

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND PROGRESSIVE 'CONSERVATIVE' PARTY PLATFORM

1.—AGRICULTURE —

We will immediately proceed to bring about a complete reorganization of the Department of Agriculture, so this institution of government may be transformed into a province-wide instrument of Agricultural Leadership, embracing within its scope of service, for particular attention, those more remote and hitherto neglected areas of the Province.

ELABORATION OF AGRICULTURE—

- In as much as the present system of soil analysis has proved impractical, ineffective and of no material value to Island farmers in general, we will inaugurate a practical system whereby the soil of every producing farm in the Province, and where deemed advisable, farms now abandoned, may be tested to determine chemical deficiency.
- We will provide a "Field Service" that will be adequately competent to recommend and cooperate with producers in having corrections and recommendations applied in line with discoveries made through such soil analysis.
- We will encourage greater production of home grown grain from land thus newly enriched and stimulated, but on an intensive rather than expansive scale, to the end that labor, and other incidental outlay involved, and constituting cost of production, be held to a minimum.
- We will encourage a gradual, but sane, increase in livestock production for commercial consumption purposes, and as consistently and rapidly as changing circumstances and approaching prospect of markets may warrant. By encouraging specialized breeding of high grade animals representing cattle, hogs, sheep, poultry, and foxes first for foundation breeding stock on our Island farms, and then for sale and export to other areas wherever there may originate a demand.
- We will procure and make available to such farmers as may require it, the necessary machinery for the drainage and ditching of low-lying land. We will assist the farmer, by means of a subsidy on grain, pasture and hay fertilizers. The digging and distribution of muscle mud will be given the same careful consideration as was given when the Mathieson Government inaugurated it.

2.—FISHERIES —

The fishing industry is of tremendous value to our provincial economy and holds forth an opportunity for decent livelihood for a large number of our people, when maintained in, and enjoying a healthy state of efficiency. Prices for the past year or more have been deplorably low, while cost of equipment and supplies has soared to illogical levels. The industry must, and will, receive real assistance from the Progressive Conservative party—upon coming to power—not just opportune lip service and promises that vanish over night. There will be a bold and vigorous policy adopted, that will lead to and include orderly marketing, adequate cold storage facilities, and the local processing of the product into a variety of forms that will appeal to and find an outlet in the discriminating markets of the world.

3.—ROADS —

Being fully apprised of the important contribution Good Roads can make to the economic prosperity of our Province, and equally conscious of the utter inadequacy of the service provided for the past ten years in this respect by the Department of Public Works, the Progressive Conservative Party will, when elected, completely revolutionize the Road Policy of the present administration.

We will introduce and put into effect a new Road Act that will provide for proper construction of our main highways and bridges throughout the Province,—including Brighton and the West River Bridges,—as promised by the Honourable John Bracken; the resumption of hard surfacing, as condition of labor and available supplies permit, and we will give immediate priority attention toward the improvement of our secondary roads, retrieving them from their present deplorable condition and restoring them to a state of proper usage for public transportation and travel.

We will introduce a system of permanent Road Patrol that will provide efficient road supervision throughout the year, and with sufficient authority to authorize emergency repairs wherever needed, and until such time as permanent construction can be effected.

We will incorporate in the duties of such Road Patrol the supervision of all Railroad Level Crossings and similar points of hazard on travelled roads and highways to the effect that all obstructions to vision shall be removed for a sufficient distance as to render such points free of avoidable danger.

4.—EDUCATION —

- We recognize the value to the State of a soundly educated people, and the right of every child to acquire an Education adequate to meet its adult-age needs.
- The Progressive Conservative Party pledges that, upon assuming the responsibilities of government again in this Province, we will make such adjustments in our Educational system and practices that our convictions concerning our Educational problems will be satisfied, and every obligation to our children complied with, to the fullest possible extent.
- To the end that this may be accomplished, we will work in closest harmony and cooperation with the Prince Edward Island Teachers' Federation.
- We will offer generous scholarships to students entering the teaching profession, with a view to continuing therein as a vocation.
- We will adjust recent increases in Teachers' salaries, so that urban and rural teachers will benefit on an equitable basis. Discrepancies that have already occurred will be corrected, and further salary increases made, as rapidly as opportunity occurs.
- We will make provision for special remuneration increases, to married Teachers under obligation to maintain a home and the support of a family, and who have embraced the Teaching Profession as a vocation.
- We will reintroduce payments to the Teachers' Superannuation Fund.
- We will make an exhaustive study of the merit of introducing "Composite High Schools" into the Province, with special consideration of the purposes to be served, the original cost, the problem of securing properly qualified teachers and providing the salaries that would be involved.

SCHOOL BOOKS

- We will maintain our present Provincial School Supply Depot, with instructions to provide all school pupils with supplies at minimum rates.

5.—WOMEN'S INSTITUTES —

The Women's Institutes have done a tremendous job in the rural parts of the Province during many years of devoted activity, yet no other subsidiary organization has received less tangible assistance from the Province than have these Institutes.

Recognizing this inexcusable inequality of Departmental consideration, the Progressive Conservative Party, upon accession to office, pledges itself to make adequate correction in this respect.

Furthermore,—if the membership of the Institutes throughout the Province desire to become an Autonomous Body, with complete control over their own affairs, the Progressive Conservative Party is prepared to grant that Corporate Status and will make a generous financial contribution annually to subsidize receipts arising from their own initiative and resourcefulness.

6.—PUBLIC HEALTH —

We will continue to give our Public Health and Welfare problems sincerest attention, to the end that homes now afflicted, shall be relieved to the greatest possible extent, and the individual affected, a better opportunity for recovery. We will build a convalescent ward, or home, for Sanatorium patients, provide an adequate extra mural treatment for patients obliged to return to their homes. Falconwood Hospital will be supplied with additional medical services as requested by the Medical Superintendent. We approve of and will give financial support to a cancer clinic.

7.—RURAL ELECTRIFICATION —

The Progressive Conservative Party is pledged to make provision for Province-wide extension of Rural Electrification, so that electric energy for power and lighting purposes be made available to every farm home.

8.—OLD AGE PENSIONS —

The Progressive Conservative Party introduced Old Age Pensions in Prince Edward Island and are prepared to pioneer still further in the interest of our aged people. When elected to office, we will urge that Old Age Pensions be granted and paid without property lien, and become effective at the age of sixty-five years.

9.—PROHIBITION —

The sole prerogative of purchasing liquor for the Province, shall be withdrawn from the Attorney General, and the administration of the Prohibition Act will be placed in the hands of an independent commission. A referendum on the question of liquor administration under its present Prohibition Act will be granted on the demand of a representative number of the electors.

10.—FREIGHT RATES —

We will continue to insist upon the application of special Railway freight rates consistent with our economy, and the disadvantages of our geographic location.

11.—WAR VETERANS and LABOR —

The Progressive Conservative Party has always been sympathetic towards the cause of labor, and will continue so, following our election to office. At the first session of the Legislature, we will immediately create a Department of Veterans' Affairs and Labor that will devote its attention exclusively to the problems of our returned veterans and labourers.

We will institute a properly constituted Court of Adjustment with authority to enquire into all labor disputes arising within the Province, without cost to the participants, and judge thereof according to disclosed facts, and the decision of such a Court shall be final and binding upon all parties concerned. We will not, under any circumstances, align ourselves with powerful Corporations for the suppression of the rights of labor, whether on the street, in the factory, or on the farm.

12.—INDUSTRIES —

- We believe it is possible to develop many small and Secondary manufacturing industries within the Province to a greater extent than has been heretofore attempted. Such development will create considerable and expanding opportunity for profitable employment as well as additional source of revenue to the primary producer by the local processing of such products of the farm and the sea, including small fruits, vegetables, and Irish Moss, which are now placed on an over loaded market in the raw state, or for which no market is presently available. We will investigate all such possibilities thoroughly and extensively and will take such action as may be found practicable.
- The Progressive Conservative Party when elected to power, will promote and give financial assistance to the construction and installation of cold storage facilities in local cheese factories, creameries and dairies.

13.—INCOME TAX —

The Progressive Conservative Party will advocate the substantial reduction of Income Tax Assessment against the earnings of bona fide farmers, fishermen, small traders and employees in low wage and salary categories.

We will insist upon the immediate termination of all arbitrary and absolute powers now exercised by the Regional Income Tax Office Administrators, and that competent Adjustment Courts shall be established in lieu thereof to which Income Tax disputes can be referred for unbiased decision, and that such Courts shall be located so as to be accessible to the taxpayer without undue inconvenience and expense. We will furthermore demand this service be made reasonably retroactive, in order that injustices already imposed, and ostensibly finalized, may be made subject to review and fairer settlement.

14.—CIVIL SERVICE

APPOINTMENTS —

Civil Service appointments that may arise or become necessary through occurring vacancies shall be advertised in the public press, and preference shall be given to applications of qualified War Veterans.

15.—PROVINCIAL TAXATION —

- Taxation for budgetary purposes will not be increased, but revenues required for improved public services will be secured through sane expenditure of public funds.
- The Health Tax on liquor and tobacco now erroneously categorized as ordinary revenue will revert to, and be expended for, the purposes for which it is levied.
- Complete refund of gasoline tax to farmers and fishermen on gas used for productive purposes will replace the partial tax allowance under the present Liberal Government.

- We promise that a proper annual accounting of all receipts and expenditures for the current year will be intelligently made and submitted at the next following session of the Legislature so that representatives of the various electoral districts may be kept adequately informed as to the conduct of public affairs during the year under review.

- Abolition of Land and Road Taxes in keeping with the Conservative policy inaugurated in 1927 when Land Taxes were reduced 20%.

16.—RECONSTRUCTION INVESTMENT —

Immediately upon being elected the Government of Prince Edward Island, the Progressive Conservative Party will invoke the cooperation of the Governments of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia in making joint application to the Dominion Government for an extra-ordinary Financial grant, spread over a period of years, and to be expended as Capital Investment for the rehabilitation of Prince Edward Island, and other Maritime Provinces, and to promote to accomplishment our Fiscal Recovery.

—ELABORATION—

By making provision for,

- The elimination of bottlenecks in our inter-provincial transportation systems, assuring easy and speedy access to and exit from our Province, covering light and heavy traffic, both railway and automotive, and making such approaches reasonably attractive, as befitting their purpose and location, with particular reference to the immediate necessity of an efficient Ferry operating between the western extremity of Prince Edward Island and the New Brunswick mainland.
- Providing in whole or in part as per negotiation the cost of making direct connection between certain areas of the Province, now separated by water, by the erection of necessary bridging, so that the present excess inland transportation mileage may be reduced to a reasonable minimum, and usage of our main arteries of traffic made conveniently available to all sections of the Province.
- Aiding in the development and expansion of our Tourist Industry through providing of suitable Hotel and other accommodation for Tourist attraction, and the building of proper highways to and from our National Park, and other locations, constituting our main Tourist centres.
- The erection of a one million bushel grain elevator with facilities for unloading from ships into storage, railway cars and motor trucks, so that farmers will be assured of a constant and cheaper supply of coarse grains being regularly available, to the end that our hog and other livestock production may be vastly increased and our potential possibilities become a reality.

17.—DOMINION-PROVINCIAL RELATIONSHIP —

- The Progressive Conservative Party of Prince Edward Island deprecates the unwise and unjustifiable surrender of Provincial Autonomy by our Provincial Government, as exemplified in the acceptance of the Ottawa dictated Dominion-Provincial Tax Agreement by vote of a Liberal majority in the Provincial Legislature.
- Following accession to power of a Progressive Conservative Administration at Ottawa, it shall become a prime duty and foremost responsibility of the Provincial Progressive Conservative Party to successfully urge for a prompt re-convening of the Dominion-Provincial Conference,—a reconsideration of relationship as now existing between the Dominion and Provinces, and a restoration of that measure of Provincial Autonomy so wantonly sacrificed by the Provincial Government now in power in Prince Edward Island.
- We will insist that the Dominion Government render an accounting in full of the Statutory Subsidies unalterably due to the Province, and erroneously submerged in the postwar Dominion-Provincial Tax Agreement of 1947. Should irregularities be found in relation to such subsidies, we will demand reimbursement in full.
- Furthermore, we will press for more adequate settlement of the claims of the Maritime Provinces against the Dominion, for failure to implement the terms of Confederation, as recommended in the minority report of the late Chief Justice John A. Mathieson, and appended to the findings of the Duncan and White Commissions.

18.—CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT —

The Progressive Conservative Party will offer a return to government by constitutional means and pledges itself that when elected, the practice of government by Order in Council shall forthwith cease.