

cerned, that has been passed by this parliament since confederation. I well recall, when that act was before us, how the leader of His Majesty's loyal opposition and his supporters, who smile to-day, argued that the measure was unconstitutional and should not be passed.

I could go on down the line and give many more examples, but I ask, who has the right to reform; who has the right to continue? This is no rapid change. This is no new policy. This is the continuation of a policy whose sincerity is attested by more reform measures than have been placed upon the statute books by any other government.

I have no right to anticipate what action will be taken by hon. members of this house with regard to the speech from the throne, though I have a good idea of how it will be treated. I do know, however, that there are those who sit to your left who have indicated, by interviews in the press, that they believe that this reform is coming too late. I know that there are those who ask why this did not come two or three years ago, while I am sure there are some, quite close to the leadership of the opposition, who believe it is coming too soon. I know that on the street corners throughout this country—and perhaps in parliament, because sometimes they speak more frankly on the street corners than we do in parliament—it will be said that the Conservative party has stolen the policy of the Liberal party. I know that will be said on many occasions. Well, if that ever was their policy they never followed it. I know that people throughout the Dominion of Canada, and especially the younger people, the boys and girls who are coming out of our universities, who have learned that science leads the way to the very heart of things, will ask if it is not time that science was allowed to unfold the theory of greater social justice. I know that these boys and girls, who have read the speech from the throne with interest, will read the record of the present government, and will ask their seniors to consider carefully this year, or whenever they may be called upon to consider it, whether we do not want the reform that is outlined. I know they will say that, from the national necessities that confront us, their only hope for wider opportunities for themselves and their fellow Canadians not only in the way of employment but also in the way of security against old age and illness, is through more legislative reform than we have had in the past. I know they will say that it is now their duty to take an interest in public affairs and say who is to form the government for

the future, and I feel satisfied that they will say that it is not only their duty to consider the record of the government of the day and carefully weigh their proposals for the future, but that it is also their duty to scan the record of those who seek authority. To do that I am sure they will go to the library and look up the political platforms of 1893 and 1919, but they will search in vain for any sign of social reform. After they search they will find that only two outstanding reforms in Canada can be credited to the opposition. They will find first the railway commission, which was established in 1905 for a noble purpose indeed. The Liberal party established that commission to solve a problem of their own creation; it has laboured ever since, but the problem is greater than ever. They will find that among the policies proposed in 1919 was the enactment of the famous Combines Investigation Act, and they will find that this was the only reform policy carried out from 1921 to 1930. They will know how that has worked in the interests of the common man, how it has worked to help the labouring man, how it has worked to protect us against combines and monopolies, which were organized more rapidly during those nine years than during any other twenty-five years in the history of Canada. In that time we had five hundred smaller concerns amalgamated into one hundred and twenty large concerns, many of which recently have been investigated.

I am satisfied, Mr. Speaker, that when these young people take all these points into consideration they will conclude that the government which now proposes further reform has given a clear indication of its sincerity by those measures to which I have referred, which already have been placed on the statute books.

At the same time, as I have already said, I believe there are matters in which we meet on common ground. I believe I speak for all hon. members of the house when I compliment the government on having so fittingly commemorated the landing of Jacques Cartier on this continent. That celebration recalls what an important part the members of his great race have played in the development of Canada, and it also reminds us how short a time one hundred years is in the development of a country. We realize how the old prejudices and differences of class, race and creed have been superseded by mutual understanding. We realize also that the original two great races have become, together with the other races in Canada, a solidly united force working for a common progress.