

As a result of these two forces the world had gone well enough, especially the English world, and that was his main concern. Institutions grew up. He lived in their shelter. For a thousand years, in his person and estate, they protected him against disorder at home, against invasion from without. If there is any Conservative yet living, he might comfort himself with the reflexion that during the past five years these same institutions, although strained and wrenched, have stood against the world storm.

In Canada, also, such civilization as we have is a resultant of Conservative and Liberal pull and play. The two parties were once sincere and well defined. Now they are confused, not knowing friend from foe. They have lost even the remembrance of their principles. The only vestige left to the Liberals is in the name of their leader, whereby he vaunts his ancestry from a man who took up arms against his king. To the Conservative party nothing of conservatism remains. They lost their singleness of purpose, their purity of intention, their freedom of mind, when they shackled their party to an economic theory that one element of the community must be protected at the expense of the other elements. They were led into the wilderness by business interests. They confounded the high and disinterested ethics of politics, which is the love of men, with the low and interested ethics of business which is love of gain, and the root of all political evil. From this it was an easy progress to ensuring the permanency of fictitious enterprises, to guarantee the credit of gamblers, to enter into partnership with speculators, and assume full ownership when their adventures become bankrupt. In these vagaries the Liberals were concerned or consenting, and all political order was lost.

It is only when the cause is lost that the rôle of the prophet begins, and the prophet is always prone to consider himself as a voice crying in the wilderness. When his eyes are opened he may discover that even the dead bones can be made to move, can be brought to life, and made into a living force. The Conservative idea is silent and dispersed, but it is everywhere.