

McGill Daily, March 21, 1933.

The Order of Society

THERE is at McGill a certain publication commonly known as the Alarm Clock. Last week it made its final appearance for the current session, and the contents of this issue fully justified its title. Although certain of the articles were justified and undoubtedly correct, there were others of which the less said the better; for instance, there was the contribution, "Are We Yes Men".

Quoting the author's opening paragraph, she says, "There is on the campus—apparently unlooked-for and undesired—a certain number of students marked by a singular turn of mind. They seem to believe that a career at a university is undertaken to develop mental powers and the courage of conviction. They would use the knowledge they have acquired and the mental discipline they have experienced not merely as a means of gaining a livelihood, not merely as social ornaments, but as weapons against social injustices, intentional or unintentional."

The meaning of this absolutely unmistakable. According to her, all those students who realize that the social structure is not yet perfect, and who see that there is much that requires redress, are an undesirable body, one to be socially tabooed. What more utter nonsense is there than this? Perhaps however, she considers that "certain number of students marked by a singular turn of mind," as all belonging to the Labor Club or as members of the C. C. F.

Man being what he is, differences of opinion will always exist. Why, therefore, should the writer of "Are We Yes Men" subtly hint that because we are not all socialistically inclined, that we do not intend to try and use any knowledge that we may have gained at university, to help our fellow citizens in distress; or that we do not expend any thought upon present day conditions?

Too few people understand that society must, and always is balanced; if there are radicals, there are conservatives; if there are criminals, there are police; if there are bulls, there are bears. Sometimes the one is markedly predominant over the other, but sooner or later, this will be absolutely reversed; and as a general rule the two are usually nicely balanced, sometimes tending a little one way, and the next minute moving the opposite direction. The progress of civilization has been, and is, a matter of slow and gradual growth; permanent changes are not the result of sudden over night changes, but are the quintessence of years, centuries, and ages of social evolution.

The pages of history show this at every scrutiny. One body acts upon another as a brake, slowing up any movement that promises to be too rapid and thus to cause social upheaval. The present depression is owing largely to the everchanging value of gold, and is a remarkably good example of what would happen in society, if changes were too abrupt. Thus, every person, group, or faction fills and has a certain duty to carry out, and which she, he, or it unconsciously, yet perfectly, does.