

CHAPTER XVIII

THE INDIVIDUALIST AS A POLITICIAN

THE reader, so far, will have noticed that we have discussed numerous questions of current party controversy, with a freedom and irresponsibility altogether inconsistent with active loyalty to any one of the political parties.

But political parties exist and with the revival in party activity now noticeable in all directions, the Individualist has to ask himself what is his duty, what should he do, and, in particular, how is he to vote? At the Individualist Bookshop we are constantly asked whether it is our intention to run candidates, and whether there will be any attempt to found an Individualist party in the House of Commons itself. I set out our aspirations fairly clearly in the first chapter of this book in the following terms:

“The challenge of Individualism is making people think, and when the next General Election comes a very large proportion of the voters will have reached the mental stage in which they can clearly see the two alternatives which face us. Are we to continue the pitiful attempt to erect a State whose sole object is to act as wet nurse to the people, sparing them the painful necessity of doing anything for themselves, or are we to develop a people who can support and look after themselves as well as the State?”

Can these aspirations be realised without some attempt on regular political lines to establish a foothold in the House of Commons itself? There are