

## The Limits of State Industrial Control

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a pledged word—pledged to the immediate purpose of transforming the world of labour. If we turn to that very able piece of descriptive interpretation, *The Meaning of National Guilds*, we shall find that the Guild ideal has reached the point where Guildsmen are seeking to set it to work, and are grouping themselves in more or less critical alliances possibly only for the temporary purpose of disagreeing on method till they can hit upon a common one. But it would seem that during this inevitable period of babble and Babel practical proposals of great moment continue to emerge. For example there is the scheme of Mr. J. Paton, the editor of *The Guildsman*. I fancy his proposal to set up a Collective Contract between employer and employees will, in the long run, be of more substantial service to industrialists than most of the other Guild schemes put together. It may be mentioned here that a scheme of Collective Contract is being considered in France by industrial economists. The point under consideration is whether syndicates of employers and employees should be left to unite spontaneously in a collective contract, or whether associations should be governed by laws.

I have dealt with that cause of control which may be said to be the direct outcome of human necessity. And I have suggested that if this cause is neglected or perverted the effect will be proportionally false and destructive. In fact, to eliminate the true ideal from the word is to set Satan masquerading in sheepskin. As to the other four causes of control, political, social, economic, and industrial, I need speak only briefly. To begin with, it should be observed that, broadly speaking, these causes represent three predominating desires, individualistic and collective, or roughly libertarian and authoritarian. There is the extreme desire to control the Many in the interests of the Few, the extreme desire to control the Few in the interests of the Many, and the compromise found in the desire to control the Many in the interests of the Many. These desires will be found underlying or openly expressed by the contributions in this book. Hence arise questions of first importance. There is, for example, the political question whether the Government should be the cause or effect of social control? Should the Government be the instrument of Society or Society the instrument of the Government? The views expressed by the leaders of the Government, inasmuch as they embody popular sentiment, appear to uphold the theory that society controls the Government and directs them in its interests, that is so far