

DURHAM, MARCH 7, 1895.

## LIBERAL PLATFORM

ADOPTED BY THE

LIBERAL LIBRARY SOCIETY  
AT OTTAWA, JUNE 1, 1895.

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

## LAW-FEES. Reduced Taxation.

That the customs tariff of the Dominion should be lower, not higher, upon the protective principle, but upon the requirements of the public service;

That the existing tariff of the Dominion is upon an unwise principle, and used, as it has been used by the Government, as a means of revenue, whereby 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 a few;

It has checked immigration;

It has impeded commerce;

It has damaged against Great Britain;

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

That the highest interests of Canada demand a removal of this obstacle to our country's progress, by the adoption of a sound fiscal policy, while, while in doing justice to any class, will promote the welfare and foreign trade, and lessen the rate of prosperity to our people;

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

That it should be adjusted so as to give to our people, the necessary comforts, and to the settler, only what is reasonably due him, and not speculators upon reasonable terms of settlement, and in such areas as can be reasonably occupied and cultivated by the settlers;

## TO-OPOSE THE DOMINION FRANCHISE ACT.—Favor the Provincial Franchise.

That the Franchise Act since its introduction by the Dominion Treasury over a million of dollars, besides causing a heavy expenditure to both

and the provincial governments;

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

That this expenditure has presented a sum of money, originally intended in the amount of one million, to voters entitled to the franchise, have been presented in excess of their natural rights;

That it has inflicted gross abuses upon the franchise, and is now supported by the Government of the day;

That the two political parties have had the results of the protective system generally discredited among thousands of persons who honestly supported it, and that the country at large, whose experience is now prepared to declare for a sound fiscal policy;

The line between the two political parties on this question is now clearly defined;

The Government themselves admit the failure of their fiscal policy, and now, in their willingness to make some change, let us say that such changes may be based upon the principles of protection;

We denounce the principles of protection as radically unsound and unjust to the masses of the people, and we declare our aversion that any tax levied on the people should be based upon the burdens under which the country labors.

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

## RELATED MARKETS.—Respectfully,

That having regard to the prosperity of Canada and the United States as trading countries, with many mutual interests, it is desirable that there should be the most friendly relations as a broad and liberal trade intercourse between them;

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

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

That the period under which the Government applied 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 securing 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 to its honorable and both countries;

That a fair and liberal reciprocity treaty would greatly increase the material resources of Canada, and enormously increase the trade and commerce between the two peoples and remove many causes which have led to friction and strife to the Government of the Empire, and would promote those kindly relations between the Empire and our Republic which affords the strongest guarantee for peace and prosperity;

That the liberal party is prepared to enter into negotiations with a view to concluding such a treaty, and 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;

## POLITY OF ADMINISTRATION.—Confidential communication.

That the Convention places the greatest reliance in the management and expense of a political party, which for years past has existed in the shape of the Conservative party, and the revelations of which by the different parliamentary committees of inquiry have brought disgrace upon the name of Canada;

That the liberal party, which professed politically by those expeditious and popular measures of which the people have been deprived, and which, nevertheless, have never punished the guilty parties, must be held responsible for the conduct of the party.

That we have the evidence of Government that, in the course of a Minister of the Crown proved to have accepted very large contributions of money for electoral purposes from the funds of a radical company, while, while paying the political contributions to him, the man of the Government, with one hand, was receiving Government salaries on 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.

## DEMAND STRETEST ECONOMY.—Decreased Expenditure.

We cannot but view with alarm the large increase of the public debt and of the substantial annual expenditure of the Dominion, and the consequent onerous taxation of the people under the

Governments that have been continually in power since 1878, and we demand the strictest economy in the administration of the government of the country.

## FOR RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT.—Independence of Parliament.

Then the Convention recognises that by the action of Ministers and their supporters in Parliament, in one case, when certain charges were made against a Minister of the Crown, in which another case the charges referred to a committee appointed upon the advice of the Minister, contrary to the well-settled practice of Parliament; and this Convention affirms:

That the customs tariff of the Dominion should be lower, not higher, upon the protective principle, but upon the requirements of the public service;

That the existing tariff, founded upon an unwise principle, and used, as it has been used by the Government, as a means of revenue, whereby to keep themselves in office, has developed monopolies, trusts and combinations;

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

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

That the highest interests of Canada demand a removal of this obstacle to our country's progress, by the adoption of a sound fiscal policy, while, while in doing justice to any class, will promote the welfare and foreign trade, and lessen the rate of prosperity to our people;

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

That it should be adjusted so as to give to our people, the necessary comforts, and to the settler, only what is reasonably due him, and not speculators upon reasonable terms of settlement, and in such areas as can be reasonably occupied and cultivated by the settlers;

## TO-OPOSE THE DOMINION FRANCHISE ACT.—Favor the Provincial Franchise.

That the Franchise Act since its introduction by the Dominion Treasury over a million of dollars, besides causing a heavy expenditure to both

and the provincial governments;

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

That this expenditure has presented a sum of money, originally intended in the amount of one million, to voters entitled to the franchise, have been presented in excess of their natural rights;

That it has inflicted gross abuses upon the franchise, and is now supported by the Government of the day;

That it has been passed, and is now supported by the Government of the day;

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