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ENGINEERING PROGRESS AND THE SOCIAL ORDER¹

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At a time like the present, we all realize that something is on trial. Without perhaps being particularly aware of it, civilized man the world over is engaged in sifting and weighing evidence and will sooner or later reach certain conclusions. These conclusions are likely to be of fundamental significance as regards the future ordering of public judgment, and will differ no doubt in important respects from the basic tradition which, in the past, has been acceptable and accepted in guiding much of our action.

It would be very interesting to discover just what it is that stands before the bar. It may be fundamen-

tal science, it may be applied science, it may be science and technology in general, it may be religion, it may be domestic politics or world politics, or it may only be that old and primeval scapegoat, human nature, whom the bailiff never tires of bringing to book and who, we now begin to suspect, is quite incorrigible.

Here in brief is the setting for any contemporary discussion of science and technology and their repercussions on the social order. In attempting to identify what is here somewhat loosely designated as the culprit, it is perhaps well to recognize that the public at large will make up its mind irrespective of what any few individuals decide. However, a correct analysis is none the less important because every cor-

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