

all the means in their power. Despite their many faults, this tendency was strongly shown by the Tudor monarchs; and it was, doubtless, one of the great secrets of their popularity, though in some cases, notably that of 'enclosures,' *i.e.* converting 'open' or common land into separate farms (p. 334), they met with strong opposition. The efforts of the Stuart Kings in a similar direction were not happy, mainly because they were felt not to be honest; and, with the accession of the House of Hanover, there followed a long period of what is known as *laissez-faire*, when efforts towards social improvement were left mainly to private enterprise. This state of things even survived the introduction of machinery into manufactures (the 'industrial revolution'); but the disorder and social injustice created by that enormous change gradually produced an equally profound change in public opinion, and now, the health, morals, education, and material welfare of the community are deemed to be among the primary objects of the State's care. The extreme difficulty, however, of defining the proper limits of 'State interference' shows how comparatively little thought has yet been devoted to this most important aspect of the activities of the Crown. In theory, there are no limits to State activities; but this fact is not so serious as it sounds, for there are very distinct limits to interference by the Crown and its officials in the affairs of the citizen. For, in the first place, it is difficult to introduce any scheme of administrative reform without in some respects changing the law; and that, as we have seen, can only be done with the consent of Parliament. In the second, almost every administrative reform now (whatever it may have done in earlier times) involves the spending of national funds; and that can only be done with the consent of the House of Commons, a body representative of popular opinion. Thus, for example, the great scheme of State elementary educa-