

Major Details of

The Progressive Conservative Party's Declaration of Policy— Drafted and Approved by Canadians from every Province— Representing Every walk of Life



George Drew

I have now visited all ten provinces since Parliament was dissolved. In one thing there is widespread agreement throughout the whole of Canada: it is time for a change. The important thing for all Canadians to decide between now and June 27th is what that change will be. On earlier occasions over the radio I have put forward some of the reasons why a change is so necessary if we are to restore Parliament to the people and lift the burden of taxation and arbitrary controls from the shoulders of those who are doing the work of the nation in all their daily tasks. At this time, with the election four weeks away, I would like to review some of the major details of the Declaration of Policy which was drafted and unanimously approved by the delegates of our Party from every constituency in Canada and representing every occupation. I have already referred at different times to many of its details. This is no hastily-drafted election manifesto. It is not my statement of policy, or statement prepared by any group or committee.

It expressed the unanimous opinion of delegates from every province who met in Ottawa from September 30th to October 2nd last year.

Details are embraced by the three words which interpret the purpose of the undertaking we give to Canadians: *Opportunity, Security, Freedom*. Those words constitute no meaningless, time-worn slogan. They represent the broad purpose of a dynamic and progressive plan of action which we have placed before you as a convincing reason why you should support the Progressive Conservative candidate in your own constituency, no matter what party you have supported in the past.

OPPORTUNITY

First let me refer to the word 'opportunity'. The Progressive Conservative Party will assure opportunity to all our people by:

A bold and progressive national development programme

Canada is on the threshold of her greatest period of development, if a vigorous government, with faith in the future is given the opportunity to bring into production the immense resources which we possess in every part of Canada. While the vast areas in the west challenge our vision and our courage, there is no part of Canada where there are not new opportunities of development if we provide the electric energy and other sources of power which will encourage new industries and new types of agricultural production which can make every part of Canada more productive in the years ahead.

Our national development programme will cover the development of power, oil, coal, mineral resources and the transportation facilities necessary for their full use. In particular we will establish a National Development Advisory Council in co-operation with the provinces; (b) establish a National Power Authority to co-operate with the provinces in the technical examination of possible power development and in the actual development of electric power at cost; (c) undertake the commencement of a joint conservation, irrigation and power project on the Saskatchewan River; (d) encourage the development of power in the Maritime Provinces from coal as well as by other means; (e) promote the development of the great iron ore resources of our country and the establishment of greatly expanded steel industry within Canada; (f) stimulate the development of petroleum and other mineral resources in co-operation with the provinces by taxation and fiscal policies which will encourage the investment of risk capital; (g) institute a vigorous programme of water conservation, reforestation, flood control, irrigation and drainage schemes throughout the whole of Canada for the reclamation of unproductive land and the preservation of our soil, and along with other similar activities in co-operation with the provincial governments; (h) establish a positive programme of marshland reclamation and development; (i) take effective steps at the earliest possible date to co-operate with the provincial governments in building the Trans-Canada Highway and feeder roads, which will not only greatly increase our transportation facilities, but also help to open up the vast possibilities of the tourist business in every part of Canada; (j) remove the discrimination in freight rates between the several geographical areas of Canada so that all sections of our country may receive the full benefit from the development of our great resources; (k) deal effectively with the special transportation problem of Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, Cape Breton and Vancouver Island; (l) take the necessary steps to proceed with the development of the power and waterways project on the St. Lawrence River.

Expansion of trade

The ultimate value of all our development depends upon the distribution and sale of what we produce. Because of our tremendous producing capacity we are one of the world's great exporters. The external markets for our surplus products contribute very largely to the pay envelopes which buy the food, clothing and other necessities in every Canadian home. Look around you in your own home now. The things you have depend upon that overseas trade, no matter what your occupation may be. Overseas markets have been lost, and our trade is dangerously threatened by the government's foolish trade and

monetary policy. As our trade with Britain and other overseas markets are lost, Canadians are being reassured by the volume of our exports to the United States. We believe in increasing our exports to the United States to the highest possible level. We believe that all Canada's exports can be, and should be, tremendously increased. We know, however, that disastrous results would follow any attempt to depend exclusively upon exports to one nation no matter how friendly that nation may be. The loss of our trade in wheat, lumber, fish, apples, dairy products and the other things that we have been shipping overseas means more than a mere question of dollars and cents. It means a loss of business on the railways, in the seaports, and on the ships which have been carrying this trade to the world. It would dislocate our whole internal trading organization and force serious readjustments of employment with our railways and other transportation services. The Progressive Conservative Party pledges itself to adopt every practical means to expand our internal trade with the United States and with all other nations where we can sell what we produce. By reciprocal trade agreements we will promote and expand our trade overseas and also with the United States. Particularly we will (a) remove all abnormal trade barriers imposed by way of license, quota, or embargo; (b) remove the arbitrary provisions of the Foreign Exchange Control Act; (c) re-value the Canadian dollar within the limits permitted by the Bretton Woods agreement and seek such modification of those agreements as are necessary to permit our dollar to assist our external trade in the normal way; (d) open negotiations immediately for the purpose of making the dollar and pound convertible, so that we may open and expand our lost overseas markets in the sterling area.

Reduction of Taxes

The greatest encouragement to work, production and trade is the opportunity to receive a fair return from which money can be saved for our families, our homes and provision for the future. Even with high earnings today, our present tax system is making it difficult to save and is greatly increasing the cost of everything we buy. Reduction of taxes and sweeping reforms in our system of taxation are necessary to encourage initiative and reward hard work. With that in mind, the Progressive Conservative Party has undertaken to: (a) increase the personal income tax exemption to at least \$2,500 for a married person, and to at least \$1,250 for single persons; (b) increase the exemption for dependent children by \$200; (c) lower the general rate of personal income tax; (d) allow deductions to farmers for work done by members of the family who share the work of the farm; (e) end the persecution of our people by tax-collectors acting under arbitrary power; (f) encourage development and improvement of small businesses operated by the owner by allowing proper exemption for money which is put into the improvement of the business and not paid out in profits; (g) provide for a graduated reduction in taxes on other small businesses upon the portion of the income left in the business for further development and consequently for the increase of employment; (h) abolish nuisance taxes and make substantial reductions in general sales and excise taxes on necessities.

SECURITY

The Progressive Conservative Party assures security to all Canadians by the following Declaration of Policy.

Security of Employment

We believe that the greatest assurance of employment in Canada is based upon the fullest development of our resources which will create new employment across the whole country and increase the

domestic markets for all that we produce. In addition to the discovery and employment of new resources, the remarkable scientific developments of the past few years have greatly widened the use we can make of all the resources we possess. In co-operation with the various provincial governments we will explore every possibility of expanding the opportunities for work by encouraging new types of production.

Contributory Social Security Programme

The Progressive Conservative Party puts forward a contributory social security programme providing the following benefits amongst others:

1. Believing that provision for our senior citizens at a level of payment which will give them a feeling of independence in their retiring years is essential, we have stated that we do not believe that old-age pensions should be regarded as a favour, but should be made on such property as has been saved during their working years, nor should there be any enquiry as to whether some money is being earned by the person receiving the pension. We believe that the laws of the country should not discourage saving during the working years and such work as our people wish to do in their old age. For that reason we provide for old-age pensions at 65 without a Means Test.

2. Unemployment Insurance benefits will be extended to include payments for time lost due to accident or sickness.

3. Adequate medical and hospital care will be provided for our people under a national health programme which will also include the most extensive preventative health services.

4. The same family allowance will be paid for every child, no matter how many children are in the family, and the nutritional and other services for our children will be greatly improved.

These, and other provisions included in our programme, will be worked out in co-operation with the provinces, so that the highly-skilled and experienced public welfare services of the provincial governments will be available.

An Effective Programme for the Construction of Homes

1. Loans and priorities will be made available to those who desire to build their own homes. 2. Low-cost housing can, and will be provided under plans approved by the dominion, provincial and municipal governments which will be administered by the municipalities. 3. The cost of building homes can be reduced by encouraging new types of construction. What is causing so much concern to our people at present is not only the shortage of housing accommodation, but also the excessive cost of small homes, particularly those required by our young people starting out in life. In this respect I might point out that while I was Premier of Ontario we introduced a Housing Act in regard to which the official publication of the Canadian Legion had the following to say and I quote from their editorial: "Veterans everywhere will acclaim the new housing legislation recently enacted in the province of Ontario. In this new housing legislation the Ontario government is blazing new trails, out of which might materialize the long-awaited, over-all plan for the successful solution of the housing problem in every part of the dominion, which the Legion has been pressing for so hard ever since the war ended." The effect and application of this Act was necessarily limited by the overriding authority of the dominion government, which restricted supplies for building homes by their restrictive regulations. We will remove those restrictions and the principles of that Act to which I have referred can be made effective in the wider

field by constitutional agreement between the dominion, provincial and municipal authorities who must all play their part in solving this very urgent problem.

Security for our Farmers

Our programme sets out a very complete statement of policy in regard to stability of income for our farmers. I will refer to some of the more important provisions: 1. We undertake to enact floor-price legislation based on the following principles: (a) A definite formula in the Farm Prices Support Act for arriving at floor prices. (b) This formula will allow for variation in production and demand for individual products. (c) Floor prices will be announced well in advance of the production period. (d) The floor price will be arrived at in consultation with representative producers. We favour the restoration of the Canadian Wheat Board Act of 1935 to serve as a marketing agency for wheat producers. We are in favour of coarse grains as well as wheat handled on a voluntary basis by the Wheat Board. We assure that producers themselves will decide the method by which their wheat will be handled and sold. This statement of policy, and it is an emphatic statement of policy, is based upon our belief that marketing boards, representative of producer organizations should, and will, determine their own method of marketing. The Wheat Board and all similar producers' boards, will be made up of producers themselves and not be mere agencies of some department of government.

3. We will establish a board of livestock commissioners.

4. We will extend the activities of the Federal Farm Loan Board so that farmers may take advantage of long-term, low-interest rates in the purchase and development of their farms.

5. We will increase the facilities for agricultural research to explore new uses of agricultural products for industrial purposes and in co-operation with provincial Departments of Agriculture conduct thorough studies of contagious animal and plant diseases to reduce the heavy annual loss from this cause.

6. In determining agricultural policy, we will enlist the co-operation of farmers' organizations throughout Canada and those specializing in particular types of production, so that all administrative as well as advisory boards will have representation of those with expert knowledge of the subject upon which they will be asked to deal. These and the other provisions in our agricultural programme are all based upon the belief that the best interests of agriculture throughout Canada can be served under the guidance of those with practical knowledge of each agricultural activity.

Security for Labour

(a) Our national development programme, our proposed tax reform and our plans for the expansion of trade offer the assurance of expanding employment in the years ahead. Good working conditions and satisfactory terms of employment can be assured best by effective laws governing labour relations. In the field of national jurisdiction, the Progressive Conservative Party puts forward a policy based upon the belief that good working conditions for our people and friendly relations between workers and management are not only in the best interests of our workers, but also in the best interests of every Canadian. We believe that the position of labour must be constantly improved and that the security and happiness of all our workers must be protected by legislation which will provide for effective collective bargaining, determination of the mutual rights of workers and management, as well as the conciliation and settlement of difficulties which may arise. With this object in view, we will establish a National Labour Council which will have equal num-

bers of representatives of labour and management. This council will examine and consider the causes of labour disputes and propose satisfactory solutions for such problems. It will also conduct research into the ways in which labour relations can constantly be improved.

(b) We will provide for greater representation of labour on government boards, commissions, and agencies.

(c) We will encourage profit-sharing plans for the sharing of profits of workers by such adjustment in taxation and otherwise as will encourage plans of this kind.

(d) We will constantly improve the legislation providing for compulsory collective bargaining, certification of labour organizations after a majority vote, machinery for conciliation of disputes, fair and adequate wages, standard hours of work having regard to the nature of the industry concerned, and holidays with pay.

We have also an excellent programme for Security for Veterans

We believe that the government of Canada has no greater responsibility than to make adequate provision for the young men and women who served Canada in two world wars. Our Party has at all times insisted that the promises made during the war to those in service should be carried out in the spirit as well as the letter of the assurances which were given. Our programme therefore gives the following undertakings to our veterans:

(a) To establish a standing committee of the House of Commons on Veterans' Affairs which will regularly review all veterans' problems;

(b) to retain and constantly improve all existing veteran legislation;

(c) to eliminate all unnecessary delays in dealing with veterans and to simplify procedure;

(d) to extend pension benefits to the members of the merchant navy;

(e) to accept as the basis for all decisions the medical category recorded on enlistment and to regard that category as the actual result of military service;

(f) to stabilize the pensions of veterans of the First World War, providing for upward revision where the disability has increased;

(g) to increase and extend the provision of war veterans' allowances with an increase in the amount that a veteran may earn over and above the allowance paid.

FREEDOM

Our constitutional freedom is based upon the democratic principle that the people's chosen representatives in Parliament are supreme, and have the final responsibility for all laws which affect the rights of our people. This principle is the corner-stone of all our freedom. The Progressive Conservative Party pledges itself to put an end to statism in Canada and terminate bureaucratic action by government order-in-council, ministerial proclamation, and departmental regulation. We will restore responsible government answerable to the elected representatives of the people. We believe in the widest possible measure of personal liberty consistent with law, order and the general national welfare. We are opposed to all powers which invest in the government arbitrary control over the rights of the individual. We pledge ourselves to restore the full supremacy of the law and the equality of every citizen under the law. We believe that the closer government is to the people, the better government always is. We are determined to conserve the authority of the provincial and municipal governments over those local affairs which can best be dealt with by men and women who are in intimate contact with them. We are strongly opposed to centralization of legislative and administrative power over local affairs, and to any breach of the constitutional

authority of any of the provinces under the British North America Act which made us one nation. In assuming office we will arrange for a dominion-provincial conference to consider all aspects of dominion-provincial relations and establish an effective basis for close and continuing co-operation between all the governments of Canada. We believe that national unity depends upon respect for our federal constitution and the clear definition of the responsibility of the dominion and provincial governments, with assurance of adequate financial resources to carry out those responsibilities and with adequate financial resources to the municipalities to carry out their many very important responsibilities. In preserving our freedom it is essential that freedom of speech be fully protected. For that reason, it must be a matter of concern to all Canadians that the government-owned radio system which plays such an important role in the exchange of ideas should have become a propaganda agency of the government. May I emphasize that in my belief the staff and technical experts of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation are trying to do a good job under utterly impossible conditions. As you know, any attempt on the part of the employees of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation to improve the organization only results in immediate disciplinary action. The summary dismissal, for instance, of Mr. Joel Aldred, one of the best known broadcasters of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation just the day before Parliament dissolved, because he had publicly suggested improvements within that organization, is merely an indication of the extent to which free speech is being restrained by the present government. We undertake to restore freedom of speech over the radio as well as otherwise, and to place the supervision of all broadcasting in Canada under an independent administrative body. We further undertake to abolish the license fee on radio receiving sets. We do this because this license fee, which is supposed to be for the services given by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, is unjustified because there are many parts of Canada where our people receive no services from the publicly-owned stations. All our freedom and all our security depend upon our national security and independence. For that reason, one of the first resolutions adopted unanimously by our delegates from every province last October, was an expression of unqualified support for the establishment of a defensive union of the Western Powers, which has since taken form in the North Atlantic Security Pact. Our support of that policy has at all times been stated in the same words and with the same emphasis in every part of Canada. The collective preservation of peace and the combined strength of the free nations now gives increased importance to national defence and the efficiency of our defence forces. We undertake to set up a standing committee on national defence which will keep Parliament and the people informed regarding the state of our defences and will also assure the most effective use of the money we spend for the purpose of providing defence forces.

The points I have covered in these remarks are only some of the progressive, practical and constructive policies which will be put into effect by a Progressive Conservative government. I believe this statement will provide convincing reasons why you should cast your ballot on June 27th for the Progressive Conservative candidate in your own constituency so that the public business of this great country will be handled by a strong, vigorous and progressive government in the years ahead.

George Drew

Victoria, B.C. May 30, 1949

IT'S TIME FOR A CHANGE—14 YEARS IS TOO LONG

VOTE FOR YOUR PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATE