

Political Controversies in Canada

Time prevents me from more than touching upon the history of political controversy in our own land. It began with the struggle for parliamentary representative institutions and responsible government. In the field of constitutional development the assertion and triumph of parliamentary control, and nearly all of what we have come to understand by responsible government had been the outstanding achievement of Liberalism. In fiscal matters, Liberal policies have sought the general rather than the special interest. Our tariffs have been framed for purposes of revenue rather than for the protection of special interests. The inauguration and extension of the British preference has all been in the direction of a movement toward greater freedom of trade within the British Empire. I do not think it is possible to point to a single instance where the British preference has been increased by our opponents. What there is today of British preference is the work of the Liberal Party. By the reduction of duties on the implements of production in the great basic industries of agriculture, fishing, lumbering and mining, by other reductions which have helped to reduce the cost of living, the Liberal party has sought to keep the general interest foremost and uppermost, and the interest of any privileged class second to that of the community as a whole. Liberal policies have taken cognizance

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

Speeches-1922 - 1932

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