

# THE FARMER

## . . . AND THE CCF

"The family farm is the accepted basis  
for agricultural production in Canada . . ."

CCF Manifesto, Winnipeg, 1933.





# CCF FARM POLICY

PLANNED  
BY  
PRACTICAL  
FARMERS

**F**ARM people throughout Canada are becoming more and more concerned about the future for themselves and their children on the land. Long years of depression and low prices brought about general deterioration of land, buildings and equipment. Then, help was plentiful but money was scarce. Now money is more plentiful but help is scarce. The result is a still further deterioration of land, buildings and equipment.

As if to aggravate this situation, arbitrary price ceilings have so restricted the farmer's net income during the war years that he has been unable to lay by enough money to guarantee the post-war financing of all these repairs so sadly neglected since 1929. Today two people are producing almost twice as much as was produced by three people in 1939. To accomplish this it has been necessary for farmers to overwork themselves and their families at the expense of their health and comfort.

This sacrifice has been made voluntarily in order to win the war. But now the question arises, "what next?" Will farming return to pre-war depression conditions? Will farmers continue to receive less and less of their share of the national income? Must agriculture become a permanently depressed industry? Must the farmer accept a standard of living well below that of the rest of the community? Must rural children continue to accept lower educational and health standards?

The answer of the CCF to these questions is "NO". But to obtain these rights certain problems must be faced. Generally speaking, the farmer's problem is not simply one of prices and markets. It is a question of his place in the social, economic and political life of Canada. The CCF invites all farmers to consider and support the following program of reconstruction.

The following constructive program is the considered opinion of practical farm people throughout Ontario:

## **STABILIZED FARM PRICES**

In order to plan his production efficiently, every farmer must know in advance the approximate price which he will receive for each product he will be offering for sale. Only the

Federal Government can stabilize these prices. The point at which prices will be stabilized will ensure adequate returns above production costs.

## MARKETING BOARDS FOR EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL TRADE

lized Canadian prices and to resell it on the world markets. This board will be able to obtain the best markets and the best prices by accepting in payment those products most needed in Canada but not produced here. Internal marketing boards will be set up to ensure orderly marketing of all farm products in Canada. Such boards will contain equal representation of producer, consumer and government.

## CO-OPERATIVE OR PUBLIC OWNERSHIP OF MONOPOLIES

manipulate prices in their own interest. Social ownership of the packing industry would provide adequate storage space and remove the losses incurred by heavy seasonal marketings of livestock. Co-operatively-owned plants outside the large cities would reduce transportation costs and increase returns to farmers.

## FULL ASSISTANCE TO CO-OPERATIVES

The promotion and operation of co-operatives and credit unions by the farmers themselves will be given every assistance and encouragement by a CCF Government.

## FARM MACHINERY

A farmer's real income is determined by the price of those things which he must buy. Under present-day mechanized methods, the greatest expense incurred by the average farmer is that of paying for machinery and equipment. If our system of family farming is to survive, machinery suitable for use on family farms must be made available at drastically reduced prices. Since cheaper machinery is the key to efficient production, therefore the production and distribution of farm machinery will be socialized.

## CREDIT AT LOW RATES OF INTEREST

Present-day farming methods require a great deal more capital than was required a generation ago. The value of stock and machinery on many farms equals or exceeds the value of land and buildings. Obviously, a young farmer must have capital to purchase the land, stock and equipment necessary for efficient production. The CCF will provide long term loans for this purpose at interest rates of not more than 2½%. Farm people through their credit unions, will provide short term loans.

In order to achieve stable prices for all farm products, the CCF will establish a Canadian Marketing Board authorized to purchase any surplus of foodstuffs at the stabilized

prices and to resell it on the world markets. This board will be able to obtain the best markets and the best prices by accepting in payment those products most needed in Canada but not produced here. Internal marketing boards will be set up to ensure orderly marketing of all farm products in Canada. Such boards will contain equal representation of producer, consumer and government.

In order to achieve stable prices for farm products it will be necessary to socialize processing and distributing facilities wherever monopoly control enables unscrupulous groups to

Government assistance — financial, educational and legislative — will be necessary for the organization and building of co-operative enterprises.



## REHABILITATION OF VETERANS

To those veterans who wish to settle on the land, the CCF will give financial and advisory assistance. All land available to veterans must pass a standard soil test as to productiveness. Administration will be under the joint direction of the Veterans' Organizations and the Department of Agriculture. Those who have the necessary qualifications, experience and adaptability will be given every assistance to become thoroughly established on their farms.

## SOCIAL INSURANCE

The CCF advocates "a comprehensive and integrated social insurance system available to all Canadians". To the farmers and farm workers this will mean a retiring allowance at 60, to all persons entitled thereto. It will also include sickness and accident benefits, maternity benefits and widow's allowances.

## SOCIAL SERVICES

Improved education, health and social services would follow quickly upon the election of a CCF Government. The building of community centres, the rebuilding and beautification of farm homes, the installation of conveniences and labour saving devices will be accomplished by farm people, as soon as they have stability of prices and security of income. Hydro should be available to every farm home at uniform rates as is the postal service. Income tax exemptions should be raised and losses of one year should be carried over into the next year's accounts.



## CONSERVATION

The CCF recognizes the urgency of a conservation program. Only by a constructive plan can we combat soil erosion, soil depletion, denuded forests, and lack of rainfall. An intelligent conservation scheme will regain the balance necessary for a healthy agriculture and a satisfactory life for farm people.

The CCF does not promise the farmer a new heaven and a new earth. But it does promise the farmer an earnest and intelligent effort to solve the problem besetting him.

The CCF will do everything in its power to enable the farmer to own and operate his own farm free from fear of ruinous prices. The CCF will give him every assistance to improve his standard of living by means of improved machinery and methods of production and by means of co-operative selling and buying. A vote for the CCF is a vote for the more abundant life on the land.

# CO-OPERATIVE COMMONWEALTH FEDERATION

ONTARIO



SECTION

