

*The Address—Mr. MacDougall*

the dominion, and those basic principles which have brought about the humanitarian policies of the government, may I humbly beseech and pray that the government, as quickly as humanly possible, may evolve legislation to bring about compulsory contributory retirement pensions for all, without a means test. When I make this plea I believe I speak not only for myself but for all Liberal members, and in all probability for many other members from British Columbia.

We on the Pacific coast feel that in some of our industries which are more affected by the winter weather than others we suffer from a degree of unemployment which is peculiar not only to British Columbia but, in some ways, to various other provinces throughout the length and breadth of Canada. We urge that in its wisdom the government may soon be able to evolve some improvement in the Unemployment Insurance Act. Having regard to human nature, and to the attitude which may be taken by many hon. members, particularly the new ones, I believe it might be wise and prudent to review some of the highlights in the history of the human race. We have come far from the days of the garden of Eden. Yet in a measure the troubles, the foibles and the heart-breaks of that ancient time have been handed down from one generation to another.

In the few moments I shall speak I shall do so with the realization that democracy is still the best kind of government for any free people. It is a method of true expression, through the members of this house, of the views of the electorate who are responsible for our presence here today. Therefore it has occurred to me that in discussing human nature it would be well to look back at our ancestral tree to see if we can possibly get closer to human nature as exemplified in the past. Undoubtedly, as the twig is bent, so is the tree inclined. Therefore we cannot hope to register all the foibles and follies and many of the heart-breaks that are part of the history of the human family, but we can refer shortly to some.

I know that I speak with understanding of all agriculturists when I say that Adam was an agriculturist, because in my family bedroom as a boy I saw a picture of Adam tilling the soil. That is truth enough for me. There he was on his primeval farm, living in the lap of luxury, his ways cast in pleasant places, tilling the fine alluvial soil tax free and also free of mortgage. Yet was he not satisfied. There was shown one of the first aspects of human nature which has been handed down to posterity—dissatisfaction.

However, Adam is not the only one whose mental facilities slipped at a crucial moment

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in history. History is replete with the names of those whose fame and fortune have turned to ashes or Dead Sea fruit through an ill-timed word or an unfortunate gesture that by the grace of God I hope to avoid today. Lot's wife wanted a second look. Nero took his music lesson at a most inauspicious time. Esau sold his birthright for a mess of pottage. Peter the apostle played with the truth. Judas Iscariot sold his Master for thirty pieces of silver.

In more recent days we have other rare examples. There is Mr. Asquith's policy of "wait and see." We have Count von Bethmann-Hollweg's "scrap of paper." There have been many examples, and the plot thickens with respect to human nature. The family is the backbone of this country today, and always will be.

It was not long before Adam and Eve found that they were not in complete possession of the garden of Eden. For was it not ordained that there was certain fruit of which they should not eat? This they did, however; and here enters stark tragedy in the form of expulsion and foreclosure. The things we have not and cannot get are still in this day the things that mankind desires most.

We pass on and come to Cain and Abel. Cain was an agriculturist, Abel the shepherd. Why do we stand aghast in the world today when one nation flies at the throat of another, as a result in many instances, no doubt, of overcrowding and lack of commercial trade expansion, when at the very beginning of time we witnessed this sorry spectacle of fratricide, arising out of petty jealousy because Abel's offering was more acceptable than that of his brother Cain?

The storm centre of civilization now shifts from the valley of the Euphrates and the Tigris to Asia Minor, and we find what remains of our illustrious ancestors perched high on Mount Ararat. We cannot follow, in the short space of time allowed to us, all the vicissitudes of the human family of that day, but we shall endeavour to catch a few highlights in the revolving sphere of human endeavour and human relations.

First there was Moses, the great teacher, the author of the Mosaic promulgations which are still adhered to by millions of people throughout the world. His teachings still stand the light of criticism, and suffer not at all in comparison with any other.

Then came the intellectual giants, Socrates, Pericles, Plato and Aristotle. These were men of overwhelming capabilities and mental activity. I know most hon. members will