

The Limits of State Industrial Control

is needed, and the sooner this country gets it the better. In other words, the Government will spoil the country if they continue their war-time meddling in business and private affairs.

In arranging the contributions I have followed my usual plan—one that always seems to me simplest and clearest—of placing contributors in the order of their special interests. Thus they fall naturally into well-defined classes, each with a special interest of its own, yet related to all the others by common interests. I do not expect this arrangement to meet every one's approval. Indeed, I am prepared to hear some one say that I have not rightly placed every contributor, seeing that there are many-sided specialists who belong to more than one specialism, and there are other specialists who do not deal with their specialism. I dare say this is a just criticism, but it is an answerable one also. I think it is a general law that a many-sided person of great ability has a predominant interest to which all his other interests are subordinate, just as he has a predominant emotion upon which his emotional system may be constructed. Take Mr. Bernard Shaw, for instance. He is a many-sided person of great ability who has a predominant interest, viz. socialism, just as he has a predominant emotion, viz. sympathy. Mix the two, add the ingredients of a very varied expression, and you have the complete Shavian Temple of Socialism from the first breath of the Fabian Essays to the last sigh of *Man and Superman*.

It is true that some contributors do not keep to their specialism. This neglect to talk shop is, however, not necessarily a proof that the specialist has abandoned his trade or profession. What it means is that an expert in, say, finance, has expressed himself on the question of Government Control and has left it to be inferred that his conclusion is that held generally by leading financiers. So it may be said that whether or not it is an opinion related to a special interest that the contributor expresses, he remains strictly in his own class. Therefore each group of contributors may be taken as expressing an authoritative body of opinion that indicates the attitude towards Government Control accepted by that group. Any one who cares to look at each group in turn in this way will find the process a fruitful source of conclusions. It will provide plenty of choice between theories and policies of Government Control expressed on behalf of the people, and the governing and educated classes.