

JUSTICE FOR NOVA SCOTIA

Are You Satisfied With The Present State of Affairs in This Province?

(From the Manifesto of Hon. E. N. Rhodes, Leader of the Conservative Party in Nova Scotia.)

This is a searching time in the minds of many independent electors, also with great numbers of those who have hitherto been supporters of the Administration. Men and women who have the interest of the Province at heart—who would place its welfare above party—these especially will not be content with mere criticism of the Government, however warranted, but desire in deciding to vote to replace the Administration to know the attitude of the Opposition with respect to various important questions. To the electors I desire to affirm the following as our policy and to assure them it will be our earnest endeavor if elected to office to steadfastly labor to achieve the desired end:

1.—To divorce Local and Federal party affairs, thus enabling the interests of the Province to be promoted at all times without the necessity of having regard to the effect any given action may have upon say party in the Federal field.

2.—A searching investigation to be had with the least possible delay, consistent with thorough and efficient work, by the foremost recognized experts to be obtained into—

(a) The economic conditions of private and public business, having particular regard to the interests of Agriculture, the Fisheries, Mining, and our Forests and Manufacturers and the profitable marketing of all our products.

(b) The status and utility of the Intercolonial Railway.

(c) The merits, record and results had, and probable to be had from the economic system of Canada: their effect upon business interests and prospects of Nova Scotia, including the cost of living and the cost of production.

It will be our firm purpose upon finding the correct solution of any and all these important questions—where it lies within the scope of the legislative rights of the Province—to apply the

remedy; and in those cases where report must be had to the Government and the Parliament of the Dominion, to press with determination for the necessary action and redress. To this end we pledge ourselves to exhaust every known constitutional method in our effort to acquire or restore Nova Scotia's rights.

3.—An independent audit of Provincial finances, including the various commission. Recent disquieting disclosures in various parts of the Province, as well as in other provinces, which uniformly have resulted in disclosing misappropriations of public funds, and in all instances in cases where the accounts were subject to audit, would emphasize the necessity for this action.

4.—An inventory of the assets and of the resources of the Province, with a view to conserving for the good of the whole people such resources as remain to us.

5.—A policy of reforestation upon Crown lands, in the expectation that in the years to come a great asset can be built up which through scientific cropping will be a source of large revenue.

6.—Economy in expenditure, with a view to reducing the burden of taxation and consequently the cost of living.

7.—The creation of a department of Labor, designed to safeguard the interests of Labor and at the same time to promote harmonious relations between Labor and Capital.

8.—A public enquiry into the administration of our coal resources and into living and working conditions in the mines and mining centres.

While particular mention is made of the foregoing, it will be our object to have regard to the well-being of the whole people and not to overlook such important subjects as the Public Health, including the protection of the mentally-defective and the tubercular poor.

We have for some time viewed with misgiving the continued and increasing inroads upon the autonomy of our towns, cities, and municipalities, and the heavy burden of taxation which in most cases has been arbitrarily imposed upon them.

It will be our policy, subject to financial requirements, to restore to these bodies a larger measure of municipal "home rule".

You are familiar with conditions in this Province, many of which are of the Government's own making and of others for which they must shoulder the responsibility.

Are You Satisfied?

If not, you have your opportunity to apply the remedy by supporting the Opposition candidate.

Remember, that a vote for any candidate supporting the Government means your endorsement of its policies, and administrative record, and that you fully approve the continuance of the present state of affairs.

Source: *The Halifax Herald* (June 17, 1926).