

civilisation is now happily and naturally on the ebb.

The revival of Individualism will be the outstanding characteristic of the second quarter of the twentieth century. All competent observers are, to some extent at least, agreed about that, and there are at least two good reasons why this prediction should be regarded in the nature rather of a scientific forecast, like a modern weather report, than of mere political prophecy.

There is, first of all, that inexorable arbiter of human affairs called a pendulum, which would sweep us back from all the Socialism and Collectivism of the last two or three decades, even if Socialism and Collectivism were, in fact, the blessings which their apostles claim them to be.

But the swing of the pendulum will be helped and accelerated in this case by the proven weaknesses of the other course. Individualism as a cause is already firmly established amongst us, although the movement which bears that name is barely a couple of years old. Individualism is a protest against the modern way of looking at things social and political. It doubts the divine wisdom of the mass; it questions the acceptance of the herd instinct as a safe guide to political perfection; it denies the doctrine of the infallibility of the committee.

Union is undoubtedly strength when warlike purposes are afoot, but the application of the proverb to every peaceful purpose is now questioned. *Vox populi suprema lex* may be a true proverb, it is con-