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CONFLICT OF CONTROL OF CORPORATIONS.

Centralization is the modern trend of affairs. In the United States the centralization of business in huge corporations is being followed by the same course in affairs of government. The Federal government is encroaching constantly on the jurisdiction of the states. This is being accomplished on the one hand by Congress, supported by the Supreme Court, and on the other by an aggressive executive.

At the outset the Federal government, in order to support its natural dignity and to detract from the importance of the government of the several states in the eyes of their respective citizens, followed the course of maintaining its own dignity to the utmost and insisting on a rigid enforcement of its laws. Federal aggression was slow at first. Its own place must be made. The civil war and the period of reconstruction in the South which followed, gave the opportunity which was seized and improved upon. The universal tendency of officials of all classes to magnify their positions for the purpose of magnifying themselves was evident amongst the Federal office-holders. The distant authority, the national embodiment, raised the Federal officials above those of the state and the persistence of the Federal government in maintaining its authority belittled the concurrent authority of the state. A very striking instance is shewn in the State of Maine where prohibition prevails and even the most disreputable drinking places are licensed under Federal law. The state law may be openly defied but not the Federal. No doubt in many states the local law is upheld with vigour, but in many it is not so. This weakness of the states which was caused by Federal aggression is again sized up for further aggression.

In a speech made at Harrisburg, October 4, 1906, President Roosevelt said: "In some cases this governmental action must