

the government are, in the main, so-called captains of industry who have built up under the system of individualism and competition the great structure now available for government use. There is no reason to think that their services would be readily available for such a purpose excepting in an emergency. Their experience, however, will undoubtedly give them a somewhat different outlook after the war, when the old order of things begins to return. It is to be hoped that they will have that higher point of view and broader outlook concerning the welfare of the public at large which, by establishing a higher ethical standard for business, will do away forever with the phases of capitalistic exploitation which have so justly drawn condemnation in the past.

It must be remembered, too, that if the government is to direct industry, it must direct labor. There is no reason to think that the workers of the country, whether organized or unorganized, are disposed to turn over to bureaucratic control the determination of important questions concerning their work and their welfare.

For these reasons it seems to the editor that the present trend does not necessarily indicate a tendency toward the permanent establishment of Socialism properly so-called, nor even a tendency toward a permanent extension of government participation in economic life. That there will be some such extension for a time at least is very likely, but the general result is just as likely to be the establishment of better standards in the conduct of privately conducted business. Excessive profits and other forms of exploitation will be better understood by the public; those who have been guilty of such practices will be more easily discovered, and their own point of view undoubtedly will be largely modified. In other words, the permanent result of our present activity is just as likely to be the conduct of business with larger emphasis of service to public welfare as an extension of direct government management and control.