

## CHAPTER XVI

### PROPOSED METHODS OF DEALING WITH THE TRUST PROBLEM

IN this concluding chapter, there have been brought together the views of certain gentlemen as to the methods of dealing with the Trusts in the United States. Competition has its advocates as well as combination. The exhibits have been selected with the idea of showing that there are two distinct lines of thought in regard to the Trusts; one looking to Government supervision, the other to competition as an ultimate solution of the problem. It has of course been possible to include the ideas of only a comparatively few men, but the editor believes that the views here expressed are fairly representative.—Ed.

#### EXHIBIT I

#### PRESIDENT WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT <sup>1</sup>

#### NEW REMEDIES SUGGESTED.

Much is said of the repeal of this statute and of constructive legislation intended to accomplish the purpose and blaze a clear path for honest merchants and business men to follow. It may be that such a plan will be evolved, but I submit that the discussions which have been brought out in recent days by the fear of the continued execution of the antitrust law have produced nothing but glittering generalities and have offered no line of distinction or rule of action as definite and as clear as that which the Supreme Court itself lays down in enforcing the statute.

#### SUPPLEMENTAL LEGISLATION NEEDED—NOT REPEAL OR AMENDMENT.

I see no objection—and indeed I can see decided advantages—in the enactment of a law which shall describe and denounce methods of competition which are unfair and are badges of the unlawful purpose denounced in the antitrust law. The attempt and purpose to suppress a competitor by underselling him at a price so

<sup>1</sup> Message to Congress of December 5, 1911. Congressional Record, 62d Cong. 2d Sess. Vol. 48, pp. 25-26.