

tion. And I must say that I think our friends of the cooperative commonwealth group owe it to themselves, because I know they all cherish that thought very deeply, to bring out that idea when they are expounding their views to the people. Nothing can be more misleading, it seems to me, than to try to have people who are not accustomed to thinking deeply on matters of this kind believe that by some change of an external character, by some economic adjustment, you are going to improve human and social relations. It may be brought about if you change with it at the same time the human heart, and the motives which actuate men in their relations with each other. As far as I can see it will not be brought about in any effective way short of that. That point is one I wish to stress, because I know that the socialist does put forth this argument, and it is an appealing one, that under a socialistic state men and women will be actuated by a different kind of motive. I must say that before you reach that ideal state you will have to go a long way in changing human nature itself. If you succeed in changing human nature to the extent that under a socialistic state we are all going to be happy, I venture to say you will have gone far enough to make us all happy under whatever condition may exist, because we will all be ready to work and share together.

Mr. LUCHKOVICH: May I ask a question? Cannot man's natural acquisitiveness be subordinated to social motives?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: May I say to my hon. friend that I assume he is sitting in this parliament at this moment for the very reason that he himself is actuated by a motive of public service? But he has not had to be a member of a socialistic state in order to acquire that motive. May I point out to him that he came to this country as one who formerly had very little in the way of opportunity, and to-day he has risen to be one of the great men of Canada, able to exercise a vast influence for the benefit of the people. He has been able to do that under a system of private property, under the competitive system. And I venture to say that there are thousands of others to-day who similarly owe the positions which they occupy in this country not to the fact that Canada has been a great socialist community, but rather that it is a country founded on a recognition of principles that help to make for progress, and that as a consequence those who have had initiative and enterprise have been able to get their rightful place in political and other spheres.

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

Mr. MacINNIS: I suppose the speaker would admit that the position of the unemployed is also due to the system?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The unemployment is due to defects in the system, certainly, to maladjustments of the system. But it is due more to the greed of individuals, to human selfishness and greed. The point that I should like to emphasize, and which was stressed by Professor Jackson in his address, is this, that if we get down to the root cause of the depression we shall find that it is a man-made depression; that it has its roots in human greed, that it has come about through the greed of men; first, through the greed of individuals in its various manifestations, second, through the greed of social groups within a nation, and third, through the greed of nations. Human greed is responsible for the condition that we have at the present time. What happened? When, under the system that was prevailing, prosperity was at its highest peak, how did the individual behave? Did he seek to share that prosperity with his fellow men, did he seek to put aside reserves to meet dark times ahead? Did he seek to become more humanitarian in his efforts, as he should have done if he had been actuated by high disinterested motives? On the contrary a very large number started to take the fruits of industry and gamble with them. They began to speculate in the stock market, they were not satisfied with being prosperous, or helping others to share their good fortune; they wanted to make more and more and more for themselves. With what result? With the result that money was taken away from industry; the stock markets were flooded with money and industry was drained of its very lifeblood; trade channels were denuded of necessary costs and credit, as Professor Jackson pointed out, and industry was left in a position that it no longer could continue to carry on as it had formerly done. That was not the fault of the system, that was the greed of individuals. And may I point out what took place similarly with regard to groups? None of us need go back very far to recall what the press has recorded from week to week of the doings of the groups associated with the largest industrial enterprises in the world, of what there has been in the way of high finance that has helped destroy the industrial, social and economic system of our day. That was all the greed of groups, not anything wrong with the system; it has been that the few men who got control of the system acted not as good citizens or patriots, but acted, I shall