

and operated competitive railways, howled and sang his lamentations with a text accentuated with expletives and strong invectives at the indifference, lack of concern for the public and individual welfare, and downright discourtesy that promptly invaded our railway system when the government took over the railroads for the duration of the war. Such a change. It was the same employees at the same stand. Yesterday smiling and eager to wait upon you and furnish every information to make your journey pleasant and help you to locate and speed up your freight. Today sullen, impatient, cross and caustic, keeping you waiting and waiting and no inward or outward evidence of interest in your requirements.

Such was the immediate effect to a large extent upon the personnel of the great public arteries of America when they passed from private to public control.

The spirit of public ownership service in Europe has nothing on the spirit that invaded public ownership service in America when that situation was forced upon us through a war emergency.

What if it had become permanent?

Sure, it was to the liking of all the railroad employees. Every fireman, brakeman, locomotive engineer and conductor was for it. It gave them greater authority and they did not have to give so much attention to the public. With them the spirit of our democracy, so far as service goes, was evidently only skin deep. They actually became so calloused that they in no time seemed to find enjoyment in individual discomfort. They had higher pay and worked less for their money. Why should they worry that the operation of the railroads cost the government millions over and above earnings.

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If the spirit of our Democracy was more spiritual and less material, it is possible to believe that public ownership might work to advantage. But while human nature in spite of training is inclined as we know it, the present system of pitting private initiative against private initiative in a competitive field, under strict government control, is far preferable and serves the public interest best.

In a recent debate H. H. Stallard, the chief for the Non-Partisan League propaganda in Oregon, is quoted as having declared:

The interests of the people would be served best when all industries which affect a large number of people were state-owned and controlled and the president of a state bank paid the same salary as the janitor of the institution.

Do you believe that?

If you do, you have not studied American history, political and social economy in this and other countries sufficiently to be regarded as serious in your belief.

When man shall be prevented from reaping the fruits of his labor, from receiving a fair measure of earnings from his investment, the incentive to take chances and to struggle beyond the point of endurance to achieve the objective shall have been removed, and mankind will lose the benefits that accrue from individual endeavors. Then the people of America will rapidly degenerate and in no time reach the common

level of the common people of the autocratic states of Europe where individual initiative has no chance.

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The achievements of America constitute the marvel of history of all ages. The transformation of this continent in the last century is the best argument in favor of a government designed only to regulate the affairs of men and to permit individual ingenuity and enterprise to have every legitimate opportunity for expansion. Change that plan and the aspect of America will be changed and individual ambition will have lost its impetus.

HE DID NOT RESPECT HIS PARENTS

"HE NEVER paid any respect to his parents," was the comment of a teacher of Nathan Leopold, one of the youthful Chicago criminals, sentenced for life to the penitentiary for the murder of a little lad. Here, perhaps, was one of the explanations for the fiendish crime. The district attorney stated that there are few criminals who come from American homes of the normal type where the father insists that the children love, respect and obey the mother, and the mother insists that the children love, respect and obey their father. "The only constituted authority of law that a child knows is the authority of its father and mother," he explained. "If that child grows up without being taught to respect and obey the commands and laws of its father and mother, it will never quite sympathize or understand that the laws of the social group and the constituted authority of government are things to be respected! This lack of respect for parental and school authority and the laws of the home and of society is responsible for a great percentage of the crime in this country."

If the master of the house had known in what watch the thief was coming, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken through.—Christ.

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