

will devour us and our children, or an angel that will lead us into the promised land of peace and social justice, will depend largely upon the vision of the men who to-day are directing the affairs of our country.

Under the strain of war we have seen the governments of the various belligerent nations taking over the control of much of the principal means of production and distribution. It was found that the old way of unrestricted competition and private control was totally inadequate in a time of national emergency. Regulation of food prices, the commandeering of entire stocks of food supplies, the direct operation of mines, railways, and shipping, were forced upon the governments in the interests of public economy and safety. Not only capitalists and employers of labor, but the working men as well were compelled to submit to restrictions and to surrender rights and privileges which had been won only after years of bitter struggle.

War has given us a coercive cooperative commonwealth. It has written the principles of brotherhood, of public service, of sacrifice for the common good, into the fabric of our economic order. These lessons we have learned in days of war, we shall not forget in times of peace. The old kaisers of the industrial and commercial world, who ruled by right divine, who hired and fired, and profanely warned the general public not to meddle with that which was none of their business, will not be toler-