

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: "Industry and Humanity" was published in 1918. I shall give my hon. friend a quotation from that work in a moment. I mention the policy respecting social security laid down at the Liberal convention of 1919 because I think hon. members will recognize at once that there is to be found the first formal statement, as a part of its programme, made by any political party in Canada with respect to social security. It will also be seen that the Liberal party, in setting forth that programme, was very, very much ahead of the times, and that it has proceeded in the implementing of the pledges it made at that time in a manner which I think must be a surprise to those who know anything about social problems and the difficulties there are in making the adjustments necessary to meet them.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: That is almost twenty-four years ago, is it not?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: That only shows how much more in the way of vision the Liberal party possessed than the parties who have just this year wakened up to the fact that there is such a thing as social security.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: Those were promises, were they not?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My hon. friend will see if he will just be patient. Probably he has not read the platform, and obviously he does not know what has been accomplished in this country in the last twenty-one years, or he would not ask the question he does. I am going to answer as to whether these things have been accomplished or not.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: I read them the other day.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Perhaps I am not betraying a secret when I tell the house that I myself drafted this paragraph at the time of the Liberal convention, and it went into the platform of the party just as it came from my own hand at the time the platform was drafted.

Mr. GRAYDON: A committee of one.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: No; there was a large committee—very much like the Port Hope conference and very much like the Winnipeg convention. We all had a hand. Some worked out one clause and some another.

I say to my hon. friends that I have been impressed, in reading the proceedings of the Winnipeg convention, with evidence of the meticulous care with which the friends of my hon. friend and he himself have gone over all the Liberal platform and important speeches

and picked out here and there the things which they thought would make most appeal to a democratic country.

Mr. GRAYDON: We picked out the progressive parts, of course.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Yes; that is no doubt how my hon. friend came to feel he had a Progressive Conservative party.

I shall read the clause which relates to the question of social insurance:

That in so far as may be practicable, having regard to Canada's financial position, an adequate system of insurance against unemployment, sickness, dependence in old age, and other disability, which would include old age pensions, (widows' pensions) and maternity benefits, should be instituted by the federal government in conjunction with the governments of the several provinces; and that on matters pertaining to industrial and social legislation an effort should be made to overcome any question of jurisdiction between the dominion and the provinces by effective cooperation between the several governments.

Now if, after reading that passage, the gentlemen who have referred to it had paused for a moment to point out to the house just how much of it had been implemented, I think hon. members would have been greatly impressed. I am going to do that myself.

First of all: a measure which is mentioned there as one of considerable importance is that of insurance against dependence in old age, which means of course old age pensions. May I point out that a government of which I had the honour to be the head was the government that introduced in parliament and carried through legislation with respect to old age pensions—

Mr. CASTLEDEN: Under pressure.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: —and the old age pensions which are to-day existing in Canada have existed in this country since 1926 as a result of legislation brought in by a government of which I was the head.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): You would not say that it gives old age independence?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I am speaking of social security legislation which was set forth and promised, and am indicating the extent to which promises have been implemented.

Let me come to the next clause, which is an equally important one:

. . . an adequate system of insurance against unemployment,

There, again, the government of which I have the honour to be the head was the government which introduced in this parliament and put