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Douglas Accepts Alberta Call To Advise Government

ACCEPTS INVITATION



MAJOR C. H. DOUGLAS

Founder of Social Credit scheme and noted British economist, Major C. H. Douglas has accepted invitation to come to Alberta and act as the "reconstruction adviser." Terms are now being discussed.

Negotiations *ALBERTAN* On Terms Are *FEB 22, 1935* Going Ahead

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ACCEPTANCE OF INVITATION COMES AT TIME WHEN INTEREST IS GREAT IN SOCIAL CREDIT AFFAIRS; ABERHART STATED PLAN RECONCILABLE

Major C. H. Douglas, founder of social credit scheme, will come to Alberta as "reconstruction adviser" to the United Farmers of Alberta government.

Announcement was made to this effect at the Calgary headquarters of the U.F.A. Thursday, officials stating negotiations as to terms were now proceeding between the government and Major Douglas, in England. The probable date of his arrival is unknown.

UNUSUAL INTEREST EVIDENT AT MOMENT

Statement regarding the visit of the noted economist came at a time when unusual interest had been aroused in social credit affairs in Calgary, through statement by William Aberhart, prominent advocate of social credit, that proposals as outlined by himself throughout the province, were reconcilable with those of Major Douglas. General impression had been that the proposals of the two differed widely, but in an article in The Albertan Thursday morning, Mr. Aberhart said he hoped publication of his views would clear away suspicion there was a broad, irreconcilable gulf between the principles of Major Douglas and his own.

The Aberhart statement was of particular interest to the United Farmers of Alberta for, at the January convention of the organization, endorsement of the Aberhart proposals was denied, while resolution asking Major Douglas be invited to Alberta was approved.

Norman F. Priestley, vice-president of the U.F.A., discussed particularly Mr. Aberhart's statement in the article in regard to the basic dividend of \$25 a month to every adult in Alberta. Mr. Aberhart stated "we have consistently affirmed these figures are

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NEGOTIATIONS

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merely used for illustration purposes and were not intended to be construed as a binding declaration."

"Mr. Aberhart certainly left the definite impression food, clothing and shelter and a suggested sum would be available to the people of Alberta in the event of approval of his proposals", Mr. Priestley stated. "This suggested sum in the case of a family with grown children, particularly on a farm, meant a degree of opulence. For instance, it meant \$50 monthly for a couple and \$25 for each child over 21 years of age. This meant that in a large number of Alberta farm homes, the income under the plan as proposed by Mr. Aberhart would be from \$100 to \$150."

Mr. Priestley recalled one case which had been cited as an example. It was a family in which there were five children. The five children had been able to secure work away from home, but with the coming of the depression had been forced to return to their parents. Under the Aberhart plan the family would have received \$125 a month, and Mr. Priestley said it was difficult to understand how such a system could be economically arranged in a area like Alberta which is not economically self-sustaining, having no control over fiscal and financial policy.

"It is evident", Mr. Priestley declared, "Mr. Aberhart is paving the way for the thought that the \$25 a month he has mentioned is not assured."

The Alberta Provincial Douglas Social Credit association which had prepared a comparison between the Douglas and Aberhart proposals expressed keen interest in the article by Mr. Aberhart. His statements discussed the four main differences noted by the association between the views of the two leaders.

the two leaders.

United Farmer officials said it was apparent from the cable received by Premier R. G. Reid from Major Douglas the economist sought to have himself known as a "reconstruction adviser" during his visit to Alberta, as a differentiation from any such position as financial adviser, which is usually understood to mean a chief interest in bond issues and other financial matters.

RESOLUTION APPROVED

The resolution passed at the U.F.A. convention, which was followed by a request in the legislature that an invitation be sent to Major Douglas, was as follows:

"Whereas there is a growth of sentiment in the province, favorable to the introduction and establishment of social credit principles, and

"Whereas, Major C. H. Douglas is the originator of, and foremost authority upon the system of social credit,

"Be it resolved, that this convention request the provincial government to engage Major Douglas as consulting engineer in the matter of financial reform, and that as such, he shall be required to:

"(A) advise the government to what extent his proposals are practical within the provincial jurisdiction; what helpful initiary steps therein be established; these proposals to be submitted to the government for their consideration and not to be regarded as obligatory of acceptance without full examination.

"(B) prepare plans for consideration with a view to the possibility of their introduction in the federal parliament."