

of 1832, championed by Grey, and which with subsequent kindred measures served to alter completely the representative character of the House of Commons. The Parliament Act of 1911 in our own day made more effective the will of the Commons by limiting in substantial particulars the power of the House of Lords. With the Parliament Act as an instrument to effect the will of the Commons we have witnessed the enactment of self-government for the people of Ireland after a struggle of forty years. In the sphere of fiscal liberty we have the historic struggle for greater freedom of trade which found its legislative expression in the Repeal of the Corn Laws, and with which the names of Peel, Cobden and Bright are immortally associated. In the sphere of industrial freedom, we have the Factory Acts, the Mining laws, and other important enactments which will be characterized nowadays as social legislation. Around each of these great reforms there were waged historic battles in which the principles of Liberalism contended with those of Conservatism. Do they not all represent a victory for the superior claim of the general interest over the particular interest, the larger rights of the community over the rights and privileges of a particular class.

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

Speeches-1922 - 1932

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA