

The Original Platform of the Union Nationale

The present crisis is due in large part to the unequal economic distribution, the greed of high finance and the abuses of all kinds which have slipped into democratic government. There is no point in hoping that a balance will occur of itself without the assistance of a well-defined plan of action. The necessity of political evolution accompanied by economic evolution is obvious. In the United States the Democrats, now rejuvenated, are presently working towards this double transformation. In Canada and in the province of Quebec we are still working on theories. Our elected representatives have not yet taken a stand on reforms of the political, economic and social order which our best informed minds are advocating. . . .

We believe that a political evolution is necessary in our country and in our province so as to assure that the doctrines worked out by our economists will be brought into operation.. . .

L'Action libérale nationale thus offers the following overall plan which, even if it is not perfect, will work toward this double political and economic evolution, the sole means of assuring a better distribution of wealth and the resultant ending of unemployment and Depression.

I. Agrarian Reforms

1. The preparation and implementation of a vast plan of colonization.
2. The rejuvenation of our farms through winning local and foreign markets, as well as through electrification of the countryside, and for these purposes, an increase in subsidies. . . .

IV. Economic Reforms

1. To break, by every means possible, the hold which the great financial institutions, the electricity trust and the paper industry trust have on the province and the municipalities.
2. To lower the electricity rates: the acquisition by the Province, according to its needs, of all water rights not yet granted as well as those granted but not yet exploited; moreover, the immediate investigation, by an independent commission especially appointed, with all the necessary powers, to determine whether it is in the Province's interest to acquire gradually, at a cost which would permit a substantial reduction of the present rates and which at the same time would pay off the purchase price, the companies producing or distributing electric power in the Province;
3. To combat the coal, gasoline and bread combines, by creating state competition if necessary.

4. To combat the Milk Trust by consolidating into a closed association all milk producers of the Province.
5. A total investigation into the structure and the financial methods of Public Utility Companies and a clean-up of their capitalization.
6. An increased and strict application of the Combines Law. . . .

VI. Political and Administrative Reforms

1. Thrift and honesty in the public administration.
2. The prevention of ministers from being stock-holders or interested parties in any way in a company which obtains government contracts.
3. The prevention of ministers from being directors of a bank, trust company, a public utility, an insurance company, or a railway company.
4. The transformation of the Legislative Council into an Economic Council. . . .

VII. Electoral Reforms

2. Obligatory voting (this measure subject to plebiscite). . . .
8. Cases of false identity to be punishable by one year in prison at least, and the same measure against all those who have employed, paid, or assisted any person guilty of this infraction.

VIII. Fiscal Reforms

1. A temporary law granting the right of re-purchase to any person dispossessed of property by sheriff's sale on mortgage loans, . . .
2. A readjustment of the rate of interest on mortgages.
3. A decrease in interest charged by banks for the purpose of aiding industry and commerce.
4. The conversion of the provincial debt at the best rate possible.
5. A readjustment of federal subsidies for the purpose of increasing the share of the provinces.

6. A redistribution of taxation, federal, provincial and municipal, so that commercial corporations and certain classes of individuals which often enjoy unfair exemptions, may make their fair contribution to the public purse. . . .

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