

If the corporation is condemned, each will repudiate it. The individualist will call it a collectivist affair ; the collectivist will say it acts irresponsibly and is not truly collectivistic, but rather individualistic. On the other hand, if the corporation is regarded as successful, each will claim it. The individualist will say : " Look at the results we gain by our method." " Excuse me," the collectivist will say, " it's success is due to our method." In spite of the radical divergence of views on such a fundamental point in theory, in practice the government has actually undertaken many enterprises, and conducts them as national, social and collective affairs. Education, for instance, in all its aspects, positive and negative, preventative or reformatory ; the postal service ; in some cases canals, railways, telegraph and telephone systems, electric lighting, and other so-called " natural monopolies," are being nationalized or municipalized—conducted by the country as a whole, or by county or city.

Then we come to a sphere of government where the antagonism between individualism and collectivism does not seem to be so extreme ; where government seems to be a compromise between the extremes in its exercise of supervisory or merely regulative control of various professions, as law, medicine and teaching ; where it regulates trade and commerce by tariffs and copyrights and patents ; where it controls usages bearing on health and general well-being in its laws regarding quarantine, vaccination, sanitation, etc., and probably under the general demand for sanitation and hygiene we should include what is the special problem we are considering—the regulation or prohibition of the traffic in and use of tobacco, opium, various poisons, and alcoholic liquors.

It is, in the very nature of the case, inevitable, therefore, that prohibitory legislation should be the meeting-point and battle-ground of opposing views.

An attempt has been made to indicate, to some extent at least, the fundamental opposition in the attitude towards government in general that underlies the view of the controversialists, so that we may see that this opposition and conflict is not restricted to a particular class of legislation, as is sometimes falsely supposed, but is found wherever legislation is proposed or enacted.

[Objections to prohibitory legislation will be considered in the January number.]