

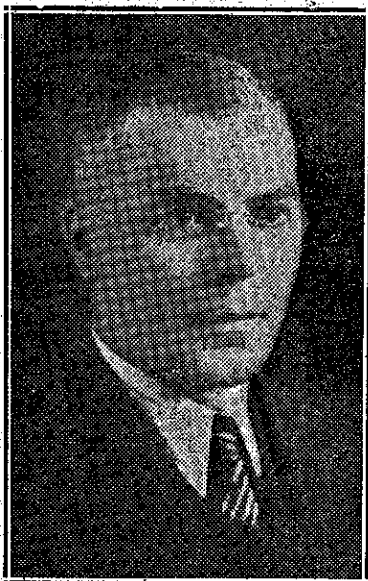
[Liberal: Provincial, 1944]

ELECTION MANIFESTO

by

**THE GOVERNMENT OF
SASKATCHEWAN**

May 16th, 1944



**ISSUED BY AUTHORITY OF THE
SASKATCHEWAN LIBERAL ASSOCIATION, REGINA, SASK.**



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Election Manifesto

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The Government of Saskatchewan

MAY 16th, 1944

To the Electors:

The Legislature of Saskatchewan having been dissolved and an election called for June 15th, the Government appeals to the people for endorsement of its record of administration and policies for the future, and for its return to office in the Province.

Since September, 1939, Canada has been engaged in the greatest and bitterest war this world has ever known. Throughout this period the people of Canada have made, and are still making, a magnificent contribution to the national war effort, which has only been possible by unity of purpose and action.

At the outbreak of war, the Government of Saskatchewan, realizing the seriousness of the situation and the immensity of the task which faced us, accepted as its first and paramount responsibility the winning of the war, and has made this its first concern. To this end it has co-operated with the Government of Canada in the development of the national war effort, and has given leadership to the people in promoting a maximum contribution to Canada's participation in the struggle for freedom and democracy. At the same time the Government has not been negligent in attention to its responsibilities to the people of Saskatchewan, and has given careful, prudent and economical administration to the public business of the Province.

In this manifesto the Government desires to make a statement of its policies in respect to matters which, in its opinion, must receive consideration during the term of the next Legislature.

The War

The Armed Forces of the United Nations have, during the past year, made steady and consistent progress, and ultimate victory is now a certainty. This does not mean that our effort may be relaxed or our support reduced. On the contrary, the future may prove more difficult and demand greater efforts on our part to ensure complete and final success at the earliest possible date.

Until that objective is achieved the Government of Saskatchewan will continue to make the winning of the war its first concern, and will continue to promote and support the Nation's war effort in every possible way. It will continue to assist the people of Saskatchewan in meeting the calls made on them for the production of food, materials and supplies, to the end that the splendid record made by the Province will be continued and maintained.

Administration of the Public Business

Both in war and in peace, efficient and economical administration of the public business is a first essential of good govern-

ment. During its term of office your Government has given close attention to the administration of the various departments of the public service, has exercised strict economy in the expenditure of public money, and devoted itself to providing the maximum service in the interests of the people.

With improved conditions, the provincial finances have been substantially improved, the budget balanced, reductions have been made in the public debt, interest charges have been reduced, and increased educational, social and health services have been provided. During a trying and difficult period the obligations of the Province were met and the credit of the Province has been maintained and improved. The finances of the Province will now permit establishment of a reserve fund to assist in meeting a post-war reconstruction programme. The Government intends to proceed with the setting up of such a fund.

During the year 1944, the Province has a large amount of bonds maturing at different dates. These total almost \$17,000,000 and bear interest at varying rates up to 5%. The Government has completed arrangements for refunding that portion which will not be retired from sinking funds. Due to the confidence of the investing public in Saskatchewan and its administration, this refunding has been done at a rate very slightly in excess of 3¾%. This saving in interest, together with previous reductions in interest rates secured by the Government, makes it possible for services to be instituted and expanded without levying additional taxation.

Prudence and economy in the administration of the public business will continue to be the policy of the Government.

AGRICULTURE

The importance of agriculture in the economy of Saskatchewan is universally realized and accepted. Its establishment and maintenance on a sound and profitable basis is essential to the welfare of the Province and policies with that objective must be fundamental to our whole programme for the post-war period.

Stated in the broadest terms, these policies must provide for:

- Markets at profitable prices;
- Protection against the hazards of nature;
- Maximum utilization and conservation of soil and moisture;
- Independent ownership and operation of farms.

Markets and Prices

Much of our agricultural production must be disposed of by export, and the acceptance by the Government of Canada of the principles of the Atlantic Charter is of major importance to this Province. The Government of a Province has no jurisdiction with respect to national trade policy, but the Government of Saskatchewan has advocated, and will continue to advocate and press for, the adoption by Canada of a policy which will provide the largest possible measure of unrestricted and unhampered trade between the nations of the world.

At the present time floor prices have been established for all our major farm products and in certain cases these prices have been guaranteed for a term of years. The Federal Government has recently taken a most important step in the establishment of agricultural security in announcing that it will, at the present session of Parliament, enact a measure providing for "floor prices for staple farm products", and accepting this as a permanent principle of its agricultural policy. This action by the Federal Government, along with the passing of the Prairie Farm Assistance Act, provides in large measure for two of the most serious difficulties which our farmers have encountered in the past, namely low prices and crop failure.

Since 1934 the Provincial Government has consistently and actively worked for better prices for farm products, and these efforts have produced results. With prices of farm products now established on a basis comparable with other commodities, the policy of the Government will be to maintain this relationship.

During the war, production of a number of farm products has been greatly increased, and a market for these has been established overseas. The maintenance of these markets will considerably depend on preserving a high standard of quality. To this end the Government will continue its policy of assistance in the improvement of both grain and livestock.

Attention is drawn to the fact that the present advance for wheat, \$1.25 Ft. William, does not represent a "fixed price", as is sometimes stated. This wheat is being sold for the best price available, and the excess amount obtained for it will be returned to the farmers in the form of a participation payment at the end of the crop year.

Crop Insurance

In 1939 the Federal Parliament enacted the Prairie Farm Assistance Act, which provided for payments by the Federal Treasury to farmers in areas suffering crop failure. During its operation this plan has been of enormous benefit to thousands of farmers. Since it became operative over \$29,500,000 has been paid to Saskatchewan farmers under its provisions. In the operation and administration of the Act certain difficulties have been encountered. This was only to be expected when it is remembered that the plan was entirely new, and that those who drafted it had no previous experience to guide them. Amendments recommended by the Provincial Government, and already adopted, have greatly improved the effectiveness of the original Act. The Government will continue to press for further amendments which will make the Act more effective in meeting the conditions it was designed to alleviate.

The action taken by the Federal Government in accepting a measure of responsibility in case of crop failure is of very great importance to this Province, and indicates the acceptance of one of the submissions made by the Government to the Rowell-Sirois Commission on Dominion-Provincial relationships.

The Saskatchewan Reconstruction Council is making a special study of the possibilities of developing a plan under which

the Province, in co-operation with the Prairie Farm Assistance administration, could provide complete insurance against crop failure.

Land Utilization

The Provincial Departments of Agriculture and Natural Resources have been working in co-operation with the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Branch, with the result that substantial progress has been made in water conservation, the withdrawal of submarginal land from cultivation, the establishment of community pastures and other measures designed to provide the maximum and most effective utilization of soil and moisture. The Land Utilization Board has been active in bringing submarginal land under municipal or provincial control, and in the re-establishment of settlers on more suitable lands. Irrigation projects have been constructed and others are being undertaken.

The Government will continue to urge the Federal Government to extend the operations of the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act to the entire settled portion of the Province. Failing this the Government will be prepared to provide assistance in areas where the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act is not operative to obtain and conserve a water supply.

Farm Ownership

Agricultural development in Saskatchewan has taken place under a system of privately owned and operated farm units and notwithstanding theoretical suggestions to the effect that greater progress could be attained under a system of collectivism or state ownership, the Government of Saskatchewan is convinced that individual initiative provides the maximum of opportunity and results. Its policies, therefore, are designed to provide the individual with every opportunity for owning and operating his own farm, and enjoying the highest standards and greatest conveniences of life. The Government recognizes its responsibilities, and will continue to expand the services carried on by the Department of Agriculture and the Extension Department of the University, with a view to improving quality and production and farming methods; developing crops resistant to disease, drouth and pest; combatting disease in livestock, and increasing facilities for agricultural education.

The agricultural representative system now in operation will be continued and enlarged as trained personnel are available.

Debt Adjustment

Since the last election great progress has been made in the reduction of debt. With improved conditions, both as to production and prices, a large number of farmers have paid off, or reduced, their indebtedness. In this they have received material assistance from the Government through the Drouth Area Debt Adjustment Plan, the activities of the Provincial Mediation Board, the operations of the Farmers' Creditors Arrangement Act (Federal), and the cancellation by the Government of millions of dollars advanced for direct relief in Urban and Rural Municipalities and Local Improvement Districts.

Legislation enacted during the past few years, and now on the Statute Books of the Province, provides the maximum measure of protection which the Province has legislative jurisdiction to enact for debtors who are unable to meet their obligations by reason of crop failure or other causes beyond their control.

Statutory provision has also been made covering the disposal of crop proceeds to protect the producer in years of poor crops, enabling him to make provision for himself and his family, and carry on his farming operations, until another crop is harvested. Provision has been made giving the Provincial Mediation Board power to intervene when debtor and creditor cannot reach an agreement.

Assessment of Lands

A re-assessment of farm lands in the Province has been carried on during the past five years, and it is expected that this work will be completed this year. This re-assessment was made for the purpose of bringing assessed value in line with actual productive value, and has removed many inequities.

In 1943, a committee appointed by the Government made an exhaustive study of Urban Assessment in the Province. The report of this committee, presented to the Legislature at its recent session, will be the basis for a revision of urban assessments which will be undertaken by the Government.

EDUCATION

Under Liberal Government, and despite depression years, expenditures on education have considerably increased. School grants alone have been increased from \$1,584,363.61 in 1933-34, to an appropriation of \$3,200,000 for the fiscal year 1944-45. In 1939, the payment of equalization grants to districts of low assessment became effective. More recently, these grants have been substantially increased and are now being paid to continuation and high schools, as well as to elementary rooms, in rural and village districts of low assessment. Where necessary, these are supplemented by further additional special operation grants.

Further assistance to districts of low assessments has been provided in the form of grants for purchasing materials for repairing and redecorating schools. Also during the past three years about one thousand districts have been supplied each year with books for the school library. This policy, and the policy of supplying all elementary schools with free readers, will be expanded.

During the past few years various grants for specific purposes have been made available to schools. These include equipment grants for high school courses of a vocational character in Agriculture, Home Economics, Commercial Work, Shop Work and Motor Mechanics; grants to assist Boards in making provision for their children in other districts; grants for radios, gramophones, projectors and other audio-visual equipment.

Saskatchewan is among the leading provinces in the Dominion in the extent to which young people secure high school

education. This is due to a policy which, to an unusual degree, encourages the establishment of high school facilities in rural and village school districts, and to the use of correspondence school courses. Commencing January, 1944, a grant of \$30.00 will be paid on account of each Grade XI or Grade XII student who is obliged to take the work of the grade outside his own district.

In 1941 a new and modern Elementary School Curriculum for Grades I to VIII was introduced. A systematic revision of the High School Curriculum is now being made with a view to bringing it more into conformity with the needs of our young people. A new programme of studies for vocational and technical schools will go into effect in the fall of 1944, adding courses for Grade XII and courses in farm mechanics for Grades XI and XII.

In 1941 the Audio-Visual Branch of the Department of Education was established. The function of this Branch is to advise, encourage and assist schools in the use of auditory and visual aids to education. A library of about 1,000 sound and silent motion picture films, 500 film strips and approximately 5,000 slides has been established. These materials are loaned without charge to school districts. A programme of educational broadcasts for schools has been organized, providing a broadcast each school day for the period October to April in each year.

It is intended in the post-war period to greatly extend vocational educational facilities. The establishment of additional classes will be encouraged and provision will also be made for a vocational educational programme especially designed to meet the needs of the rural areas, with courses in home economics for girls, and in agriculture for boys.

In 1942 a new Teachers' Superannuation Act was passed which provides Saskatchewan teachers with a generous pension plan.

During the past two years, under the Dominion-Provincial Student Aid Programme, scholarships and grants have been provided to enable young people to attend University, or Normal School, and for nurses-in-training. This type of assistance will be continued and substantially increased.

The Department of Education of Saskatchewan participated in the preparation of the Report of the Survey Committee of the Canada and Newfoundland Education Association. This report, which has been submitted to the Advisory Committee on Reconstruction of the Dominion Government, proposes comprehensive educational reforms.

The Government will co-operate with the Dominion and other provinces to make these proposals effective, in order that the maximum educational opportunity may be available to every child in Saskatchewan.

PUBLIC HEALTH

For many years the Saskatchewan Department of Public Health has had an enviable record in its activities for the prevention and control of sickness and disease. Supervision of water

and milk supplies and sanitation, distribution of vaccines and sera, generous assistance to hospitals, and prompt action in dealing with threatened epidemics, have all contributed to Saskatchewan's low death rate.

The departmental staff of Public Health Nurses has been steadily increased and now numbers twenty-one. This number will be increased and the service thus rendered extended and made available to a larger number of the population.

Saskatchewan was the first Province to institute complete provision for the treatment of persons suffering from tuberculosis, without charge to the patient.

Saskatchewan Cancer Clinics have been enlarged and fully equipped, and are staffed with highly trained medical and technical personnel. They are providing the most efficient service and treatment available anywhere. From May 1st, 1944, the Government is supplying, without charge to the patient, diagnostic, hospital, medical and surgical treatment to persons suffering from cancer.

Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis) Clinics have also been established wherein treatment is provided without charge to the patient. These clinics have been fully equipped, and the staffs have received training in the most modern methods and technique of treating this disease.

In co-operation with the Government of Canada a physical fitness programme is being undertaken which will provide for the encouragement and development of physical education and fitness.

Health Security

Of recent years there has been a growing interest in the possibilities of establishing a plan of health security under which a complete service would be provided to every person, irrespective of the financial position of the individual. The Provincial Department of Public Health has been fully alive to this need and has made exhaustive studies of the question.

Realizing that the cost of such a service would be very heavy, if not prohibitive, for a Province to undertake of itself, the Federal Government also has been working on the matter, and a proposed scheme is now being considered by a special committee of the House of Commons. Under the suggested plan, the Government of Canada will make substantial contributions to any Province which establishes a health insurance scheme in conformity with the proposed bill now before the committee at Ottawa.

Under this plan every person in the Province would be entitled to complete health services, including medical, surgical, obstetrical, dental, pharmaceutical, hospital and nursing benefits, irrespective of the individual's financial position or the contributions, if any, he may have paid.

At the recent session of the Saskatchewan Legislature the Health Insurance Act was passed, and under this Act the Government will set up a Provincial Health Insurance Commission. This Commission will at once proceed to make arrangements for the establishment of public health and health insurance regions,

and make all necessary arrangements to enable a health insurance plan to be established, and come into operation, as soon as possible after the national plan has been adopted at Ottawa. Under the Act the Provincial Government is authorized to enter into an agreement with the Government of Canada for the adoption of a health insurance scheme in Saskatchewan, and proposes to take the earliest possible advantage of this for the purpose of providing the people of Saskatchewan with a comprehensive and complete system of health security.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Notwithstanding the difficult years through which the Province has recently passed, the Government of Saskatchewan is supplying social services on a wide and comprehensive scale, and its record in this respect will bear comparison with other parts of the Dominion.

A special committee of the Legislature, during the 1943 and 1944 sessions, in its unanimous reports to the Legislature, commented favorably on what had been accomplished in this Province and reported that approximately one-third of the total provincial expenditure was for social services.

Old age pensions and pensions for the blind, which are contributed to by the Federal Government, are paid on the maximum basis provided under the Federal Act. This Province is prepared to join with the Federal Government and the other provinces in an increase of the maximum pension, and a reduction of the age limit.

Since assuming office the Government has, from time to time as finances permitted, increased payments of mothers' allowances, the most recent increase taking effect as from May 1st, 1944.

In other matters such as education of the blind and deaf, the care of neglected and dependent children, maternity grants, etc., the Government has been active in providing for the handicapped and distressed.

Under the recently established Department of Reconstruction, Labour and Public Welfare the administration of the various social services will be co-ordinated and consolidated.

Women and Children

Many enactments of particular interest to and for the benefit of women and children appear in the Statute Books of the Province, in fact Saskatchewan occupies a foremost position in this respect. Apart from subjects in regard to education, public health and social services in general, the law of Saskatchewan fully recognizes and establishes the civil and property rights of women, and places them in a position of equality as citizens of the Province with full rights of franchise and eligibility to hold public office, and provides homestead rights, exemptions from seizures, right to share in husband's estate, protection in employment, minimum wages, maintenance of parents, juvenile courts, education of soldiers' dependent children, child protection and welfare, library services, mothers' allowances and maternity grants.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Full ownership and administration of the natural resources of Saskatchewan were transferred to the Province in 1930; that is, at the commencement of the world depression and the beginning of the long series of drouth years. Under the circumstances any marked development was not to be immediately expected. However, following the return of a Liberal Government to power in 1934, definite policies were worked out to protect the resources from waste, and to plan their future development and use in the interests of the people as a whole, and as an important asset and factor in the economy of the Province. New land laws were enacted; readjustments in old land contracts made; soil surveys undertaken; submarginal lands withheld from sale as unsuitable for self-supporting farm units, and, in co-operation with the Federal Government, large community pastures established.

Larger areas of forested lands were set aside as Provincial Forests; the forestry regulations were revised; stricter supervision of cutting operations made effective; modern methods in forest fire prevention and suppression adopted through the utilization of mechanized equipment, radio communication and reporting services, and a more efficient patrol system. Tree nurseries were enlarged, and new ones established, for reforestation programmes.

Before the war, geological surveys and aerial mapping to assist prospectors were conducted. Government encouragement has resulted in a marked development in the production of metals, coal, sodium sulphate, clays, and in an intensive and scientific exploration for oil and natural gas. As a result, Saskatchewan's mineral production has been an important factor in the war effort.

Working in co-operation with the Provincial University, the Department of Natural Resources has utilized the services of the Geological and Ceramics Departments in field investigations and research. Arrangements have been completed whereby research into the possibilities of manufacturing producer gas and by-products from lignite coal and the utilization of bentonite, volcanic ash, clays and sands in various processes, will be undertaken this summer.

Much study has been devoted to the fisheries of the Province and, as a result of an agreement between the Federal Government and the three Prairie Provinces, a permanent Western Fisheries Research Station is being established, a chief inspector of fisheries for the West appointed and a complete survey of all commercial lakes commenced this summer, all with a view to improving the market quality of our fish and to enhance values. In order to maintain and ultimately increase the annual catch, two new fish hatcheries will be built in the north.

Through the creation of the Northern Saskatchewan Conservation Board, the establishment of large fur preserves, the inauguration of a system of registered trapline leases and the appointment of a supervisor of fur farms, important steps have been taken to further the development and permanency of the fur industry.

The provincial parks have been fully maintained despite the war. An extensive programme of park improvements will be a feature of post-war activities.

As a direct result of constant study of conditions and problems; practical measures of conservation, protection and development; careful and economical administration; and an equitable system of royalties, the natural resources now contribute a very substantial and increasingly large sum annually to the revenues of the Province.

Industrial Development

Industrial development in Saskatchewan has to date largely been related to the processing of our natural products, and experience has shown that a more balanced and diversified economy is highly desirable.

The Government has assisted the Saskatchewan Industrial Development Board in its work of encouraging the establishment of industries in the Province, while the Saskatchewan Reconstruction Council is making special studies of post-war industrial and manufacturing possibilities.

The Department of Natural Resources has undertaken, in co-operation with the University of Saskatchewan, the investigation of uses for coal, clay and other deposits. Geological surveys in Northern Saskatchewan, which have been restricted during the war, will be resumed as soon as conditions permit; but the search for gas and oil is being actively carried on in many areas of the Province.

The Industrial Development Bank should prove of material assistance in the establishment and extension of industry and manufacturing, and the Government will actively promote such development.

Highways

During its term of office the Government has pursued a vigorous policy of construction and improvement of provincial highways and market roads. Payment for this has been provided from current revenues without adding to the public debt, and as finances have improved the expenditures have been increased.

For the post-war period the Department of Highways has prepared a comprehensive programme of construction, including main east-west and north-south hard surfaced roads, the completion of the provincial highway system to an all-weather standard, extension of development roads into the northern areas, and improvement of the market road system in co-operation with the municipalities.

Northern Settlers

The practical policies and methods adopted by the Northern Areas Branch have assisted thousands of settlers to get established on a self-supporting basis and put them in a position to become independent. Schools have been established, roads developed and conditions generally have been much improved. A continuation of sound and practical plans will further improve the situation, and go far to solve difficulties which, at one time, appeared almost insurmountable. Provision of further educational

and medical services, and road improvement and extension, will continue to receive full attention.

Labour

Saskatchewan's statute law respecting labour, working conditions and other matters of particular interest to employees, was rounded out at the last session of the Legislature, by the enactment of the Labour Relations Act, which adopted the National War Labour Code, and made it applicable to industry in the Province. This provides a democratic procedure for the maintenance and development of more harmonious relations between employers and employees. It provides a procedure for the settlement of disputes, and greatly reduces the possibilities of strikes.

In the future, as in the past, the Government will support all useful and progressive labour legislation which will tend to improve the relationships between employers and employees and improve working conditions in Saskatchewan.

Co-operation

The success and development of co-operative enterprise in Saskatchewan has been possible because of the legislation relating to co-operation which has been introduced from time to time by successive Liberal Governments.

Of particular interest is the growth of credit unions, which were first provided for in the Credit Union Act passed in 1937.

Believing that political interference is prejudicial to the success of true co-operation, the Government has given, and will continue to give, all proper assistance to co-operative development without interference, dictation, or attempting to utilize it for political advantage.

POST-WAR

While the winning of the war continues to be our first concern, the Government, many months ago, began preparations for meeting the problems and difficulties likely to develop in the post-war period. Departments of Government have prepared plans for construction and the provision of services to be undertaken for the benefit of the Province and with a view to providing employment. Such plans were prepared by the Departments of Highways, Public Works, Natural Resources, Public Health, Education, Agriculture, and the Saskatchewan Power Commission.

The Saskatchewan Reconstruction Council, established under an Act of the Legislature, has been active in the carrying out of its duties, and, after holding public hearings at many points in the Province, is now engaged in an examination of the material and proposals submitted to it as well as the departmental programmes referred to above. The Council has also engaged qualified experts who are making special studies of increased utilization of our natural resources and the industrial possibilities of the Province. It is expected that the Council's report and recommendations will be completed at an early date.

The Department of Reconstruction, Labour and Public Welfare, established under an Act passed at the recent session

of the Legislature, will co-ordinate the programmes of the various Departments and will co-operate with the Federal Government and with local authorities in carrying out post-war plans.

A Liberal Government in Saskatchewan, to the full extent of its powers, will co-operate with the Federal Government, with municipal governments, with agricultural organizations, co-operative institutions, employers' and employees' associations, with public, co-operative and private enterprise generally, in the development and promotion of plans designed to achieve and maintain a condition of full employment in Saskatchewan and throughout Canada.

Rehabilitation of Returned Men and Women

The rehabilitation and re-establishment of members of the Armed Forces returning to civilian life is primarily the responsibility of the Federal Government, and that Government has already adopted and put into operation a wide and comprehensive plan which includes demobilization benefits, educational and employment opportunities, and assistance for land settlement.

The Provincial Government realizes that it also has a responsibility to the 75,000 men and women from this Province who are now serving, and has already made preparation for doing its part towards their re-establishment. The Saskatchewan Reconstruction Council is co-operating with local community committees in preparing for their return, while the new Department of Reconstruction, Labour and Public Welfare will include a branch devoted to assisting in their rehabilitation.

At the outbreak of war, the Government provided protection for members of the Armed Forces against action for debt or foreclosure, and also granted exemption from taxation on their homes and farms to the extent of a \$2,500 valuation.

Provision has also been made for members of the active services to vote in provincial elections and for those outside of Saskatchewan to elect special representatives to the Legislature.

Power and Electrification

The Saskatchewan Power Commission, established by a Liberal Government, serves a substantial number of customers, but has been handicapped during the depression period by the limitation on the funds available for capital purposes. With improvement in the provincial finances, extensions have been undertaken, and the Commission has prepared plans for the construction of lines throughout the Province. As a part of its post-war programme the Government proposes to put the Commission in a position to carry out an energetic construction programme which will bring power and electric services to areas now without them.

For this purpose the Government is considering possible sources of supply, such as the construction of a power plant on the Saskatchewan River at Fort a la Corne and the development of power in the coal fields of the south. The Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration has, and is, carrying on detailed surveys and investigation of the possibilities of joint power and irrigation schemes on the South Saskatchewan River. Their

studies to date indicate that there are possibilities that, by the construction of dams on this river, water storage can be secured which will provide irrigation for large areas and also develop substantial quantities of hydro-electric power.

Rural Electrification

The need for, and advantage of, electric service being made available for farm use is fully appreciated, and the Saskatchewan Government regards the provision of electrical service for the farming population as an essential part of reconstruction policy. With a sparse population such as we have in Saskatchewan, this problem presents difficulties, but the Government is determined that a practical method of supplying this service will be evolved.

Irrigation

Under the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act, a considerable acreage in southwestern Saskatchewan has been brought under irrigation, and both the Department of Natural Resources and the Land Utilization Branch of the Department of Agriculture have co-operated with the Federal Administration in this development. With our sources of water supply rather limited, it is evident that large scale irrigation is largely dependent on the utilization of the only two really large rivers in the Province, the North and South Saskatchewan. As referred to elsewhere, the P.F.R.A. is making a close and detailed study of the areas concerned to locate suitable sites for dams, areas possible of irrigation, power development, etc.

The advantages enjoyed, and the increased production possible, where irrigation is feasible, establish the value and importance of this work. The Provincial Government has actively supported the P.F.R.A. programme to date, and will press vigorously for its extension and enlargement to the end that farming hazards from lack of moisture may be eliminated in as large an area, and for as many individual farmers, as possible.

Housing

Investigations made by the Saskatchewan Reconstruction Council indicate the need for a large scale programme of improved housing accommodation in both urban and rural areas, and the Government will take effective action to meet this condition. A National Housing Act, under which money may be obtained at a low rate of interest, is to be introduced at the present session of the Federal Parliament, and the Provincial Government will take all necessary steps to make this Act operative in Saskatchewan.

The Provincial Department of Agriculture has already established a branch which will render assistance to those wishing to build new homes, or repair, rebuild, or modernize their present houses, by supplying plans, instructions and suggestions in regard to the work intended to be undertaken.

Federal-Provincial Relations

This Government has long advocated the need for a revision of the Constitution and was instrumental in securing the appointment of the Rowell-Sirois Commission which made an exhaustive

study of the whole question of the relationship between the Dominion and the Provinces. The report of this Commission (which accepted many of the principal submissions contained in the Saskatchewan brief), if adopted, would have greatly improved the financial position of Saskatchewan and placed it in a position where it could better discharge the responsibilities imposed on it by the Constitution.

Unfortunately, the Dominion-Provincial Conference called to consider the report failed because three provinces refused to consider the report. Therefore the difficulties under which the Province suffers still exist. These have increased with the development and extension of Government services far beyond the anticipations of the Fathers of Confederation, without a corresponding increase in the sources of revenue with which to meet the cost.

With the further increased responsibilities facing the Province in the reconstruction period following the war, it is essential that there should be a re-allocation of legislative powers and responsibilities, as well as a revision of the financial provisions of the Constitution. A generous measure of financial aid from the Federal authorities will be required, if post-war problems are to be dealt with satisfactorily.

The Prime Minister of Canada has announced his intention of calling a Dominion-Provincial Conference this year. The electors will decide, on June 15th, who will represent Saskatchewan at this Conference, and that decision is an important one. The Government of Saskatchewan has consistently pressed for a revision of the British North America Act, to be secured, not by "scrapping the Constitution", but by orderly and constitutional methods.

Perhaps no more important question has to be dealt with in the immediate future, and the Government will continue its effort to secure a revision of the Constitution of Canada which will make it possible for the Province to meet its responsibilities and provide the people with the highest possible standards of services and security.

Democracy vs. Socialism

The Government of Saskatchewan believes that the maximum standard of social and economic welfare is attainable under a system of government which gives the individual the largest measure of personal freedom and maximum opportunity for exercising his initiative and ability. Its policies have been, and will continue to be, based on this principle. During the war and in order to make possible a total war effort, the people of Canada have accepted a limited measure of regimentation. The object of the Government will be to have these restrictions removed as early as possible to the end that freedom of action, freedom of enterprise and freedom of opportunity will be restored, subject always to proper provision for the protection of the public interest.

The democratic system of government is the best system yet devised by the mind of man for the conduct of the affairs of

state. Under this system men have secured the greatest measure of personal freedom together with the highest standards of social and economic welfare.

The Liberal Party believes in the "four freedoms" and is absolutely opposed to any form or system of government which would substitute for democracy a dictatorship or collectivized state imposing on the people a regimentation regulating their every activity.

Right Hon. Winston Churchill, Prime Minister of Great Britain, said:

"We must beware of trying to build a society in which nobody counts for anything except the politician or official; a society where enterprise gains no reward and thrift no privileges. I say 'try to build' because, of all the races in the world, our people would be the last to consent to be governed by a bureaucracy. Freedom is their life blood."

This statement is particularly appropriate to Saskatchewan at this time.

The Liberal Party has always stood for social justice and social reform, and believes that these objectives can be attained by orderly progress and continued advancement without destroying what has been accomplished to date, without forfeiting the liberty and freedom which form the keystones of our democratic system.

Conclusion

The Province of Saskatchewan has passed through difficult times. The measure of success achieved in overcoming these difficulties inspires us to face, with confidence and determination, the great tasks ahead. With faith and resolution we join our fellow Canadians in the immediate and most pressing task—the winning of the war. After the cessation of hostilities other serious problems will confront us. Solutions for some of these have been found; solutions for others are being developed.

To successfully meet and solve the whole complex of post-war problems it is imperative that the Government of the Province should be administered with care and prudence. This is not a time for experimentation with untried theories or for inexperienced hands in control of government; nor is it a time for discarding what has been established by experience and proved by practical test and application.

Only by the return of a Liberal administration can Saskatchewan be assured of efficient administration, sound progress, practical development and the maintenance of the largest measure of democratic freedom.



A. Patterson
Premier of Saskatchewan.