

follows day. I do not apologize for having some ideals in public life. If we are to have an effective democracy, one that is worth fighting for, we should not be ashamed to proclaim certain high ideals to the men and women throughout the country who are asking us to give leadership.

For a good many months in Canada, a new progressive and aggressive movement has been growing among the common or garden variety of people, like those of us here in this House of Commons. I do not want the Prime Minister to misunderstand any expressions I may use, but it is obvious that for some considerable time there has been in this country a lively dissatisfaction with certain aspects of the present administration. In all fairness to the Prime Minister and to the government I may go further and say that very often in war time a government may be condemned as much for its good deeds as for its bad deeds. Nevertheless the fact remains that the masses of our people have been trying to find a voice to express their protest against the present administration, other than through that which sponsors a socialistic state in Canada. I say that with no desire to reflect upon the personalities of those who sit to my left. In a young nation like this, where people desire to retain initiative and individuality, and crave freedom from too stringent government controls, it will be readily seen why a new movement should have taken root somewhere between the dissatisfaction that exists with respect to the government on the one hand, and the failure to act on the part of those who have been most vocal in their protests. The new Progressive Conservative movement, which began many months before Port Hope, found its voice at that conference last September. No doubt the proposals adopted at Port Hope were startling to many people in Canada holding old ideas. But they formed the basis of a new charter for the common people of the dominion. It was no old-line party manifesto. It was no ivy-covered political structure. Rather it was a spearhead, giving expression to a rapidly-growing public sentiment not confined to any single political party but drawing its adherents from all.

The choice of Hon. John Bracken, then premier of Manitoba, at the Winnipeg convention, was the natural result of this people's movement. The policy laid down by that convention at Winnipeg further exemplified the extent to which the demands of the common people were being appropriately met. The new movement led by Hon. John Bracken represents an honest attempt to find a satisfactory

solution of the major problems which face this country in a war-time period, and which will require solution when the war draws to its close. If there is one thought above another I should like to leave with the house this afternoon, it is this. Whether or not hon. members agree with the programme and policy which was approved at the Winnipeg convention, there can be no doubt of the sincerity of purpose of those who advance that programme at this time. We may be proved wrong; we may be proved right. But those considerations do not matter quite so much as the fact of our honesty in advancing and promoting this programme.

There will be some who will think in terms of political yesterdays, and who will facetiously raise some question respecting the double name of our party. We are not ashamed of the alliance indicated by our party name between the Progressives and Conservatives. More than that, may I say that for a long time I have not been interested personally, nor do I think the people throughout the country are greatly interested, in artificial party labels. In the final analysis the new Progressive Conservative movement will be accepted or rejected by the people of Canada, not on the basis of the label it wears on the sleeve of its coat, but on the basis of the service it gives to the dominion and the ultimate results achieved.

It has long been advocated that a strong opposition makes for a stronger government. Most people in Canada believe that the unmistakable strengthening of our party throughout the dominion has already achieved results which in extent are almost amazing. Within the period of a few days after the close of the Winnipeg convention, which called for better financial treatment of members of our armed forces and their dependents, the government effected changes which in the main were a reflection of the policy our party adopted—and I congratulate the government upon that action. The call by our new leader, Mr. Bracken, for the adoption of a system of parliamentary under-secretaryships has met with some results, as indicated in the speech from the throne. It may be, of course, that the Prime Minister's answer will be that great minds think alike. But it is good to be the first great mind, the one that begins thinking ahead of the other one.

The emphasis laid in Winnipeg upon active social pioneering in Canada has also met with some response in the speech from the throne. That response may be feeble, but at least we have the honour of recognition. Measured from every other angle the Winnipeg con-