

The state has become the sole capitalist and the universal employer. How did all the capital pass from the hands of individuals or private companies into those of the state? Was it by a voluntary and universal surrender? Were all the capitalists and all the stockholders suddenly convinced of the blessings of self-spoliation? Or did the government by a sweeping act of confiscation seize all the capital? In that case, was there not a desperate struggle? Was not the entrance into Paradise effected through a civil war? The seer was in his magnetic trance when the trapper took place, and he has not the curiosity to ask Dr. Leete how it was effected. For us, therefore, the problem remains unsolved.

The inducement to the change, we are told, was a sense of the economic advantages produced by the aggregation of industries under co-operative syndicates and trusts, which suggested that by a complete unification of all industries under the state unmeasured benefits might be obtained. But these corporations, syndicates, and trusts, on however large a scale they may be, are still managed each of them by a set of persons devoted to that particular business, and they depend for their success on personal aptitude and experience. Between such aggregations and a unification of all the industries in the hands of a government there is a gulf, and we do not see how the gulf is to be passed. The tendency of industry appears, it is true, to be toward large establishments, the advantages of which over a multitude of petty and starveling stores, both as regards those engaged in the trade and the consumer, are obvious. But the large establishments are still special, and the advantages of combining Mr. Stewart's drygoods establishment with Mr. Carnegie's iron works are not obvious at all.

To the objection that the work of managing all the industries of a country and its foreign commerce (for foreign commerce there is still to be) would be difficult for any government, the simple and satisfactory answer is that in Utopia there could be no difficulty at all. The government of a purely industrial commonwealth is of course itself industrial. It consists of veterans of labor chosen on account of their merit as workers, the identity of which with administrative capacity and power of command, as