

**F E D E R A L P O W E R :**  
**ITS GROWTH AND NECESSITY**  

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**HENRY LITCHFIELD WEST**

21 **FEDERAL POWER:** 2

**ITS GROWTH *and* NECESSITY**

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BY

**HENRY LITCHFIELD WEST**

**FORMER COMMISSIONER OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**



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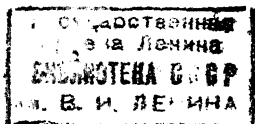
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## Preface

An epoch in our national history occurred on April 6, 1917, when the people of the United States, through their representatives in Congress, declared the existence of a state of war with Germany. Since that eventful date we have witnessed a most remarkable and unprecedented exercise of Federal power. We have, without protest and even with satisfaction, accorded to the government a control over corporate and individual existence which infinitely transcends the wildest dreams of those who advocate centralized authority.

This being the case, it is worth while to review, briefly and concisely, the history of the growth of Federal power. There is a prevalent idea that the acceptance of Federal control is a matter of recent development. Nothing could be further from the truth. The belief in the necessity of nationalization had its beginning nearly three centuries ago and its persistent progress can be clearly traced through all the succeeding years.