

PRINCIPLES AND PARTY

WHEREAS the delegates to this National Liberal Convention are assembled for the purpose of considering ways and means of solving the many serious and complex problems now affecting Canada; and

WHEREAS Liberalism recognizes that the object of government is the greatest good to the greatest number, and for that reason is founded on the rule of the majority; but while affirming the principle of majority rule as the first essential of democracy, it as strongly affirms the right of the individual to be ruled with due consideration and substantial justice by the majority, as the only means of providing for the welfare of all the people, and thereby ensuring the security and progress of the State; and

WHEREAS the history of constitutional government in Canada is the record of Liberalism as expressed in the exertions and devotion of the Liberal party during a long period of years under the successive leadership of men of the highest honor and of the greatest talent, including the outstanding figures of Hon. George Brown, and our lately deceased and deeply regretted leader, Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier; and,

WHEREAS the adoption into the constitution of Canada of the principles of representation by population; the secret ballot; the supremacy of Parliament; responsible government; liberty of the subject; the right of free speech and freedom of the press; supremacy of civil over military power except under Martial Law; the sanctity of the courts; and many others of like nature, were the work of the Liberal party, achieved in the face of the strongest opposition, from the forces of entrenched class and privilege, and as well under conditions of external danger and internal discord; and

WHEREAS the history of Canada proves that Canadian progress was never so great, nor its people so well content, as when its affairs were conducted under Liberal direction in the period from 1896-1911; and

WHEREAS in the stupendous change from war to peace conditions there is greatest need for the application of the soundest principles of government;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this Convention hereby affirms its belief that the application of Liberal principles of government as defined in and for Canada by the record and achievements of the Liberal party, offer the only adequate solution of the difficulties which now confront the country; and further expresses the belief that in greatest measure the difficulties now existing have arisen because the Union Government in the exercise of autocratic power has set aside each of those principles of constitutional liberty and right which are the only sound foundation of a modern State

SIR WILFRID LAURIEP

This Convention expresses:

Its sincere regret at the death of Sir Wilfrid Laurier

Its firm belief that, during his many years of public life, he was guided always by the spirit of ardent patriotism.

Its decided opinion that Canada would to-day be in better condition ethically and economically if he had been the head of the Canadian Government during the period of the war.

Its hope that his life will always be a source of inspiration to the Liberal party of Canada.

CONCLUDING SUGGESTIONS

(1) A resolution giving a resumé of the record of the Liberal Administration; see pages 35 to 40 (particularly page 38) of booklet entitled "General Attitude and Aim of Liberalism."

(2) A resolution condemning the Borden Union Government.

It would take too much space to publish all the resolutions etc., on the War Time Elections Act, but several are printed. It might be pointed out that the Unionist press has given the impression that only enemy aliens were disqualified, whereas the fact is that many, very many, thousands of natural-born British subjects were disfranchised or not allowed to vote (see booklet "Two Dark Blots of Shame" for history of Franchise legislation to 1917 inclusive and trends of 1917).

EVERY SUGGESTION INCLUDED

All resolutions received or to be received will be submitted to the Committee.

The foregoing contain all resolutions or resúmes thereof that have been received up to this date (July 26, 1919) from Liberal Associations or other public or organized bodies or individual developers of public discussion. They include every and any suggested line of policy that has come to hand in any sort of communication.