

agricultural settlers the fundamental right to purchase provincial government lands.

Restoration of Individual and Local Government Rights

Individual and local government rights have been seriously impaired by the present Socialist government. Settlers have been deprived of the right to purchase provincial lands. Various boards have been given powers which should properly belong only to the law courts. Larger school units have been imposed on the people without an opportunity for a vote on the question. Examples of this kind might be multiplied. A Liberal government will restore to the people their individual rights and will end the constant encroachment on the powers of local governments.

Industrial Development

A Liberal government will bring more industries to Saskatchewan. We will remove the Socialist threats of confiscation and develop the political and economic climate which will encourage individuals and organizations to invest their money in developing the natural resources of our province.

Development of the North

Evidence abounds that the northern half of Saskatchewan is rich in forest and mineral resources. We will energetically promote the establishment of industries to develop those resources.

Financing the Liberal Program

Where will the money come from to pay for these increased services?

I have said that we will spend \$100 million in four years on roads. That is \$25 million a year. The revenues from the gasoline tax and motor vehicle licences now total over \$20 million a year. With more all-weather roads kept open 12 months of the year these revenues will increase.

Under the new taxation agreement the annual payment by the Dominion to Saskatchewan will be increased by \$6 million.

Millions of dollars each year for additional services may be obtained by reducing the excessive administration costs and by eliminating the multitude of extravagances which are conspicuous features of the present administration.

When this province under Liberal government gets its proper share of investments in new industries, there will be new and enlarged sources of revenue. With confidence restored, revenues from oil and other natural resources will rapidly increase.

For sound, progressive and economical government, work and vote for your Liberal candidate.

THE LIBERAL FOUR-YEAR PROGRAM

Broadcast By A. H. McDONALD,
Saskatchewan Liberal Leader

April 11th, 1956

The coming election will decide what government Saskatchewan will have for the next four years. It will be either a Liberal or a C.C.F. government. No other party can elect more than a few candidates, if any. The platform of the Liberal Party is therefore one of the main issues of that election. I want to indicate to you some of the vital changes you may expect if you elect a Liberal government in this province.

School Grants 50 per cent of costs

A Liberal government will substantially increase school grants. Present grants are about 27 per cent of operating costs. A Liberal government will pay at least 50 per cent of operating costs. This does not mean 50 per cent for each school, because grants will continue to be paid on an equalization basis. There will, however, be a good increase in the grant for every school in the province. The main factor in the present constantly increasing municipal taxation, both rural and urban, is education costs. Substantially increased school grants will reduce the heavy burden of taxes on the land of the farmers and the homes of the people in our villages, towns and cities. Increased grants will provide a more stable base for our school financial structure and will give teachers the assurance of good salaries, even in periods of less bountiful crops.

A study of the financial statements in the Annual Reports of the Department of Education reveals a rapidly developing crisis in the financing of our larger units. Debts for operating purposes have increased from \$ $\frac{3}{4}$ million in 1948 to \$3 $\frac{1}{4}$ million in 1954. This increase took place in the most prosperous period this province has ever had. Increased property taxes are no remedy because there are already large arrears of unpaid taxes. The only remedy is substantially increased school grants. A Liberal government will apply that remedy.

Health and Welfare Services

The Liberal party is vitally concerned to provide our people with the very best in health and welfare services. Liberal governments in the past pioneered in the establishment of these services.

A Liberal government will continue, and will improve, the present hospitalization plan. We will continue to press for a comprehensive health insurance plan on a national basis with the Federal Government bearing a good share of the costs. We will co-operate fully with the Dominion government in setting up in this province

as rapidly as possible a full plan of medical, surgical, nursing, dental, drug and optometrical services.

A Liberal government will increase mothers' allowances. The allowances at present being paid in Saskatchewan to needy widowed mothers with dependent children are much lower than those in our neighbouring provinces of Manitoba and Alberta. A widowed mother with four children receives mothers' allowance of \$118 per month in Manitoba, \$95 per month in Alberta but only \$60 per month in Saskatchewan. The government of this province cannot excuse these low payments by talking about health services. Both Manitoba and Alberta provide health services for recipients of mothers' allowances.

A Liberal government will pay larger supplementary allowances to needy pensioners over 70 years of age and to recipients of blind persons' allowances. In addition to increasing the supplementary allowances to those now receiving them, we will pay them to those persons aged 65 to 69 who are receiving old age assistance pensions. Those in this latter group will also be provided with health services.

A year ago, with a great deal of propaganda in the press, over the radio and in the legislature, the present provincial government announced that these supplementary allowances would be increased. Those receiving them were told the increased allowances would range up to \$20 per month. During the 1956 Session of the Legislature we obtained the cold, hard facts about the actual increases made. There are about 17,600 persons receiving these supplementary payments. Of these, only 32 receive \$20 per month, 8,800, or fully half of them, receive no increase whatever. They are still getting only \$2.50 a month each. After all the propaganda we could hardly believe the figures in the official statement presented to the Legislature, so pitifully stingy were the actual increases made.

\$100,000,000 for Highways and Roads

A Liberal government will spend \$100 million on highways and roads during the next four years. \$75 million of this will be spent on highways and \$25 million on municipal roads, including the proposed grid of all-weather market roads.

During the past 12 years the C.C.F. government has spent \$142 million on roads and highways. That is more than twice the total spent in the entire preceding history of the province. There are very few miles of permanent highway to show for that enormous expenditure. Except for the new sections of the Trans-Canada Highway, where the Dominion Government has insisted on proper construction, there is scarcely any piece of blacktop highway in the province that is not in process of breaking up. Any of you who drive these highways will be familiar with the breaking shoulders, the rough sections through sloughs and the constant but ineffective repairs which are being made. Here is waste and inefficiency on a colossal scale. A Liberal government will see that you get value for the money spent on highways.

I want to repeat that the Liberal Party is opposed to imposing on the rural municipalities 50 per cent of the cost of building the

proposed grid of all-weather market roads. A study of the map shows that this grid will in the main connect up towns and villages and link them with the provincial highways system. A Liberal government will pay the entire costs of constructing this grid system. In addition to that we will pay larger grants to rural municipalities to assist them in building and maintaining municipal roads.

Provincial-Municipal Conference

A Liberal government will call a provincial-municipal conference. The Dominion government frequently calls the provincial governments into conference to discuss how best to share with the provinces her financial resources to assist them in discharging their constitutional responsibilities for education, health and social services. In a similar manner a Liberal government in this province will sit down at the conference table with representatives of rural and urban municipal governments to discuss how best these levels of government can share available revenues and allocate responsibilities for essential services.

Promotion of Security and Welfare of Workers

A Liberal government will be a friend of working men and women, and will champion their rights to just treatment and a fair share of the revenue of production. The gains that the workers have made will be safeguarded. These gains include fair wages, shorter working week, holidays with pay, good working conditions and fair employment practices, and the right to organize and bargain collectively.

Farm Electrification

A Liberal government will build power lines into the farmer's yard without the farmer having to make any cash outlay for this purpose. At present the farmer is required to pay on the average about \$500 of the cost of the power line to his farm. Under Liberal government he will get the same treatment as the urban user of electricity. All he will have to do is to wire his house and buildings and connect them with the power line pole in his yard.

Farmers who are now connected and have paid power line costs will be reimbursed the outlay they have made. It will probably be necessary to spread these repayments for each farmer over a period of years. But they will be made. Do not let any person tell you this cannot be done. In Alberta the Social Credit government charges each farmer an average of \$1,000 to build power lines. In Saskatchewan, the C.C.F. government charges each farmer an average of \$500. In Manitoba, the Liberal government builds the power line into the farmer's yard without charging the farmer anything. What a Liberal government can do in Manitoba can be done by a Liberal government in Saskatchewan.

Farm Security

The family farm has long been one of the basic institutions of our province. A Liberal government will constantly aim to preserve and promote the security of the family farm. We will restore to our