

government of industry is the task that lies ahead." Yes, that is the task to which Liberals must apply themselves.

Near the end of his speech, Sir Wilfrid added:

We do not look to the past, but to the future; only in that direction is the horizon for us as Liberals.

Perhaps I may be pardoned if I mention that, at the time, I had the honour of drafting the resolution on industrial policy of which Sir Wilfrid Laurier spoke as he did. I was not at that moment a member of the House of Commons, much less was I leader of my party, but, when I was again returned to parliament and ever since I have been leader of my party, whenever opportunity has offered, whether it has been through the agency of government itself, or by suggestions in other directions, I have done what I could to try to further the ideal underlying that resolution.

The hon. member for Parkdale (Mr. Spence) has just said that we did not carry out our policy when in office. May I remind him of what was done with respect to the national railways, the largest industrial enterprise in Canada? It was a Liberal administration of which I had the honour to be the head which was the first to give labour a representative on its board of directors. Never before in Canada had labour had its seat on the board of directors of a great national enterprise, in this instance, along with the Canadian Pacific Railway, the largest industrial enterprise in the country. That was carrying out this very policy, and may I say to my right hon. friend the Prime Minister, having regard to legislation which is to come before us in the house this week, that I hope, when he comes to determine the personnel of the board of trustees which he proposes shall control the policy of the Canadian National Railways, he will be able to announce that one of the trustees on that board is a representative of labour. If the trustees of that board are simply chosen from the capitalist, investing class, it may well be said that instead of modifying it we are furthering the most objectionable feature of the capitalistic system. We shall have made no progress in the further democratizing of industry in the manner I have described, namely, the substitution of a joint for a single control. I make that suggestion at the moment in the hope that when that measure comes before the house we shall be able to get the assurance that the government of the day is alive to the necessity in industry, as in all else, of seeing that all the contributing factors so far as may be possible have a voice in the direction of policy and in the control of the industry itself.

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

It has been said by some hon. members of the Progressive group that there should be a new motive in industry. May I say that I entirely agree with that? I believe that once the different groups in industry are represented in the control of industry we shall come to have a very different conception of industry generally. The conception that we have to-day is too largely that industry is primarily a source of revenue; the means whereby private gains may be reaped. There is not sufficient emphasis put upon industry being, what in fact it is, in the nature of social service. Care should be taken to emphasize more constantly that industry in its nature is essentially social service, that the man who works on the railways, the men and women who work in factories, those who have anything to do with any form of industry, are performing a great social service and merit our highest respect on that account. The man who puts his capital into industry is performing a social service, and the man who has to do with the management of industry is performing a social service, but I think we should give much more honour than we do to those who give their lives to industry, as persons performing the most necessary of social services. Too often the conception of social service is associated only with those who like ourselves are fortunate enough to be members of parliament, but ours is only one form of social service. Others in industry are equally performing social service in their every act. When this conception of industry as being in the nature of social service gains recognition, we will come to place greater emphasis on personality and relatively less emphasis on property. We will come to see that human life is more sacred than wealth, and that every policy in industry as well as in the state should be directed towards seeing that human life and personality are not in any way sacrificed to property or to wealth.

I have taken longer than I expected, Mr. Speaker, but I do not want to conclude what I have to say without recording just a few of the things for which, in seeking to meet some of the more immediate existing questions, the Liberal party stands at the present time. I am not speaking now of general principles merely, but of existing problems, and of the policies of the Liberal party with respect to them. I submit that an application of those principles and policies will go much further in helping to bring about a better condition of affairs in the country than any attempt to effect a complete revolution of the existing social order.