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**THAT LIBERAL
PLATFORM OF 1893**

The Ten Planks Adopted at the
Famous Convention of 1893
and Mostly Broken Since.

Many references are made on the platform and in the press by speakers and writers of both parties, to the platform laid down by the Liberals in convention at Ottawa in 1893. On it they appealed to the country in 1896. That our readers may know what it contained and may see how far the party has departed from it we herewith publish it in full.

THE PLATFORM

We, the Liberal party of Canada, in convention assembled, declare:

1.—FREE TRADE—REDUCED TAXATION.

That the Customs tariff of the Dominion should be based, not as it is now, upon the protective principle, but upon the requirements of the public service;

That the existing tariff, founded upon an unsound principle, and used as it has been by the Government, as a corrupting agency, wherewith to keep themselves in office, has developed monopolies, trusts and combinations;

It has decreased the value of farm and other landed property;

It has oppressed the masses to the enrichment of the few;

It has checked immigration;

It has caused great loss of population;

It has impeded commerce;

It has discriminated against Great Britain.

In these and in many other ways it has occasioned great public and private injury, all of which evils must continue to grow in intensity as long as the present tariff system remains in force.

That the highest interests of Canada demand a removal of this obstacle in our country's progress, by the adoption of a sound fiscal policy, which while not doing injustice to any class, will promote domestic and foreign trade, and hasten the return of prosperity to our people.

That to that end the tariff should be reduced to the needs of the honest, economical and efficient Government.

That it should be so adjusted as to

make free, or to bear as lightly upon the necessities of life, and should be so arranged as to promote freer trade with the whole world, more particularly with Great Britain and the United States.

We believe that the results of the protective system have grievously disappointed thousands of persons who honestly supported it, and that the country, in the light of experience, is now prepared to declare for a sound fiscal policy.

The issue between the two political parties on this question is now clearly defined. The Government themselves admit the failure of their fiscal policy, and now profess their willingness to make some changes, but they say such changes must be based only on the principle of protection.

We denounce the principle of protection as radically unsound, and unjust to the masses of the people, and we declare our conviction that any tariff changes based on that principle must fail to afford any substantial relief from the burdens under which the country labors.

This issue we unhesitatingly accept and upon it we await with the fullest confidence the verdict of the electors of Canada.

2. ENLARGED MARKETS—RECIPROCTY

That, having regard to the prosperity of Canada and United States as adjoining countries, with many mutual interests, it is desirable that the most friendly regulations and broad and liberal trade intercourse between them;

That the interests alike of the Dominion and the Empire would be materially advanced by the establishing of such relations;

That the period of the old reciprocity treaty was one of marked prosperity to the British North American colonies;

That the pretext under which the government appealed to the country in 1891, respecting negotiations for a treaty with the United States was misleading and dishonest, and intended to deceive the electorate;

That no sincere effort has been made by them to obtain a treaty, but that, on the contrary, it is manifest that the present government, controlled as they are by monopolies and combines, are not desirous of obtaining such a treaty;

That the first step towards obtaining the end in view, is to place a party in power who are sincerely desirous of promoting a treaty on terms honorable to both countries;

That a fair and liberal reciprocity treaty would develop the great natural resources of Canada, would enormously increase the trade and commerce between the two countries, would tend to encourage friendly relations between the two peoples, would remove many causes which have in the past provoked irritation and trouble to the governments of both countries, and would promote those kindly relations between Empire and the Republic which afford the best guarantee for peace and prosperity.

That the Liberal party is prepared to enter into negotiations with a view to obtaining such a treaty including a well considered list of manufactured articles, and we are satisfied that any treaty so arranged will receive the assent of Her Majesty's government, without whose approval no treaty can be made.

3. PURITY OF ADMINISTRATION—CONDEMN CORRUPTION.

That the convention deploras the gross corruption in the management and expenditure of public moneys which for years past has existed under the rule of the Conservative party and the revelations of which by the different parliamentary committees of enquiry have brought disgrace upon the fair name of Canada.

The government, which profited politically by these expenditures of public moneys, of which the people have been defrauded, and which, nevertheless, have never punished the guilty parties, must be held responsible for the wrongdoing. We arraign the government for retaining in office a Minister of the Crown who proved to have accepted very large contributions of money for election purposes from the funds of a railway company, which, while paying the political contribution to him, a member of the government, with one hand was receiving government subsidies with the other.

The conduct of the minister and the approval of his colleagues after the proof became known to them are calculated to degrade Canada in the estimation of the world and deserve the severe condemnation of the people.

4. DEMAND STRICTEST ECONOMY—DECREASED EXPENDITURE

We cannot but view with alarm the large increase of the public debt and of the controllable annual expenditure of the Dominion and the consequent undue taxation of the people under the governments that have

been continuously in power since 1878 and we demand the strictest economy in the administration of the government of the country.

5. FOR RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT—INDEPENDENCE OF PARLIAMENT

That the convention regrets that by the action of ministers and their supporters in parliament, in one case in which serious charges were made against a minister of the Crown, investigation was altogether refused; while in another case the charges preferred were altered and then referred to a commission appointed upon the advice of the minister, contrary to the well settled practice of parliament; and this convention affirms:

That it is the ancient and undoubted right of the House of Commons to enquire into all matters of public expenditure, and into all charges of misconduct in office against Ministers of the Crown, and the reference of such matters to royal commissions created on the advice of the accused is at variance with the due responsibility of Ministers to the House of Commons, and tends to weaken the authority of the House over the executive government, and this convention affirms the powers of the people's representatives in this regard should on all fitting occasions be upheld.

6. THE LAND FOR THE SETTLER—NOT FOR THE SPECULATOR

That in the opinion of this convention the sales of public lands of the Dominion should be to actually settlers only, and not to speculators, upon reasonable terms of settlement, and in such areas as can be reasonably occupied and cultivated by the settler.

7. OPOSE THE DOMINION FRANCHISE ACT—FAVOR THE PROVINCIAL FRANCHISE

That the franchise act since its introduction has cost the Dominion treasury over a million of dollars, besides entailing a heavy expenditure to both political parties;

That each revision involves an additional expenditure of a further quarter of a million;

That this expenditure has prevented an annual revision, as originally intended, in the absence of which young voters entitled to the franchise have in numerous instances, been prevented from exercising their natural rights;

That it has failed to secure uniformity, which was the principal reason assigned for its introduction;

That it has produced gross abuses of partisan revising barristers appointed by the government of the day;

That its provisions are less liberal than those already existing in many provinces of the Dominion, and that in the opinion of this convention the act should be repealed, and we should revert to the provincial franchise.

8. AGAINST THE GERRYMANDER—COUNTY BOUNDARIES SHOULD BE PRESERVED

That by the Gerrymander Acts, the electoral divisions for the return of members to the House of Commons have been so made as to prevent a fair expression of the opinion of the country at the general elections, and to secure to the party now in power a strength out of all proportion greater than the number of electors supporting them would warrant. To put an end to the abuse, to make the House of Commons a fair exponent of public opinion, and to preserve the historic continuity of counties, it is desirable that in the formation of electoral divisions, county boundaries should be preserved, and in no case parts of different counties should be put in one electoral division.

9. THE SENATE DEFECTIVE—AMMEND THE CONSTITUTION

The present constitution of the senate is inconsistent with the federal principle in our system of government, and is in other respects defective, as it makes the senate independent of the people and uncontrolled by the public opinion of the country, and should be so amended as to bring it into harmony with the principles of popular government.

10. QUESTION OF PROHIBITION—DOMINION PLEBISCITE

That whereas public attention is at present much directed to the consideration of the admittedly great evils of intemperance, it is desirable that the minds of the people should be clearly ascertained on the question of prohibition by means of a Dominion plebiscite.

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... Tale ...**

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\$5 00 buys a Black or Blue Beaver top coat	\$2 25 buys a boys' Tweed suit
\$6 00 buys a heavy Tweed lined ulster	\$3 00 buys a boys' 3-piece suit
\$2 90 buys a Tweed suit, perfectly made	\$3 45 buys a boys' 3-piece Halifax suit
\$3 50 buys a Serge suit well trimmed	\$5 00 buys a big boys' Imported Tweed suit
\$7 00 buy an imported Tweed suit	\$2 25 buys a boys' reefer
\$3 00 buys a Hunting jacket	\$2 75 buys a boys' Ulster or Overcoat
\$3 90 buys a reversible Hunting coat	
50 buys a cardigan jacket	
75 buys an English cardigan jacket	
\$1 00 buys a Derby fedora fall hat	
\$1 50 buys an English felt hat	

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