

Liberalism and Conservatism, between Reform and Abuse? And what a galaxy of dazzling names, both of ancient and of modern times, is there not inscribed upon the banners of Reform — Moses, David, Samuel, the Maccabees, the Gracci, Cincinnatus, Solon, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Bacon, Newton, Galileo, Descartes, Pasteur, Lafayette, Sydney, Russell, Hampden, Milton, Pitt, Chatham, Burke, Fox, Gladstone, Bright, Cobden, Wilberforce, Washington, Lincoln and may I not also now add Woodrow Wilson, these are but a few of those who have rendered forever illustrious the struggle for human progress and human freedom.

Nor is our own history, as you know, without its great names. There will at once come to your minds the names of Papineau, LaFontaine, Baldwin, Morin, William Lyon Mackenzie, John A. Macdonald, George Etienne Cartier and in our own times of that great champion of Canadian democracy and political freedom — Wilfrid Laurier.

It is of the work of those men, of the principles for which they fought and struggled, of the national ideals which they formulated, and of the absolute necessity of ever maintaining those ideals that I intend speaking to you to-day.

And let me say that it is extremely pleasing to see so many young Liberals present. It is they, whom I would like to especially address. I do not need to speak to Senator Dandurand, to Hon. Mr. Racine, to Hon. Walter Mitchell, to Hon. J. L. Decarie and the other veterans, many of them my seniors, who have honored us with their presence and who are conversant, far more than I am, with the questions which shall be treated. It is upon the young men — the hope of the future — that I would impress the lessons of our history and the inestimable importance of always being true, both in their thoughts and actions, to the national ideals formulated and enunciated by the founders of our great Dominion.

At the outset, Mr. Chairman, I would ask the privilege, of making an explanation and at the same time of