

of future leisure, the desire for the power wealth gives, or the desire to safeguard the future of one's family, are needed to keep us to the mark. By throwing on each man the main responsibility for his own welfare, we ensure much greater activity and thrift and enterprise (not always, but prevailing, turned in helpful directions) than if each of us could rely on the government or on the community for support, and if our individual fortunes had only a very remote connection with our individual efforts. So much more effective is this means of organizing production, with all its wastes, with all its unfairnesses, that it may well be maintained that the unequal share which the poorer man obtains under such a system is larger than would be his equal share of the product of a socialistic community. "The stimulus of private property," wrote Arthur Young, a century ago, "turns the sands to gold."

It is not implied that personal interest is the sole force at the disposal of a society based on private property. Altruistic motives find ever wider scope. More and more under the existing order men are animated by the desire to serve their fellows, both in the day's work and out of the wealth a life of work has garnered. Never was the social conscience so keen, never was the sense of the trusteeship of wealth so widespread, never was the organization of philanthropy and public service so complete. But the effectiveness of the altruistic motive is no reason for disregarding the self seeking spur to action. Both must be utilized. The task of meeting the needs of the millions who every day grow more ambitious in their standards and more insistent in their demands is too tremendous to make it possible to discard the instrument which has been found of most effective service. Individual ambition will always keep men's demands on life high. Individual ambition must be harnessed to keep the supply as high.

*While this indictment attracts attention, it is evidently one-sided. The existing system is painted too black, and out of all perspective. The efficiency of this system in stimulating enterprise and industry is ignored.*

Turning from the strong points which the socialists ignores to the weak points to which he has rightly called attention, even if in exaggerated fashion, we find the socialist error lies in overlooking the counteracting forces at work, the great improvement that has already been made. Our existing society is not one of stark, isolated individualism. Men may join in voluntary organizations to secure their interests. We