

*The Address—Mr. Pinard*

doctrine; unless it devotes all its energies to the defence of national ideas; it cannot survive.

It is true that other groups have been formed, even in our country, which preferred to count on opportunism or on trying to achieve power by making appeals to the weaker instincts of the masses; or who in their bid for office have resorted to promises or flattery; but inevitably such groups, after agitating public opinion for a while, have had or will have to crumble and disappear under public contempt. Ever since its origin the Liberal party has been faithful to its principles and doctrines, and has tried successfully to adapt its course of action to the continuing and changing needs of our time. Many definitions have been given by our party leaders of such principles and doctrines. All such definitions, though they may vary in terms, have expressed the same idea, for which so many Canadians in the past have been willing, and so many are still willing, to fight. Laurier, who is often referred to as the father of Canadian Liberalism, gave a sound and complete definition of Liberal principles when he stated that Liberals should pursue reforms through moderate and democratic means; that they should try to obtain an extension of the political freedom of the people, and also that they should work towards a vision of a greater independence for our people in the international community. He also admirably summed up those principles when he spoke of the superiority of Liberalism when it tries to favour, by its actions, the attainment of an easier life by a larger number.

It is through constant adaptation of such ideas to our ways of life by Liberal leaders ever since confederation that the whole legislation of our country—I refer, of course, to that legislation which is permanent, not to the transitory legislation—is imbued with Liberalism. For that reason I was pleased to realize, when reading the speech from the throne this year, that under its new Liberal leader this government intends, in carrying on its task, to apply the same principles and doctrines as they were expressed anew in the resolutions adopted by our party at its convention last August.

Under our present Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) and this government, we find in the speech from the throne that other reforms are proposed which after this session will form part of our legislation. The legislation thus enunciated is entirely in conformity with the principles already defined, and one has only to

recall some of the measures already proposed or to be proposed to realize that they are in complete accord with the ideals of Liberalism. For instance, in order to facilitate an easier life for a greater number the government has decided to introduce legislation to modify and extend the scope of the Family Allowances Act, and legislation also will be introduced to supplement the national health program which was undertaken last year. Again, in order to give Canadians greater freedom, a measure will be introduced to establish our Supreme Court of Canada as the court of last resort for this country. No doubt it was also in pursuit of this ideal of making our country more powerful, so that it may enjoy greater influence, that a few days ago we decided to sign an agreement by which Newfoundland is to become the tenth Canadian province. In 1905 two great provinces entered confederation, at a time when another great Liberal leader was at the head of government. Now our new Liberal leader welcomes another province into our midst. To add special significance to such a great venture, on both occasions it has fallen to the lot of members representing the same historic constituency of Quebec East, two Canadians of French origin—Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Louis St. Laurent—to welcome the entry of these new provinces into the Canadian confederation.

Again, following the traditions of our party and the policies advocated by former Liberal leaders, the government has expressed itself in favour of the opening of new markets and the expansion of trade. In 1911 Laurier was saying, "Our policy is advance. Our policy has been and will be to seek markets wherever markets are to be found." So I was very pleased the other day to hear the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Howe) express the same views, and state that this government will continue to try to secure new markets and new openings for our products throughout the world.

But, Mr. Speaker, if the Liberal party has always enjoyed competent leadership it is because it has constantly followed the same sound policies and has constantly defended the same doctrines. Thus I say that today the Liberal party enjoys the confidence of the whole people of Canada. During that time our Tory opponents have been satisfied to criticize, to make appeals based on opportunism, or to change from destructive criticism to electoral appeals. The reason for their constant failure in the last few years, however, has been their refusal to adopt a national policy which could represent the aspirations and ideals of every Canadian. It would appear from some of the policies they