

PREFACE

THE following matter is the outcome of an attempt to learn the views of a number of representative public persons in this country on the urgently pressing problem of "State" Control. It has long been realized that the problem is one of the greatest the country has to solve. And it is now realized that the war has given it a prominence which entitles it to first consideration during the coming readjustment and reconstructive periods.

The questions submitted were as follows :—

1. What in your opinion will be the situation immediately after the war as regards State Control?
2. What in your view is the limitation of State Control to be maintained?
3. What in your view is the best policy of control to be pursued in the highest interests of commerce, trade and industry?

These questions invite, it will be seen, opinions upon the control situation produced by the war, and as it will appear when peace is signed, and upon the negative and positive aspects of the immediate future of Government Control. Though the answers appear fragmentary, as by the form of the inquiry they are bound to do, they will be found to contain a fairly complete and sufficient answer to all three questions, and to some extent a constructive criticism both of the theory and practice of Government Control by distinguished men and women who are all qualified by expert experience to make it.

I may say that it is not part of the purpose of this preface to criticize the contributions. Nor is there space adequately to summarize them. But perhaps a word may be said about the arrangement, and an indication given of the nature of the varied opinions from which there emerges a general conclusion. The conclusion is that an intelligent policy of control