

which the history of our own country is more immediately identified, and to the history of British Liberalism to which the Liberalism of our own land owes not a little of its origin and inspiration, we find the contest of Liberalism versus Conservatism waged about the great charters of freedom which to-day are upheld by all political parties. To-day the Magna Charter, the Petition of Right, the Bill of Rights, the Habeas Corpus act are all looked upon as great charters of British freedom, but they represent the triumph of freedom over privilege, of liberal principles over conservative principles. In each case they represent something gained for the general interest over the special interest, something won for the larger interest of the community over the interest of a class.

Come next to the political controversies of more recent times. They relate to the struggles for the freedom of assembly, for the freedom of the press, for liberty of speech. Here again the battle was won for Liberal principles in the triumph of general against special interests, of the interests of the community against the interests of a class. Coming still nearer to the controversies in British politics which find a more immediate parallel to some of the political controversies of our own land, there present themselves to our minds at once the controversies which began with the Reform Act

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

Speeches-1922 - 1932

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA