

II.

Railway Competition and Combination.

The era of unrestrained competition in business meant each man for himself and the devil take the hindmost. Collectivism means pulling together instead of pulling apart.

As excess in any direction is injurious, evils may be brought about by unrestrained competition; they were conspicuously exemplified in the period of industrial depression that succeeded the panic of 1893. That evils may follow in the train of unrestrained combination has been manifest during the period of prosperity that was under way at the beginning of the century.

The problem is to bring about that condition under which there will be retained the stimulus that competition gives to enterprise without the excesses that emerge when there is lack of restraint; and to obtain the benefits of production made possible by large scale enterprises without the evils inherent in unregulated combination.

The evils of unrestrained competition and of unregulated combination, and manifestations of an undefined and uncomprehended transition from competition to combination have been clearly perceptible in the transportation industry of which by far the most important agency in the United