

Thoughts For Our Time

By His Eminence Cardinal McGuigan

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IN FOUND IN SCRIPTURE

One has only to read the newspapers nowadays to realize that there is something very wrong with the world in which we live. All of us agree, of course, that measures for correcting the wrong should be taken. At this point, however, the unanimity ends abruptly, for there is no agreement among men as to the underlying cause of the sickness.

Out of the maelstrom of theories which have been put forward to explain the all-too-apparent evil in the world, there are two or three in particular which claim a good deal of our attention.

The loudest suggestion comes from those who feel that the cause of the trouble lies in the political inadequacies which we have inherited. There are those who maintain that our happiness was severely impaired, if not entirely lost, when men first acknowledged authority in human affairs.

Out of this theory comes the idea that all we have to do to restore man's primeval felicity and thus establish a Golden Age is to abolish all governments.

There is an indication of this line of thought in the works of Tolstoy, Lenin and other 19th century Russian writers. They imagined a future society in which the state, that is to say governments, would no longer be necessary. They would "with-er away" through disuse into a classless society.

HIGH, DRY THEORY

A less extreme approach to the problem of governments in human society was the syndicalist theory which did indeed advocate the retention of authority, but only on a local, not a national scale. Finally, there is the idealistic suggestion which we frequently hear, to the effect that the least government is the best government. Here is one which leaves us high and dry on a theory, with no chance of a descent into the mire of practice.

On the other side of the picture we have the economists who discovered that disparity of income and consequently of property, was the true underlying cause of the world's ills. Their remedy took the negative form of the abolition of property rights which would restore the primitive peace, even if it destroyed everything else. The Marxian economist of our own time is not so interested in

the individualistic paradise of the simple, primitive and unencumbered life. He aims rather at the positive efficiency of the individual as a part of the great machine which is the totalitarian state. Out of this integration is to emerge the completely rationalized, hence perfect, society.

The emphasis here however, is laid upon the future, rather than upon the past. It is this positive approach, this element of human hope for the millennium, which proves most appealing to the dedicated Communist of today.

SCIENCE NOT ANSWER

Sharing the spotlight with the political and economic theories in the struggle against existing evils in the world, is that of science. For many years men placed their confidence in the methods of science, the means by which society's ills could be remedied and the doors opened to Utopia.

There is little need to point out how two world wars and the advent of the atomic bomb have blasted that hope for all save the simple and the naive. The scientific credo, that greater technical skill of necessity makes for greater happiness, and that the increase and spread of knowledge in itself produces a perfect human society, can no longer be accepted at its face value.

The political, economic and scientific solutions to the problems of modern men differ in many respects; but they do have one thing, at least, in common. They insist that the causes of man's social imperfection and unhappiness are external to him, that his nature is unaffected. They maintain that it requires only the solving of certain social difficulties, by whatever means, to permit man's nature to blossom, full of perfection, individually or collectively as the case may be.

When we are able to recognize the failure of the external remedies we may turn, without apologies to the scoffers, to the explanation which the Bible provides for us. In the third Chapter of Genesis we find that evil came into human life not from external, political, economic or other force or circumstance, but by man's choice of self in place of God.

INTERNAL CAUSE
There is no attempt here to impose the Biblical explanation of the evil in the world upon

Further Development Of Moss Industry Suggested

An all-out effort to develop plants in the Province for the processing of products from the land and sea was urged in the Legislature last night by Mr. Frank L. MacNutt, Liberal, Third Prince, who spoke in the Draft Address debate.

In connection with the Island's natural products he suggested that much more attention might be given to the Irish Moss industry. He thought that only a small percentage of the moss available is harvested each year and stated there is much moss around the shores early in each season which is not attended to.

Speaking on farm conditions the Third Prince member noted that while the cost of farming is quite high the great majority of farmers in his district are in a very good condition.

He stated that many of the farmers had improved their buildings and were enjoying a higher standard of living than ever before.

He commended the Department of Agriculture for the Veterinary Service which it supplied the farmers and he suggested that farmers might be a little more considerate for the vets and not call them late at night except in cases of emergency. He stated there were instances of vets were

others. There are many who object the externalist reasoning which has been mentioned already; for example, the liberals, the socialists, the Communists. They are the credulous. The internal cause which is provided by Genesis is for those who have faith.

This is not to say that those who have faith must reject all political, economic or scientific programs for the improvement of social conditions in the world. In charity the Christian must show his love and concern for his fellow man's welfare always. It says rather that they should be discussed, accepted or rejected on their merits as social projects, not as theories concerned with the conquest and explanation of evil in the world.

Cardinal Newman once said that a revealed religion is of necessity dogmatic. Our Christian religion, based as it is on revelation, tells us why there is something wrong with our world. We know further that by our own personal wrongdoing we add to that evil in our nature which is man's inheritance from Adam. For the Christian who has the gift of faith, there can be no other explanation. There can be no compromise with the truth.



Mr. F. L. MacNutt

being called late at night on cases that might have been handled at a more reasonable hour.

On the matter of markets he pointed out that greater competition could be expected in the future as each province was striving to produce enough products to supply its own needs.

He recalled that a few years ago Prince Edward Island had a market for its eggs in Nova Scotia but now Nova Scotia was supplying its own market with half its output and exporting the remainder.

Mr. MacNutt stated that considerable improvement in the roads had been made in his district but there were few paved roads. He asked the Government for some light pavement as soon as possible and suggested that the ditches should be freed of grass.



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and weeds at least once a year. On the matter of unemployment he suggested that while conditions were bad they probably were not quite as serious as they appeared on the surface due to the fact that many of those unemployed in the winter were employed during the rest of the year in canning factories or other part time industries.

AGENDA TOO HEAVY

LONDON (Reuters)—R. G. Menzies, Australian prime minister, said Saturday he believes post-war Commonwealth conferences have endeavored to deal with too many subjects in too short a time. In future he would like to see conferences concentrate on one or two subjects, though that might mean more frequent conferences.

Breeds World's Smallest Dogs

Until 8 years ago, Sgt. Longpre of the Montreal Police Department was a breeder of the big, energetic, Doberman pinscher.

Now he has gone from the sublime to the ridiculous by breeding the smallest dogs in the world—the 3½ pound Mexican Chihuahua and he has won 35 prizes with them. Read the story in The Standard this week — on sale now, complete with Magazine, 12-page novel and 20 pages of comics. Only ten cents!

The Standard

WOMEN FIRE TRAP
TORONTO (CP) — The Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals said Saturday

the greatest fault in the cellulose stock shows, people throw lighted cigarettes into the straw. "There'll be a terrific fire some day and

manager, said that during the

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Monday, Feb. 28, 1955
people will wonder why," he said

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