

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

Mr. Aberhart worked in close co-operation with the Social Credit Board from its inception and especially after the Powell-Unwin episode and the return of Mr. Powell to Great Britain. He worked very closely with Mr. L. D. Byrne, in whom he had the greatest confidence.

As a result of his experience with the legislation just summarized, he was keenly aware of the need for carrying the Social Credit message across Canada and to this end he devoted countless hours of work and planning. He made sure the Social Credit story, together with the government's achievements on the home front were kept constantly before the Alberta public. In addition to his own government radio broadcasts, all members of the Social Credit Board travelled throughout the length and breadth of Alberta holding public meetings afternoons and evenings at least five days a week. To ensure that Board members were telling the identical stories and answering public queries in the same way, many hours were spent in the preparation of lectures and at the same time hypothetical questions which might be expected from the public were devised and appropriate answers were given. Every member of the Social Credit Board was in close touch with Mr. Byrne and Mr. Aberhart at all times and the annual Social Credit Board reports attest to the volume of work done.

Members constantly devised means of making their lectures more effective and different methods of presenting the government story were tried and successfully carried out. Charts containing pictures and statistics were prepared and used at each meeting as visual aids. A series of lantern slides, most of which were in color, was prepared and each member of the Board carried with him a slide projector which he used at every opportunity. We must remember that in those days Alberta, in common with every other province, was woefully short of electricity anywhere but in the larger towns and cities. One of the Board members, Mr. Floyd Baker, conceived the ingenious idea of mounting a one hundred and ten volt generator in the back of his vehicle and of visiting as many rural community halls as possible where, with the aid of his plant he gave his illustrated lecture and supplied light for the hall which otherwise had only the facilities of a Coleman gas lamp or, worse still, a couple of kerosene lamps.

After one year's experience, a new bill, the Act to Provide the Realization of the Social Credit of Alberta, governing the activities of the Social Credit Board and outlining its powers, was introduced into the Legislature and became law on March 31, 1938.

It was at this time that I replaced Mr. Selmer Berg, who, for business and health reasons, had found it necessary to retire from the work of the Social Credit Board. As compensation, the members of the Board received a subsistence allowance of eight dollars per day, together with seven cents per mile for the use of their cars when travelling out of Edmonton. While, naturally, living costs were much lower in those days, it was, nevertheless, necessary for members to economize in every conceivable way to make ends meet. We all took full advantage of the generosity of friends throughout the country who quite frequently supplied us with a meal or a bed, or both. So far as I was concerned, I carried with me during the summer months a combination folding canvas bed and tent and many a night I spent under the stars alongside a road or in some farmer's field. On more than one occasion I wondered whether this type of sacrifice would result in the benefits we, as Board members, as a government, and as a Social Credit movement, hoped to bring to the people of Alberta. While each member of the Board tried to spend some time at home, it was not unusual for a period of two or three weeks to elapse between visits with his family. None but people dedicated to a cause would choose such a program for himself. In retrospect I would do it again if need be, and hope that my sacrifice would benefit mankind.

In those days the government offices were open on Saturday mornings and it was usual for the members of the Board to meet with Mr. Aberhart during Saturday morning to report to him what each had encountered in his travels the previous week.

My first mission was a series of meetings in southern Alberta, ten in all, starting on Monday afternoon and ending on Friday night. It was on the following Saturday morning that I learned one of the secrets of the Aberhart success. I found him to be meticulous so far as detail was concerned, to such a degree that I have never seen in any other person, before or since. He kept in close contact with key men of the Social Credit movement throughout the Province and undertook to write to them or phone them asking them to arrange for our meetings and to do their best to see that the Board members' meetings were well attended. He likewise checked with the Board members concerning the number of people who attended the meetings, the type of questions asked and the general feeling of the people toward the government. If criticism were voiced on any government program, he wanted to know from us the nature of the criticism and in every case made notes for his own purposes.

The Social Credit Board was unmercifully attacked by all those who opposed the Aberhart government; and though the total vote for the work of the Board was pitifully small, seldom exceeding one cent out of every government dollar expended, that same vote was always good for three days of haggling on the part of the opposition in the Legislature and the expenditure of every cent was almost viciously scrutinized, analysed and criticized and always condemned. When out in the country speaking, the Board members were looked upon as the mouthpieces of William Aberhart and we had become well aware that in the audience there was often someone gathering information for the benefit of the Aberhart opponents. He warned us time and again to be extremely careful in our utterances and to be aware of the various traps that might be set to embarrass the government. The press, always annoyed at the passing of "The Act to Ensure Publication of Accurate News and Information", referred to by them as the press muzzling act, was naturally anxious to criticize the work of the Social Credit Board at every opportunity and we well knew that even the slightest slip of the tongue could be reported in such a way as to convey the worst possible impression.

One such circumstance occurred when I addressed a meeting in Drayton Valley, a meeting which was reported in the *Edmonton Journal* on November 7, 1941. Under the caption "Says war bonds don't help war" appeared the following:

"Special to the *Journal*. Drayton Valley, November 7: Value of buying war bonds as a means of helping the war effort was questioned by A. J. Hooke, M.L.A. for Rocky Mountain House at a meeting here Monday. He claimed that instead, it was playing into the hands of financiers. Mrs. R. E. Wood, M.L.A. for Stony Plain, was also a speaker. She said she had been told by two American lawyers in the East that the Alberta Government is 'taking the right step in monetary reform.'" Between the Monday meeting and my reporting to Mr. Aberhart on the following Saturday morning, he had naturally been questioned by the press concerning the statement. I had not seen the newspaper report until he showed it to me and he immediately asked me what my explanation was. I explained to him that during the question period a man had risen to his feet and held up a poster upon which appeared the words: "Buy bonds and win the war." The question to me was: Suppose the public does not respond and does not buy bonds. Does this mean the war will be lost? I explained in my answer how the war was actually being financed—that the government sold bonds directly to the banking institutions, as well as to the public, and pointed out that whether people bought bonds or not, the money would still be forthcoming for the prosecution of the war. The purchase by the public of a bond gave the buyer a share in the national debt, and thus tended to lessen any opposition he had to the debt creating system under which governments operate. I referred also to statements made by the Minister of Finance regarding the necessity of fighting inflation and his assurance that the purchase of a bond by an individual was one means of accomplishing it and therefore an act of patriotism. With this explanation he was

entirely satisfied and recalled that this had been one of our hypothetical questions and that my reply was completely in keeping with the answer that had been agreed upon as the one which was completely in keeping with Social Credit thought.

When Mr. Aberhart realized that his government would not be permitted to control the credit of the Province in accordance with the legislation that had already been passed and later disallowed, other means of accomplishing, at least to some degree, a measure of control of the issuance of credit were sought. Here again the Cabinet, the Social Credit Board and Mr. Byrne, working in complete harmony, developed the Treasury Branch system.

The act which established the Treasury Branches in 1938 was subjected to a rough passage through the Legislature but was assented to by His Honor the Lieutenant Governor without question. No effort was made by anyone to challenge its validity in Court, nor was it disallowed by the Federal government. Accordingly, the first Treasury Branch opened on September 29, 1938 in Rocky Mountain House and on September 30th branches were opened in Andrew, Edmonton, Grande Prairie, Killam and St. Paul. Others followed later in the fall.

The public was encouraged to make deposits of cash in the Treasury Branches in exactly the same way as they would in a bank. A campaign was carried on by the Social Credit Board encouraging the purchase of Alberta-made goods. The slogan "What Alberta makes, makes Alberta", was adopted, copyrighted and widely publicized. Alberta manufacturers were contacted and their support of the Treasury Branch system solicited. The two-fold objective in mind was the development of Alberta-made goods and the acceptance of the Treasury Branch system. This constituted what was known as the "Interim Program", the first step toward the complete control of Alberta's credit.

In order not to contravene the Bank Act, customers of the Treasury Branch paid for their purchases in non-negotiable transfer vouchers. On each voucher was a space for noting the amount of Alberta-made goods or other goods for which the voucher was tendered. While in most respects the voucher was similar to a cheque, a recipient could not endorse it and circulate it, but had to deposit it to his own account and write his own voucher in the same way. To encourage the use of the voucher, the Treasury Branch credited a bonus to the account of every customer whose vouchers indicated that he had purchased Alberta-made goods.

Once again, violent opposition was shown on the part of chambers of commerce, big business, banks and other financial institutions generally, as campaigns were organized to discourage the use by anyone of the transfer vouchers. Again members of the Social Credit Board toured the Province, speaking at public meetings in the evening to explain the Treasury Branch program, while visiting various places of business during the day, endeavoring to solicit the co-operation of business managers in signing an agreement with the Treasury Branches, not only for their own benefit, but for the benefit of their customers.

Members of the Social Credit Board were encouraged to exercise their own ingenuity and devise a method which seemed to suit them best in "getting the story across." Here again the work of Mr. Floyd Baker is worthy of note. With his friend, Mr. Alfred Blyth, a prominent Edmonton photographer, he sought out the many small Alberta factories then coming into existence, and, in many cases, struggling for survival. Mr. Blyth made sixteen millimetre motion pictures of these industries, while Mr. Baker secured at each plant a number of samples of their products. Loading his large vehicle with these products, his generator, his motion picture projector and his films, he travelled into every constituency of Alberta, even reaching the farthest settlement in the vast Peace River country. In many instances the people who came to his meetings saw both motion pictures and electric lights for the first time.

Floyd always maintained that in following his trade as a tinsmith and hardware merchant he had never tried to master the art of public speaking and he always "showed" the people what he had for sale. This idea he carried over into his Social Credit Board work and certainly the results he obtained were excellent. His name became a by-word throughout the province and was synonymous with "Alberta made goods." Later on he added as an extra attraction comic strip films for the youngsters and films of the Calgary Stampede and other noted events in Alberta as a means of entertainment and of assisting the travel industry.

Floyd Baker sat in the Legislature as a member for the Clover Bar constituency continuously from August 22nd, 1935 until his voluntary retirement from active political life in 1967. At the time of this writing, although eighty years of age on December first next, he and Mrs. Baker, who also has always been an active worker for the Social Credit cause, are still as busy as ever organizing for the next provincial election.

It became my responsibility to organize the City of Calgary, with the assistance of the Calgary Social Credit members of the Legislature and officials of the many Social Credit groups who all volunteered their services. I spent the first three days of the week schooling these people who were prepared to visit merchants in their own areas in the City, following which we dispersed to make as many contacts as possible during Thursday and Friday. We met on Friday evening and reported our results, following which I was able at the public meeting that night to list to the audience the names of the merchants who had signed contracts of co-operation. They numbered about fifty in all. Most of these were small neighborhood merchants and we knew that in order for the program to be really effective, it would be necessary to have at least one or two large retail stores co-operating. I visited many, only to be told, sometimes politely and other times not so politely, that the store had no interest whatever in assisting any program devised by the Social Credit government. However, we continued to meet regularly in the evenings and to report what we had been able to accomplish during the day.

We made every effort to publicize the benefits of the program and to make known to Calgarians the names of the stores which would take Treasury Branch vouchers. Before long, some of these same merchants, who were members of the chamber of commerce, made it known that they were having no difficulty, that they were finding the government to be most co-operative and that they were also noticing new customers coming to their places of business, as a result of their co-operation. In the same manner, other businessmen became aware of what amounted to a boycott, when customers refused to buy if the owner refused a voucher. In due course the larger concerns came into the program.

I recall vividly the case of a large Calgary furniture store which had sold on time payments a houseful of new furniture to a personal friend of mine living in Rocky Mountain House. Mr. Ernest Ross, the purchaser, in addition to being a well known and highly respected businessman in the Town, was a strong supporter of the Social Credit cause and one of the first customers of the Treasury Branch. A Treasury Branch had by this time been opened in Calgary, so Mr. Ross submitted a Treasury Branch voucher to the furniture store, only to have it returned with a request for a cheque and a rather indignant statement concerning the entire Treasury Branch program. On four or five successive occasions, the Treasury Branch voucher was submitted by Mr. Ross and on each occasion his voucher was returned with the same story. In due course, however, Mr. Ross received a very kind letter from the store indicating that they had at last opened an account with the Treasury Branch and thanking him for his anticipated Treasury Branch voucher.

Instances such as this were reported time after time as the program developed.

In Edmonton, however, the situation was different in that from the outset a store large enough to set a precedent and at that time carrying a full line of groceries and dry

goods, announced that they were going to co-operate fully with the Treasury Branch program in the same way as they had with the Prosperity Certificate program earlier. Mr. Harry R. Cohen, owner of this store, the Army and Navy Department store, told many interesting stories of the numerous telephone calls he received from the businessmen in the City telling him that he was putting them on the spot and forcing their otherwise unwilling co-operation as he had done earlier.

During the regular 1938 Session, an important piece of legislation, now long forgotten, came before the Legislature. Introduced as Bill 83 entitled "An Act to vest in the Crown in the right of the Province certain Agricultural Produce and for the Relief of the Land upon which the same is produced from Assessment and Taxation" and whose short title was "The Agricultural Land Relief Act", it became popularly referred to as The Production Tax Act. The legislation introduced a new principle into taxation of farm lands. During the "hungry thirties" farmers by the hundreds had been unable to pay taxes. Even when crops were reasonably good, the farmers' total income was less than the cost of production. Taxes were often the last thing to be paid.

In the new legislation the theory was established that a bushel of wheat, whether bringing on the market two dollars or only thirty-five cents, is still just one bushel of wheat and represents to the farmer the same amount of effort in each case.

A table prepared by the Department of Municipal Affairs before this legislation was drafted, showed that while in 1926 16.9% of the wheat crop was required to pay twenty millions of dollars of interest payments on farm debt, 43.4 % of the wheat crop was required in 1933 to pay the same amount, even though the total yield in 1933 was considerably greater than in 1926. Another table prepared from the records showed that while the per capita tax collection in rural municipalities was as low as \$12.30, the per capita arrears of taxes were as high as \$155.53.

The legislation recognizing these facts stated that the tax upon the farmer should be a percentage of his production delivered to the grain elevator or other receiving agent, depending upon the type of the produce, as the act pertained to poultry and livestock sales, as well. Another feature introduced into the legislation was that of crop insurance. From taxation statistics and production statistics, it was evident that a levy of between three and four per cent upon gross production would pay the taxes of that day and that a total of seven per cent of production would cover taxation and at the same time guarantee to the farmer complete coverage against crop losses.

Provision was made in the legislation to place it before the courts for a decision before bringing it into operation.

This new departure guaranteed to the municipalities that there could never be such a thing as tax arrears and no more need for land assessment with its attendant costs, while guaranteeing to the farmer that he could never lose his land for non-payment of taxes and that he could always be assured of the return to him of at least the cost of production.

As soon as the Session had ended, the Social Credit Board summarized the important features of all the legislation passed and supplied such summary to the members of the Legislature, government and opposition alike, in order that factual information could readily be provided to the general public. The farming population everywhere was extremely anxious to hear the full explanation, especially of the Production Tax Act and a member could be assured at all times of a hall filled to capacity.

In the spring of 1938 the Social Credit organization of Saskatchewan invited Mr. Aberhart to take part in the general election campaign in that province, which was to take place in June. Mr. Aberhart assured them of his co-operation and accordingly the Alberta Social Credit members were assigned to various areas in Saskatchewan to

assist the local candidates. I was assigned to an area around Meadow Lake, after which I was to join Mr. Solon Low in campaigning in the two major cities of Regina and Saskatoon.

The government of the day in Saskatchewan was a Liberal Government under the premiership of the Honorable William Patterson. It seemed that the billboards in every town had been utilized by the Liberal party, as so many of them bore the message "Carry on, Billy Patterson." A few, however, anticipating the campaign which would be carried on by the members of the Alberta Legislature, depicted the Social Credit programs of Alberta in as ridiculous a manner as possible. One which repeated itself over and over attacked the Production Tax Act and showed a farm wife standing at the counter of a grocery store endeavoring to sell a dozen eggs to the storekeeper. Standing behind her, however, in the cartoon was a caricature of Mr. Aberhart reaching into the basket which displayed a dozen eggs, while the caption stated: "Pardon me, lady. Seven of these belong to me."

My first meeting was held a few miles out of Meadow Lake in a rural hall and while the hall was well filled, it was obvious to me that the majority of my listeners were anything but Social Crediters. The meeting, however, was orderly and the question period was such that I was naive enough to believe I had convinced a goodly number of people to vote for the Social Credit candidate.

Following the meeting, I approached my car, which, incidentally, I had purchased new in Edmonton only two days before, and found one front tire to be flat. Upon further examination I found four flat tires and, to add insult to injury, the valve had been removed from the valve stems. A number of people, including the candidate, apologized, but all departed, leaving me to my fate. There was little I could do until daylight, so I sat in the car and dozed until the early rays of the sun made it possible for me to find the valves, which in each case had been thrown a few feet from the car into the grass. After pumping up the four tires, I headed for the nearest town, but I had not gone more than four or five miles before the motor began to knock unmercifully. When I arrived at the nearest garage, the mechanic gave me the bad news. Apparently the spark plugs had been removed and grinding compound had been applied to each cylinder. After he had drained the oil and flushed out the motor, I purchased five gallons of the heaviest oil he possessed and returned to Edmonton, stopping every few miles to add another quart. The experience cost me a new motor.

Returning to Saskatchewan to join Mr. Low, I learned of the meetings which had been held by Mr. Aberhart in which a group of professional rowdies, reputed to be from Calgary, and imported by the opposition, had attempted to break up his meetings and actually threatened him with bodily harm. In the same way, some of these trouble-makers showed up at our meetings, also, announcing they were from Alberta and endeavoring to convince the Saskatchewan audiences that we were misrepresenting the facts pertaining to Alberta's legislation. Despite the fact, however, that many of the meetings were plagued by these trouble-makers, the consensus was that the vast majority of those in attendance were sympathetic to the program we espoused.

I was billed to speak alone in the City of Moose Jaw the night before the election where two Moose Jaw businessmen, one a lawyer, Mr. J. W. Corman, and the other a theatre owner, Mr. W. J. Passmore, represented the Social Credit forces. Never in my long political career have I addressed a meeting in which the co-operation and applause of the audience was greater. The school auditorium could not contain the crowd and loud speakers had been placed in appropriate positions around the school so that those parked in their cars in the school yard could readily hear the speeches. Not one single interruption occurred but on numerous occasions it became necessary to pause for the applause and horn honking to subside. The meeting being over, I was lifted bodily from the platform and carried on the shoulders of two Social Credit stalwarts, while the audience applause was still deafening.

This was my first campaign following our own 1935 election and as I drove home on election day, I looked forward gleefully in my political inexperience to the election results I expected to hear that evening. I felt sure that so far as Moose Jaw was concerned, two Social Crediters would be elected by a landslide. I soon found, however, how wrong one can be, when the radio that evening announced the results, showing the Moose Jaw Social Credit candidates trailing badly. It seemed the people of Saskatchewan were not ready for a change and had taken the numerous posters seriously and Billy Patterson was again given a mandate "to carry on."

Meanwhile, in Alberta the opposition to the Aberhart regime was reaching gigantic proportions. Every piece of legislation which had been passed to assist the common man was being attacked with increasing ferocity and an advertising and broadcasting program sponsored by the chartered banks of Canada was read in daily papers and listened to over most radio stations. An example of such advertising appears elsewhere in the book.

It was interesting to me to note when the Honourable T. C. Douglas led the C.C.F. forces to victory in Saskatchewan in 1944, that the lawyer, Mr. J. W. Corman, for whom I had campaigned and who in the interim had apparently become a Socialist, captured a seat in Moose Jaw for the C.C.F. and became Attorney General.

The meeting I recall most vividly in Alberta was one held in the City of Red Deer under the chairmanship of the late Major Horace Meeres, a well-known and highly respected old timer of that district and an ardent worker in the Social Credit cause. Major Meeres had reported to me, as the member for that district, that he was sure the turn-out would be so great that only the covered skating rink could hold the crowd. The rink was secured, advertising done, and Mr. Aberhart and I were billed as the speakers. Prior to the meeting, Major Meeres had been told that a group of rabble rousers from Calgary, who had followed Mr. Aberhart's meetings in Saskatchewan, was being brought in by a number of prominent Red Deer citizens to upset this meeting also.

I received a phone call during the afternoon from the Honourable Solon Low stating that Mr. Aberhart was ill and was going to Calgary to see his doctor and that he, Solon Low, would be speaking with me at the meeting. I told him of the anticipated trouble, following which he conveyed the same information to the R.C.M.P. and upon our arrival at the skating rink, which certainly was filled to overflowing, we were greeted at the door by two red-coated officers and assured that everything would be done to maintain order.

One of my close friends from Red Deer, a man built almost to the proportions of Muhammad Ali, assured me that he would be sitting close to the front and if trouble started anywhere near him he'd put a stop to it in a hurry.

The professional rabble rousers, aided by a number of locals who were anticipating plenty of excitement had spotted themselves around the audience in such a way that trouble could start all over the rink simultaneously. Before any of us reached the platform, people were calling from all parts of the audience: "Where's Aberhart? Where's Aberhart? We want Aberhart." However, the meeting opened in an orderly way and everyone listened to the short introduction by Major Meeres. In my opening remarks, however, I explained that Mr. Aberhart was ill and had gone to Calgary to see his doctor, whereupon bedlam broke loose. People were standing all over the hall screaming back and forth at each other, the agitators calling Mr. Aberhart a coward—and far worse—while supporters just as loudly screamed in his defence, threatening what they would do if the agitators did not permit the meeting to continue.

About the time a measure of calm had been restored some fellow rushed in the side door announcing that the train to Calgary had just stopped in Red Deer and that Mr. Aberhart, who was aboard, had talked to him out the window. This information almost

caused a riot, the agitators claiming that if Mr. Aberhart were in Red Deer at the moment, surely he could have attended the meeting. Fist fights commenced all over the rink. A few minutes later I tried to speak again, when suddenly a man sitting close to the front arose and threw an object the size of a baseball directly at me. I stepped to one side just in time to be covered with shattering glass, as the light over my head was smashed to smithereens.

Mr. Low then endeavored to restore order, but it was obvious that the opposition by this time was sufficiently numerous and strong that even the police who had intervened and taken several people from the meeting, could not restore sufficient order for anyone to deliver an address.

Mr. Low attempted to speak and when the noise of the agitators prevented it, he shouted at the top of his voice exclaiming "What's the use of casting pearls before swine?", whereupon a tall and hefty local farmer, who, in previous meetings held by me, had attempted to cause trouble, jumped to the platform, took a swing at Mr. Low, sending his glasses across to the other side of the platform. Though Mr. Low stood about five feet four and his opponent nearly a foot taller, Low's previous record as a champion wrestler came to the forefront and knocking the challenger from the platform, jumped upon him and had him screaming for mercy in no time. I looked around for my burly friend but found that, like many others, he, too, had vacated the rink and the meeting broke up in complete disorder. Low released his victim who by this time was suffering from a hammerlock on both arms which I am sure he will always remember. As Mr. Low, Major Meeres and I left the nearly vacated premises, two friends of the wrestling victim were endeavoring to restore his arms to normal.

As we made our way to the home of friends for lunch, we overtook my friend who had offered to quell any trouble which might take place in the front row and who had become conspicuous by his absence as soon as the trouble started. He assured us that the reason for his sudden departure from the hall was that he was in hot pursuit of one of the trouble-makers. We likewise assured him we believed his story so he, too, accepted the hospitality of our friends at tea.

1938

CHAPTER THREE

An Act to Provide the Realization of the Social Credit of Alberta.

(Assented to March 31, 1938.)

HIS MAJESTY, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Alberta, enacts as follows:

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| <p>1. This Act may be cited as "<i>The Alberta Social Credit Realization Act.</i>"</p> <p>Short Title</p> | <p>Short title</p> <p>Definitions</p> |
| <p>2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—</p> <p>Definitions</p> <p>(a) "Board" means The Social Credit Board constituted by this Act; "</p> <p>'Board'</p> <p>(b) "Minister" means the Minister of Trade" and Industry;</p> <p>'Minister'</p> <p>(c) "Policy" means specifications of objectives "or results;</p> | <p>"Board"</p> <p>"Minister"</p> <p>"Policy"</p> <p>"Social Credit"</p> <p>Administration of Act</p> |

'Policy'

(d) "Social Credit" means the power resulting from the belief inherent within society that its individual members in association can gain the objective they desire.

3. The Minister is hereby charged with the general administration of this Act.

4. (1) There is hereby constituted a Board to be known as "The Social Credit Board" which shall consist of the following members of the Legislative Assembly, namely, G. L. MacLachlan, M.L.A.; F. M. Baker, M.L.A.; Dr. J. L. McPherson, M.L.A.; W. E. Hayes, M.L.A., and A.J. Hooke, M.L.A., of whom the first named shall be the Chairman.

Constitution
of Board

(2) In case any vacancy occurs in the membership of the Board, the remaining members shall constitute the Board.

5. The Board is hereby authorized and empowered to devise ways and means for the evaluation, conservation, enhancement, advancement and realization of the social credit of the People of the Province, and without in any way derogating from the generality of the foregoing, the Board is empowered,—

Powers and
functions of
Board

(a) to consider, formulate and adopt policies and measures and for that purpose to make such enquiries and investigations as the Board may deem necessary or desirable, and to recommend to the Lieutenant Governor in Council the adoption of such policies and measures as to the Board seems from time to time to be advisable;

(b) to formulate and with the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council to adopt and carry out such measures as the Board from time to time considers advisable for the purpose of affording to the people of the Province authoritative information as to any policy adopted by the Board and as to the measures being taken for the realization of any such policy;

(c) to formulate and with the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council to adopt and carry out such measures as appear to the Board to be advisable for the purpose of counteracting any action or influence likely to impair or jeopardize the social credit of the Province or any policy or measures adopted for the realization of the social credit of the people of the Province or the realization of such Social Credit;

Quorum of
Board

(d) with the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council to enter into agreements for the use of any facilities for the public distribution of information or instruction required by the Board for the purpose of informing or educating the people of the Province as to any policy of the Board or any matter or thing relating or incidental thereto;

Appointment of
secretary and
keeping of
records of
Boards

(e) to seek for and obtain advice and assistance from any person in any place in relation to the exercise by the Board of any of the powers and duties conferred or imposed by this Act upon the Board, and for that purpose with the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, to make such journeys as may be necessary;

Delegation by
Board of
powers and
duties to any
member or
members

(f) with the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council to appoint such technicians, special examiners, statisticians, clerks and other employees as may be required by the Board from time to time for the proper exercise of its powers and duties and to fix the remuneration and prescribe the duties of any person so appointed;

(g) to make such rules and regulations as to the manner in which the business and affairs shall be conducted, and as to the manner in which persons employed by the Board shall discharge their duties and functions.

6. A quorum of the Board shall be three members thereof.

7. The Board shall keep records of all its business and transactions and for that purpose shall appoint a secretary, who may or may not be a member of the Board.

8. The Board may by resolution from time to time, delegate to any member or members thereof designated therein, any power or duty by this Act conferred upon the Board specified therein, and may by resolution cancel such delegation; and so long as such delegation remains uncanceled the member or members so designated shall in respect of such specified powers and duties have the same powers as the Board, provided always that each such member shall whenever required by the Board and in any event before the tenth day of January in each year, make a report in writing as to all things done by him in the exercise of any power so delegated to him.

Chairman the chief executive officer

Vice-chairman

9. The Chairman shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Board and shall have the general supervision of the activities of the Board.

The Chairman to preside at meetings

10. The Board shall from time to time appoint one of its members as the Vice-chairman thereof and the Vice-chairman shall, in the absence of the Chairman or if any vacancy occurs in the office of Chairman, have and exercise all the powers and duties by this Act conferred upon the Chairman.

The Board a committee for the purpose of Section 14 of The Legislative Assembly Act

11. The Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the Board and shall sign all minutes of the proceedings at all Board meetings.

Powers of enquiry

12. The Board shall, for all purposes of section 14 of *The Legislative Assembly Act*, be deemed to be a committee appointed by the Legislative Assembly and as such entitled to receive such sums for travelling expenses and subsistence as the member of a committee so appointed is entitled to receive under the said section.

Defrayal of expenditures

13. For the purpose of making any enquiry which the Board is authorized by this Act to make, the Board and any member of the Board authorized by the Board to make any such enquiry, shall have the same power to take evidence on oath and to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents as may be conferred upon a commissioner appointed pursuant to *The Public Enquiries Act*.

Employees of Board in relation to "The Public Service Act"

14. The expenditures incurred by the Board pursuant to this Act shall be paid out of such sums as may be from time to time appropriated by vote of the Legislative Assembly for that purpose and all vouchers for the payment of such expenditures shall be certified by the Chairman.

15. All employees of the Board other than temporary employees shall be deemed to be employees as defined by and for all purposes of *The Public Service Act* and *The Superannuation Act* and shall be subject to and entitled to all the benefits of the provisions of the last mentioned Act.

Prevalence of Act

16. In any case where conflict arises between any provision of this Act and any provisions of any other Act of the Province, the provisions of this Act shall prevail.

Construction of Act

17. NO provision of this Act shall be so construed as to authorize the doing of any act or thing which is not within the legislative competence of the Legislature of the Province.

Annual report by Board

18. The board shall immediately after the end of each year prepare and adopt a

Coming into force of Act

report as to the activities of the Board during that year and the Chairman shall submit such report to the Legislative Assembly at the Session thereof held in the year next after the year to which the report relates, during such Session.

19. This Act shall come into force on the day upon which it is assented to.