

record merits as much praise as the contribution made by Liberal governments under his leadership towards widening the dominion of social justice in Canada. The first great measure was the Old Age Pensions Act of 1927, which now brings \$70 million of federal moneys each year to the assistance of 260,000 aged and blind Canadians. The next great Liberal measure was unemployment insurance, which now has a national reserve of \$514 million as a bulwark against temporary unemployment and gives protection to more than half of Canada's working force.

The third great measure, family allowances, followed in 1944. This was widely acclaimed, because it was the first such piece of legislation for child welfare in the western hemisphere. This was followed by the veterans' charter, under which more than \$1,500 million has been expended on re-establishment credits, on university and vocational training, rehabilitation, pensions, medical treatment and settlement on the land.

The latest great measure for social security was the national health program announced last May by Mr. Mackenzie King, which brings \$30 million or more each year to the support of provincial health programs. Very substantial annual grants are made available for public health and the training of health workers; for crippled children and the fight against tuberculosis, venereal disease, mental illness and cancer.

The measures mentioned do not exhaust the list of Liberal achievements. The simple fact is that every major federal measure for social security has been passed by a Liberal administration, and all have been sponsored by the former Prime Minister. The spirit of Mackenzie King still lives on in his successor and his associates, and Mr. King's great social objectives are still the goals of the Liberal party. The Right Honourable Louis St. Laurent, speaking to the nation by radio on December 16, said:

We will not be satisfied until, in co-operation with the provincial governments, we have achieved a national standard of social security and human welfare which assures the greatest possible measure of social justice to all Canadians.

It is not possible yet to predict what legislation will be brought down by the present government and future Liberal governments, but the lesson taught by the past is that they will not be negligent in meeting developing needs with bold and farsighted measures. The best outline for future action is contained in the platform adopted at the National Liberal Convention in August last:

The Liberal party stands for a national program of social security in collaboration with federal and provincial governments with the following objectives: useful employment for all who are willing to work, standards of nutrition and housing adequate

to ensure the health of the whole population; social insurance against privation resulting from unemployment, from disability, from ill health and from old age.

The program will include a steady extension of insurance on a contributory basis to protect all citizens from a temporary loss of income and to provide for their old age; health insurance covering medical, dental, surgical and hospital health services on a contributory basis; more equal care and opportunity for all children through family allowances; and pensions for the blind.

I have referred to the subjects mentioned in the Speech from the Throne which to me appear most important, but these do not by any means exhaust the future program, which refers to many other questions of grave importance to the progress and welfare of our nation.

In closing, may I say that while we in this honourable house review with pride the achievements of the Liberal government, we also look forward to taking part in the future in extending those policies which will make for the prosperity and well-being of the Canadian nation.

**Some Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

*(Translation):*

**Hon. Joseph Willie Comeau:** Honourable senators, it is indeed a great honour for me to second the motion so aptly presented by the previous speaker (Hon. Thomas Farquhar).

It is the first time in the history of Canada that this honour has been conferred upon a French-speaking Acadian from Nova Scotia; and I wish to thank the leader of the government for having afforded me this honour. I am conscious of the fact, however, that this choice, which honours me personally, honours all the Acadians of Nova Scotia, and even all the Acadians of the Maritime provinces.

I think he also wished to pay tribute to Canada's pioneers, as the first Frenchmen came from France to found Port-Royal, now known under the name of Annapolis.

It was the first colony founded in Canada. We Acadians, have always retained the name given it by our ancestors, and to this day we call it Port-Royal.

These first settlers must have been very clever as they have chosen for their settlement the most beautiful site in the country.

You have in Canada various organizations and numerous societies; but we have the oldest one in Canada the Société de l'Ordre du Bon Temps, which dates back to the very foundation of Acadia.

*(Text):*

I was saying in French that my ancestors must have been most intelligent people, because they selected Nova Scotia, the finest province in Canada, to settle in.