

have seen how much has been done by the organized self-help of the trade union, by the enlightened interest of the progressive employer, by the intervention of the state, not in abolishing competition, but in raising it to a higher plane. The state may do more by refereeing the game than by doing what the socialist demands, playing the game itself, taking over all industry and trying to operate it. Much yet remains to be done even in the most advanced countries; much to bring the more backward to their level. The very benevolence of modern society tends to complicate its problems by preserving many halt and weak who would otherwise have gone down in the fray. The immigration of countless hordes of people from the countries not yet organized on a competitive industrial basis—the factoryless paradise of southeastern Europe and of Asia, where the “blight of capitalism” has not yet seriously entered—into the capitalistic countries which they unaccountably prefer, makes the task of training never ending.

Some of the specific points made may be referred to very briefly. The wastes of competition are undesirable, but it is wrong to assume that the middleman is a parasite; the utilities of time and space are as important as the utilities of form and content. The merchant who brings the cloth to the consumers' town and stores it until demand arises and sells it in the desired quantities, performs as real productive service as the man at the loom. Advertising is in part informative, not purely competitive, and while it wastes much effort, it stimulates rivalry and progress. Adulteration is met by the use of labels and trade marks bringing home responsibility, and by state inspection. Financial fraud is widespread, though there are always safe and conservative investments possible; where fraud is found, it is as much the duty of the state to suppress it as to suppress highway robbery. Work in modern factories may be monotonous, but probably earlier conditions are painted too rosily, and the constant shortening of hours makes it possible to secure variety of interest outside one's work if it is not to be found in it. Slum housing conditions are being fought steadily, and steadily improved. The possibilities of decent living are increasingly brought within the reach of the vast majority. The stimulus of private enterprise has so perfected production as to lower prices of goods and services in nearly every line, and to bring within the reach of the many of to-day what were the luxuries of the few of yesterday. Private benevolence and public intervention have provided for all corners the school, the library, and the museum, the park, the playground, and the bathing-beach. If, with these facilities for meeting the most necessary wants, ends do not always meet, the responsibility is not wholly to be thrown on the in-