

we not fall into the hands of an arbitrary, capricious, and irresponsible government, whose actions may be more uniform, but may also be more uniformly tyrannical, being able to enforce their whims upon the governed? We must see to the character of our government, and before we can have more government control we must have more control of government.

And even though government were fully under control, the faithful servant of the public, there is a fallacy involved in the reasoning by which the collectivists conclude that it would be well to have complete nationalization of all industries. They reason from a certain class of enterprises that are often termed "natural monopolies." These are of such a character that it is a tremendous loss to duplicate them. One can be carried on more economically than more than one. For instance, it would be manifestly bad management to have two or several street railways on our streets. Such enterprises naturally tend to fall into the hands of one company, and are then monopolies. Now, it might be conceded that, with a properly controlled government and efficient management, such enterprises might be collectively owned and managed; that is, nationalized, or municipalized, successfully.

This is the grain of truth. But it does not at all follow that what might succeed with this peculiar class of enterprises would be suitable to entirely different classes of industry. In other cases the cost of supervision would be so great as to lead, in all probability, to a heavy loss, besides other disadvantages.

But, while differing from Spencer and the collectivists, I desire to be perfectly fair to each.

Now, it is not only manifestly unfair, but the height of absurdity or ignorance, to class the collectivists with the nihilists and anarchists. The latter desire the utter extirpation of all government. They desire to raze the structure of society to its foundations. The collectivists, or socialists, on the contrary, are excessive in their devotion to government, and every form of constituted authority. They desire to make such constituted authority all-embracing.

The socialists, instead of being identical with the anarchists, have been more earnest and zealous than any other part of the community in opposing and counteracting the ignorant and misguided fanaticism that is leagued together in nihilism and