

Interim Supply

If large corporations must accumulate such a large amount of reserves, profits and capital, why do our monetary, economic and political systems ignore that human beings and families also need the same proportion of reserves, profits and capital?

Why did we neglect the human being in this race toward wealth, in this thirst for progress, in this desire for profits?

Over a period of two years, between September 1962 and September 1964, the 754 big companies listed on the Montreal stock exchange have seen their capitalization increase from \$44 billion to \$72 billion, a \$28 billion capital profit in two years, 24 months, a 62 per cent capital appreciation for the few people who can afford to invest money in stocks while so many citizens of this same Canada go hungry and are living in poverty. Why?

Why so much poverty in the midst of so much abundance?

When I hear the Minister of Finance (Mr. Gordon) say that Canada is a prosperous country, that it enjoys unparalleled prosperity—well yes, it is prosperity for those who handle the finance of the country. They are the ones who go up the ladder, but the others go down. Only because the common weal has precedence on the personal weal, only because one has forgotten that the common weal is the sum of personal welfare and that one has succeeded, by all kinds of economic sophisms, to cause people who are not as learned as our university trained economists to believe that things must be so because the Lord said that there will always be poor people and rich people among us.

Poor people—perhaps? But we do not have to put up with the idea of poverty-stricken people, of destitute persons.

Poverty compared to wealth means to own little instead of owning much, while indigence has nothing and lacks the bare necessities of life.

In any event, in the ordinary life, our monetary, economic and political systems are only instruments of administration, of production and of distribution of material, intellectual and spiritual goods and services among human beings, considered either as groups, families or single people, as living units, or as family or social groups.

All groups are made up of unities. All chains are made up of links. All our monetary, economic and political systems are able to operate and to provide decent means of living to all human beings in Canada merely

[Mr. Latulippe.]

through a new organization of the leadership.

Hence the strength of our institutions depends upon the strength of the unities, of the people making up our institutions, governments, banks, manufactures, communities, universities, churches, provinces, municipalities, school boards, colleges, corporations, co-operatives, associations with material, intellectual or spiritual aims.

All institutions are the product of the human mind, are conceived by the human intellect in the same way as the constitution of a country.

Do animals have constitutions, governments, companies, co-operatives, unions, except in La Fontaine's fables? And there again, they are imitating men.

When I speak of the evolution of our way of thinking towards our monetary, economic and political organizations, I do not want to take anything away from anybody. I do not want to change anything in our principles of operation. I do not want to create anything new. I am only trying to consolidate the past, I rely on the present, and I look ahead to the future, to the future of every group constituting our country, Canada, and I want to give more to everybody, without taking anything away from anybody. I want to give something more to everybody, to each and everyone, child, teen-agers or adults, forgetting no one.

When I speak of evolution of our way of governing our country and our institutions, I am not blaming anybody. I am not trying to displace anybody. I only want to improve customs established on old and outmoded basis which were once useful but which our own progress made obsolete; I only want to improve the way of thinking which served the progress of humanity but which are threatening to destroy that very progress, if we adhere to the status quo.

The present progress is not the final stage of the evolution. Having brought a tremendous boon to humanity through its scientists and university men, this progress must now reach to the social classes less favoured by nature or by society.

I am not attacking any particular classes, not even directors of banks and of important concerns, professors and university graduates, but my words of warning are meant for them, because it is their responsibility to adapt their systems to a more humanitarian progress to give greater consideration to the human being as well as to the needs of each