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seek to conserve for themselves and for those who share their privileged position, the privileges and rights which are already theirs. They, in their turn, come to be known as Conservatives.

It is a deep-rooted Conservative idea that there is a superior class which may rightly, and, as they think, advantageously, exercise authority over others; the only class which, in their opinion has a right to rule. This does not mean that the gulf between the two is, in our day, as wide as that between freemen and slaves. Even Toryism has become more enlightened since the days of the Ancients. The modern equivalent, will be found, however, in the following couplet which expresses the real Tory attitude about as well as anything I know:

"God bless Squire and his relations,
And teach us all our proper stations."

The Liberal attitude in contrast to the Conservative, is based upon a belief in the general interest as being superior to any special interest, the supremacy of general interests over particular interests. It is based upon a belief in the subordination of class interests to the interests of the community. It implies that the good of all is the good of each; that in our organized social life, we are members one of another.

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

Speeches-1922 - 1932

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