

merce, but actually controlled the Government which in the first instance created them, and the Government, entrenched behind such a powerful influence, also became possessed with the idea, like the old kings, that they had a divine right to rule. But, fortunately for this country, they discovered on the 23rd of last June that whatever may have been their right to rule, they had no right to ruin; and even after the people had pronounced against the Government, after they had expressed their want of confidence in them, those gentlemen clung to office and gave an exhibition of lust for power which, whether constitutional or not, was certainly most indecent.

But in all these matters, as you know, the people finally rule; the rights of the people are finally triumphant, and it was not surprising that the hon. leader of the Opposition, like a certain other Charles, who history tells us, was very fond of official abuse and dictatorial methods, had to bow his head to an indignant and outraged public. On the 23rd of June last the people of this country most unmistakably declared their discontent and dissatisfaction at the condition of the country, and expressed a desire for a change. Sir, that change has come about; and it seems to me that the people on that occasion commissioned the new Government to inaugurate a new administration of affairs in this country—to tear down those monopolies which were in possession of rights belonging to the people, and to broaden out the opportunities for wealth, so that there would be brought about an era of more general prosperity throughout the country. That, Sir, I take it, is the work of the Liberal Government to-day. For what is liberalism if it is not relentless opposition to all class privileges—if it is not the spirit that declares every man to have an equal right to common opportunities at the hand of the state? That is the liberalism wanted in Canada to-day. That is the liberalism which makes a democracy possible, and which alone can make a democracy great. We want more of that kind of liberalism, that justice to humanity, which was celebrated by the young Scottish ploughman when he sang:

“A man's a man for a' that.”

It is pleasing, therefore, to find in the Speech from the Throne an assurance that this new Administration realizes the importance of recognizing the interests and rights of the great mass of the people. With respect to the tariff, they give us an assurance that so far as it operates at present as a burden on the people, they are prepared materially to lighten that burden. It is pleasing and reassuring to see that they realize the existing condition of affairs; because, while we on this side of the House are not socialists, while we do not wear red shirts nor carry daggers, yet we do see that the conditions of society at the present day are becoming

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strained, and relief must be given to those who are suffering from an enforced condition of poverty in our country, and if this relief is not forthcoming from these legislative halls, it will be enacted in the streets.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. McINNES. Hon. gentlemen laugh; but, Sir, it appears to me that those who laugh most at that statement fail most to recognize the existing condition of affairs; for justice is crying out for a redress of the grievances which are felt in every city and home in this country, and that cry can no longer be withstood or ignored.

There is another assurance in the Speech from the Throne with respect to the trade question, and that is, that a searching inquiry will be made into the question. That shows that the Government, while intending to do justice to one section of the community, have not the slightest intention of doing injustice to any other section of the community. This announcement in the Speech from the Throne must be reassuring to the business people of Canada; but, Sir, while it is true that the business people of the country have every right to receive consideration, and while their rights and interests are in a sense vested and must be respected, I hope the fact will not be lost sight of that there are other rights and interests in this country which are just as vested, but which have not been respected in the past. There are other rights just as strongly based upon the principle of justice as any rights that can be bought for a few dollars. These rights, commonly called vested, are merely speculative rights, and I hold that they have not the same importance and are not entitled to the same regard as those rights of a higher nature to which I have just alluded. So much for the tariff. I think that the assurance in the Speech from the Throne that justice will be done to all parties can be taken in the spirit in which it is meant. Justice will be done to all parties; but I hope that the Government, when dealing with a revision of the tariff, will see that so far as the tariff affords any protection at all, that protection will be afforded to those who most need protection.

The Speech from the Throne then deals with the Manitoba school question and gives the assurance that before next session this question will in all probability be settled. That must come as a great relief to all classes in the community. Sir, it is gratifying to notice that the present Administration are pursuing the same policy which they so earnestly advocated while in opposition; and when giving the assurance that they are likely to succeed in settling this matter, it was scarcely necessary for them to breathe into that Speech from the Throne the spirit of conciliation, because conciliation is the only method by which questions of this kind can be settled. The Speech from the Throne does not declare along