

Liberal Party

'The Realistic Party'

By Brahm Eisenstat (of the McGill Liberal Club—reprinted from the McGill Daily)

The principles of the Liberal Party of Canada have perhaps been best expressed by the late Rt. Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, in a speech of welcome to the delegates at the National Council of Canadian Universities Liberal Federation in 1948. Said Mr. King:

"To maintain a united Canada, and to strive for a united world—to promote the general interest rather than the specific interests of any section, class or creed, and to further for all equality of opportunity to increase security at home and to help realize it abroad; to seek to protect and to enhance, at all times and everywhere, the freedom of the individual: these are the aims of the Liberal Party."

Aims, Principles

Thus the aims of the Liberal Party, its principles, are noted by the words, "Unity," "Equality," "Security," "Freedom." Yet these are not mere words. Under Liberal leadership, we have seen these principles put into practice; we have seen them guide and shape Canada, making Canada grow into mature and active leadership in our time. It is significant that the Liberal Party draws its support from all groups and all provinces; its policies are aimed at the best interest of everyone. This is what the late Mr. King meant by "Unity," the cardinal aim of the Liberal Party since its inception. This is exemplified by that great Canadian, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, whose motto it was and whose achievement it was.

Democratic Tradition

"Equality" of opportunity must be differentiated from "Freedom," another Liberal principle. Do not forget that under the nineteenth century and the more recent developments, there is also "equality," but an equality of oppression. Coupled with "freedom," it is equality which gives momentum to our great democratic tradition, and provides safeguards for those fundamental rights of free expression, the right to education, and free practice of the religion of our choice, which remain a hallmark of the Canadian way of life. "Security" is not only indicative of economic satisfaction, but as well involves those other basic rights of the individual in the modern state.

Principles in Practice

Perhaps the reason the Liberal Party has achieved such outstanding success in Canada is because it is putting its principles into practice. It is a profound error to assume that there is a political Liberal "dogma" which is followed. On the contrary, it is because of its desire to meet the needs of Canadians, and face the problem of tomorrow with a fresh approach, still retaining those institutions which are workable; to preserve the gains of the past and accept the challenge of the future; it is these things which the Canadian people have recognized and to which they have continued to give their mandate. The Liberal Party is a realistic party, and the Canadian people have decided that practice, and not dogma, action, and not mere principles or theory, is the Canadian solution.

Liberal History

The Liberal Party had its beginnings with the resistance to the narrow Tory clique led by Papineau, Mackenzie, Baldwin and Eyerson. In 1854, Macdonald's Liberal-Conservative government was split by the fervent reformers who remained outside. There were the 'Grits' of English-speaking Canada, and the 'Les Rouges' of Quebec, who joined behind Brown to make the Liberal Party. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, whose policy of "Unity" consolidated the Party, directed the Liberal government from 1896 to 1906. Since 1929, on six out of eight opportunities, the people of Canada have given a clear mandate to the Liberal Party. Under King and St. Laurent, the tradition of Laurier and the Liberal Party have been upheld.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

The Brunswickan presents this page to give a brief survey of four Canadian political parties so that the students of UNB can weigh them, one against the other. We feel that the absence of political parties on this campus is of dire consequence and we believe, beyond a doubt, that such a lack in the education of a college student is a direct flouting of our rights as Canadian citizens.

Through the kind auspices of the McGill Daily we are printing on this page, covering the four parties as seen by McGill students belonging to political clubs on the Montreal campus.

Both the Daily and the Brunswickan want to make it clear that this is strictly the viewpoint of supporters of the different parties. The opinions expressed are not those of the Daily or of the Brunswickan. The Daily and the Brunswickan are merely acting as vehicles to present the various approaches and let the readers draw their own conclusions.

PC Party

'Traditionalist Party'

By Diana Bond (of the McGill Progressive Conservative Party—reprinted from McGill Daily)

The Progressive Conservative party in Canada is the direct descendant of the Conservatives of Great Britain, who boast such illustrious figures as Disraeli and Peel and the incomparable Winston Churchill.

The Conservatives began in Canada as fairly unified bodies of responsible citizens — merchants, clergymen and officials — in Nova Scotia and Upper and Lower Canada. But the actual functioning as a political unit was not to commence until Sir John A. Macdonald formed a governing body with a Conservative cabinet in 1854. In 1858, Sir John formed the famous alliance with Cartier, bringing in the large 'Bleu' bloc of French Canada to promote unity.

Financial Maturity

In 1867, the dream of Confederation was realized. During the 23 years of Sir John's leadership, the financial maturity of Canada was realized with the formation of the Bank of Montreal and the Canadian Pacific Railway, all under Conservative patronage. The death of Sir John A. Macdonald, Canada's first Prime Minister, in 1891, left the country bereft of its greatest statesman. The Conservatives remained in power for five more years, until the election of Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

Sir Robert Borden

In 1911, Sir Robert Borden, an eminent Conservative, defeated Laurier in a general election and to Sir Robert fell the difficult task of becoming Canada's first war Prime Minister. The Borden government led the country through these difficult years bravely. Sir Robert's closest advisor from Great Britain was Winston Churchill. Conservative Canada emerged from the terrible losses of the war a stronger nation with a new pride in the word Canadian. The sacrifices of the men who lie in Flanders' Fields had given Canada the final lift out of the vestigial remains of colonialism.

Depression

The Borden administration continued until 1921 when the Liberals again took power, and gradually the country passed from post-war boom of Conservative power to the chaos of depression under the Liberal regime. In the terrible moment of the worst phase of the depression, the Conservatives were returned to leadership under R. B. Bennett.

R. B. Bennett

Mr. Bennett, a Conservative of courage and strength, did his best under an impossible situation from 1920 to 1935. In 1935, the country was even then emerging from the deluge as equilibrium was restored, and the opposition was fortunate in re-election as Canada was entering a new era of growing prosperity.

Opposition

Dr. Manion, John Bracken and George Drew, as Conservative leaders, have formed a strong body of opposition up to the present. Under Mr. Bracken's leadership, the party name was changed from 'Conservative' to 'Progressive Conservative'. The party's strength lies at the moment not so much in quantity as in quality, and ad mare usque, the Progressive Conservative party strives for the unity and strength that is the birthright of our great Dominion of Canada.

for inspiring some of his welfare legislation.

In 1944 the C.C.F. was asked to form the government of Saskatchewan and have since accomplished so much for the province, that last year they were re-elected with the greatest majority in the province history. They have already formed the official opposition in every other province between Ontario and B.C.

C.C.F. strength is growing every year, and soon they will force the merger of the two old line parties — so that Canadians will be able to realize where the real issues of Canadian politics lie.

LPP

'The Workers' Party'

By Allen R. Katz (of the McGill Labor Progressive Club—reprinted from the McGill Daily)

The modern working-class movement developed in Canada as a result of the development of capitalist industry. The first trade unions were organized in 1824, and by 1870 they undertook large-scale political actions such as the fight for the "nine hour day", and the struggle for legal acknowledgement of the status and rights of the trade union movement. By 1910, the trade unions became forces with which the capitalists had to reckon in any labour issue.

It was under such conditions that the Canadian Marxist movement was first developed. The "Socialist Leagues" which came to being throughout the country in the 1890's were supplanted by the Socialist Party of Canada.

The world imperialist war of 1914-1918 signalled the beginning of the breakdown of capitalism and the transition to socialist society. The Russian revolution, which for the first time in history established a stable working-class government. Literally overwhelmed the Socialist Party of Canada. It was true to the teachings of Marx, as its leaders understood them, but they were enslaved by a narrow, deterministic concept, denying the dynamic revolutionary essence of Marxism, that was basically anti-Marxist.

Contradictions

The Socialist Party of Canada, and at the same time the Social Democratic Party of Canada, were finally faced with the contradictions between their verbal contempt for the daily struggles of the workers and their desire to be elected to the various provincial and national assemblies. This problem of the political parties of the working-class was never resolved until the founding of the Communist Party in Canada in 1919.

The Communist Party of Canada displaced the S.P.C. and the S.D.P.C. as the political party of Canada's working-class. The Communist Party of Canada dedicated itself to the following program:

- 1. For a Workers' Republic
2. Working-class political action

Trade Union Unity

The Communist Party of Canada was taken up by the Canadian workers, and it and its successor, the Labour Progressive Party, have fought for the interests of the working people.

- 1. The pressing of A Pact of Peace between the U.S., U.S.S.R., Britain, France and the Peoples' Republic of China.
2. The disentanglement of Canada from all war alliances such as the infamous N.A.T.O.
3. The return of all Canadian armed forces from abroad. No interference in the internal affairs of other countries.
4. Prohibition of atomic bombs and all other weapons of mass destruction, with inspection and control.
5. Step by step controlled disarmament of all countries, at each stage considering the national security of the country.
6. Restoration of Canadian command of our armed forces. Removal of all U.S. military bases from Canadian soil.
7. Liquidation of U.S. control of Canadian industries and resources, as harmful to the security of Canada and its economic progress.

CCF Party

'The Reform Party'

By Earl Kruger (of the McGill Co-operative Commonwealth Federation Club—reprinted from the McGill Daily)

In the third decade of this century, although it appears to many superficial observers that the capitalist system (under the guidance of the two old-line parties) was maintaining a high level of prosperity, it was becoming increasingly apparent to many more thoughtful Canadians that things were not really well with our economic and social order.

Many attempts had been made in the western provinces to remedy the situation within the general framework of full enterprise. The co-operative movement had been founded and was progressing well, credit union were springing up all over the country, but the most important event of all was the founding of the Progressive Party — which in a sense symbolized the growing realization of the people of Canada that in order to better themselves economically it would be necessary to grasp the political reins of the government.

Progressive Party

The Progressive Party was essentially a reform party and attempted to improve the lot of the average Canadian without actually changing the very nature of the system under which they lived. The party, although it elected 55 members to parliament, soon began to fade away because of its lack of basic political philosophy and most of its leaders were swallowed up in the Liberal Party.

But conditions in Canada were growing increasingly worse. The sentiment that had sparked the Progressive Party was now beginning to inspire other groups, like the Alberta Farmers' Union, the Saskatchewan Farmers' Union, and League for Social Reconstruction (a Canadian Fabian-like Society), to take political action to achieve their social aims.

Regina Conference

In 1932, all those divergent groups, and many more, convened in Regina for a discussion of common interests. Out of this convention emerged a realization that the capitalist system had served its purpose in Canada, but was now obsolete. They realized that it was now necessary for the people to control the flutterings of the economic order for the benefit of the country as a whole instead of for the profits of a few.

Regina Manifesto

In a statement issued by the convention, now known as the Regina Manifesto, they stated:

"We aim to replace the capitalist system with its inherent injustice and inhumanity, by a social order from which the domination and exploitation of one class by another will be eliminated — in which economic planning will supersede unregulated private enterprise and competition, and in which democratic self-government based upon economic equality will be possible."

Thus was the birth of the C.C.F. Since then, the party has sparked such social welfare measures as baby bonuses, workman's compensation, unemployment insurance and health insurance. Even the late Mackenzie King acknowledged his debt to the C.C.F.

Let's Have A Party!

Acadia University has graciously extended an invitation to the representatives of all political parties on the UNB campus asking them to attend a session of The Maritime University Model Parliament in Halifax March 5th and 6th. Slight embarrassment results when we, the students of a provincial university, are forced to admit that political intrigue and controversy have apparently been assigned a place in our adult future. A quick glance about the campus shows us that there are no political parties in existence here. It is disappointing to discover that the people who are soon to be Canadian leaders have such complete lack of interest in the thing which is indeed the very essence of the society into which they are to step as educated men and women.

What has happened to the age-old political radicalism once so prominent on university camps? Have political opinions been relegated to a position of subservience in coffee-cup discussions at Club 252? Coffee cups don't vote... you do. Get out of the corners and air your opinions from the centre of the floor where everyone can hear you.

The centre of the floor will be the Model Parliament in Halifax next month. Before the voice of UNB can be heard in the Maritime Parliament, it will be necessary to hold a campus-wide election to determine the political views of the student body. It is felt that the SRC will sponsor such an election if sufficient interest is shown by the students. "Sufficient interest" will be defined as the emergence of definite political groups with policies of national interest. Let's see some sign of political awakening.

Who knows? you might even discover that some politicians aren't crooks!

- 8. An end to trade dependence on the U.S. and to U.S. imposed restrictions of Canadian trade. Trade with all countries, including the inexhaustible markets of the Socialist sector of the world.
Dedicated
The Labour Progressive Party has no interests apart from the general interests of the working class, which are inseparable from the real interests of the nation as a whole. It is dedicated to the task of educating and organizing the Canadian workers, farmers and middle-class people, in the course of a consistent struggle for democracy, to the end that the majority of the Canadian people shall, by their own decision, achieve the great aim of socialism.

It was this party that first warned Canada of the coming economic crisis in the early 1920's. It was this party that started the fight for most of the social legislation that we have today. A few of the programs which it started are the following:
1. Unemployment Insurance
2. National Health Insurance
3. Crop Insurance
4. Minimum National Standards of Education
5. National Housing Plans

Struggle For Democracy

The L.P.P. says that it is a lie that the question of national sovereignty is out of date. It is also a lie that we must shut our teeth, suffer unemployment, ruin our industry and farming to protect ourselves from so-called "Communist aggression". The only policies which guarantee Canada's national sovereignty and meet the economic and political needs of the Canadian people.

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