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THE EVOLUTION OF INTERNATIONALISM¹

THE evolution of internationalism is an interesting and very important study which will engage the attention of some of the best minds in the world more and more as time goes on. The interdependence of people and races of people is showing itself in new ways every year. The world is not yet overpopulated. In a strictly biological sense it will never be overpopulated by the human species or any other species. The old principle of "the balance of nature" is sure to prevail. The word *overpopulation* implies something unnatural—something beyond nature's laws—something that nature herself will correct; in other words, it is an impossible happening. Remember distinctly, please, that this is simply a broad biological deduction!

Yes, nature's restoration of the balance is inevitable. The species that have passed the great inexorable limit law must be reduced; the surplus must starve for lack of food. If the offending form should be the human species, with its wonderful intelligence, with the culture it has laboriously gained, with its high ideals, with its misty sense of spirituality, it will make no difference to nature; she will grind on and restore the balance.

The human species is utterly selfish, like any other species; but this selfishness tends to become more broadly a *species* selfishness as the years go by and conditions are more broadly understood, having passed through the stages of the selfishness of the individual, of the family, of the community, and, let us hope, of the nation—all successive stages, and all fundamentally based on the self-preservation instinct or desire of the individual, placed there by nature.

Love of kind is a late development, and love of kind in its purest form has been a powerful advocate leading forward to internationalism. But, just as the desire for continued existence with the individual has led to the evolution of the present social complex, to the growth of nations, so the continually increasing difficulties of existence lead onward to the species selfishness—the desire to maintain the human species in control of all resources of the planet on which it finds itself.

Thus, conservation of the world's resources, the movement which is expressed by this conference, attended as it is by many men of many nations, is an

¹ Opening remarks of the chairman of the First Pan-Pacific Conservation Congress, Honolulu, Hawaii, July, 1924.