

"MORAL RE-ARMAMENT"—AN ANCIENT TRICK

An ancient soporific, under a modern label, is being used again by our monopolists to lull us into acceptance of an intolerable economic condition.

"Moral re-armament"—so widely advertised with apparently unlimited funds—is merely the oft-exploded theory that to make this a better world to live in we must change human nature through individual religion.

No one can quarrel with the seeking of spiritual gratifications through faith. Religion has its proper place in the cosmos of the individual. But, it cannot replace the pangs of hunger, nor can it keep warm the dingy hovels in which millions of God's children are forced to live.

When we try to describe the "human nature" which our Oxfordians (and our Marxists) say must be changed, we find it a very elusive quantity. By observation of our own reactions and those of our acquaintances we find only two common denominators to man: first, that he seeks to satisfy his desires with the least effort, and, second, that his desires are unlimited.

Then we find that these two postulates of human action find their expression in the land. Every desire is gratified by human exertion applied to natural resources. And we find that where access to these natural resources is unrestrained, not only are the necessities of life easily obtained, but man begins to flower into almost a creative being. He flourishes materially, he develops culturally, he aspires spiritually—he becomes a man "in the likeness of God." He is as big as his environment will permit him to be. He is kind, generous, and in all respects a pretty decent sort.

But, rob him of the ability to work, take from him that which he produces, deprive him of the right to live—and he becomes a beast indeed. In his desire merely to exist he cheats, he lies, and he covets his neighbor's goods. The same "human nature" reacts differently to the new environment.

That's all we seem to have discovered about "human nature." It is the mirror of the social order in which it finds itself. And so, it seems, it was designed to be. For, if God intended man to find his satisfactions through prayer, why did He provide the fields rich in food values, the mines laden with useful minerals, the waters plentiful with fish? No child is born with a prayer book. But, from the moment we open our eyes in this world our sustenance is provided for by the bounties of nature.

We have not heeded God's obvious plan. We have given His earth—the one He provided for all of us—to our monopolists, who thereby confiscate all we produce save what we need for a bare living. And when in our blind ignorance we rebel against the injustice, they attempt to soothe us—not with the food and raiment they have robbed us of, but with prayer. "Moral re-armament" is blasphemy.