cost of them to the community?

The Manitoba Government now contributes \$5,600,000.00 a year out of its \$8,000,000.00 of controllable expenditures for these services. The Labor-C.C.F. political group says this is far too little, and they have severely censured the Government's programme on this ground in recent years. The present Conservative party thinks that these services cost too much, but dares not face the public with specific proposals for reductions.

The Government has tried in its policies to meet essential needs at a minimum cost. It takes the position that while neither prodigality nor extravagance can be tolerated, a basic minimum of service must be provided. The public must reach its own conclusion as to the wisdom of the Government's policies. In reaching it, however, it is respectfully suggested, that there be kept in mind the fact that the Labor-C.C.F. group would increase these expenditures, while apparently the Conservative group would decrease them. It would thus seem that a middle course such as we have been following is in accordance with the view of the great majority of the people.

5. RESTORATION OF CONFIDENCE IN LEGITIMATE ENTERPRISE

The Government believes it to be in the public interest, and therefore, by every reasonable means, proposes to aid in the restoration of confidence in all legitimate enterprise whether of a private or co-operative character.

Personal and corporate and co-operative enterprises, as distinguished from public ownership and public service, has provided and is providing over 90% of the jobs available in Manitoba. If the government is not to give jobs to all those now out of employment at an additional cost to the taxpayers of \$25,000,000.00 a year, then all other legitimate enterprise must be restored to a condition of confidence if we are to expect it to provide new jobs.

Taxes must be kept down to the lowest possible point; social experiments of an unsound or costly nature must be avoided; contracts must not be lightly broken; and the threat of communistic teaching must be answered by such an expression of confidence in a sane programme as will encourage legitimate enterprise to again accept its rightful place as an employer.

In this connection public ownership has its place and is to be encouraged wherever it can serve the community better than private or co-operative enterprise.

But if the alleged advantages of public ownership are to be given to every section of the industrial and business world, and denied to agriculture, the result can hardly fail to be a further deepening of the distress in rural areas.