

preparing bread for families in Manchester or Dresden, is not consciously concerned with any step beyond his bargain for delivery of the wheat at the elevator or the nearest railroad.

As we pass from the single compact business to the wider system, less and less clear conscious purpose appears to animate the system. And yet, as we see, a good deal of order emerges in the working of the whole. This order, however, is attended also by a good deal of disorder. The modern industrial system as a whole does not exhibit anything like the same degree of harmony or economy as is found in the single business. This is natural enough. For we saw that in the business a single control existed and a single dominant purpose, that of profit-making. Now in the industrial system as a whole there is no adequate central control or purpose. To a large extent, indeed, finance constitutes a sort of central power station for the distribution of capital and labour. But its grasp is very partial, and its methods are not accurately adjusted to supply the general needs of industry. The central purpose, as we see, is the regular supply of the needs of consumers. And it is this purpose which does maintain such harmony as is found in the industrial system. But the elaborate circuitous ways by which the interests