

of money that Saint Paul styles "the root of all evils." Avarice lies at the root of this social evil of bad housing, and kindred industrial evils.

Finally, we should all realize that the vital social issues of today transcend the narrow bounds of purely economic considerations, and that no effective social regeneration can be a complete success without religion. What is most needed today is spiritual reconstruction,—a religious reform that will give our people religious fervor and a more robust morality so that we may all do our plain duty to each other. The social question is not merely an economic one; in its essence it is a moral and religious issue. The unjust type of landlord, and all other profiteers, must be told by the Church plainly, that the making of inordinate profit, and the oppression thereby of the defenceless, is as immoral as theft. The modern gospel of greed must be unsparingly denounced, and there must be developed a sense of human brotherhood, which sense must be strengthened and stimulated by the influence of Religion, the link between time and eternity, Christianity is not only the greatest element of social order—it is indeed, the fundamental element. Upon the Christian home depend the continuance and betterment of our civilization.

Without a return to real Christianity, legislation will not solve our social problems. Christianity is a creed, not a system of morals, and must not be lowered to the level of a social reform club. There can be no effective moral code without God. The Christian church has a message and is a teacher; and Christianity is something more than a decorous acquiescence in morality, without faith. Social service is not religion; mere philanthropy is not religion; a policy of sanitary housing is not religion. Our social legislation must fail without the prop of true Christianity. Religion must become the leading factor in social readjustment. All attempts to build on the shifting sands of secularism must fail—the formation of a morally healthful public opinion should be primarily the work of the church. Social legislation is but an outward aid, and may arouse the apathetic social conscience, but religion alone can completely control the avarice of man, and steadily develop the principle of mutual service which is the pivot of Christian social life and government. The future of our country demands a better understanding among all creeds and classes and an active mutual service stimulated and ennobled by the teachings of Christianity.

I appeal to all good men and women in Nova Scotia to support housing reform in this province.

W. B. WALLACE.

HALIFAX, January, 1919.