

a political party is, and why parties are all-important in politics. You sometimes hear people say that they have no use for the old political parties. If by that they mean they have become disgusted with those into whose hands the control of a political party may have fallen, or have become disgusted with the degree to which a party itself may have fallen from its principles, there is something to be said for denunciation of the kind. If, however, what is meant is that they do not believe in the wisdom of having traditional or historic parties corresponding to the attitudes or types of mind and heart to which I have just referred, then, people who speak in this way are talking of something of the meaning or value of which they know very little.

A political party is not an end in itself. It is a means, and a very necessary means to an end. It is the means by which men and women who feel and think alike on the great principles which should govern in the administration of a country's affairs, are able to make their views prevail in a practical way. Members of a government merely as such can achieve little in the realm of politics. In matters of government, as nowhere else, co-operation among those who feel and think alike is essential.

In this regard, the Liberal party, from the very nature of its predominating characteristic, is always at a disadvantage compared to its great opponent. There are many things

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

Speeches-1922 - 1932

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA