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**SOCIALISATION IN THEORY & PRACTICE**

# **SOCIALISATION IN THEORY AND PRACTICE**

**BY**

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of November, 1918**

**TRANSLATED BY**

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## TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE.

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The author of this book occupies a peculiar position in the German Socialist movement. As a representative of the Independent Social Democratic Party, he was appointed Finance Minister in the Prussian Revolutionary Government, which came into existence in November 1918. Subsequently, he was alienated from the Independent Socialists by reason of their fanaticism, and the partiality they exhibited towards Bolshevist doctrines. On the other hand, Herr Ströbel was unable to sympathise with the war-time policy of the German Majority Socialists, and found much to condemn in their methods of handling the internal troubles which broke out in Germany soon after the Revolution. This Revolution had brought political power to German Socialism, with a suddenness and completeness which took many Social Democrats by surprise, and this fact largely accounts for their moral inadequacy and practical unreadiness when confronted with the problem of Socialisation.

Herr Ströbel's candid temperament and detachment enabled him to write the most satisfactory and informative account of the German Revolution, as a whole, that has yet been published, and the same qualities were even more necessary in the writing of *Sozialisierung-Ihre Wege und Voraussetzungen*, of which an English translation is now submitted to the public with the title *Socialisation in Theory and Practice*.

As the Socialist Parties in Western Europe approach nearer to the goal of political power, the question of Socialisation will be forced more and more into the arena of political contention. The British Labour Party, which has made significant progress within recent months, draws its inspiration from the economic doctrines of Socialism.

Alike to friend and opponent of Socialist developments, it is of urgent importance to be conscious of the full meaning and the various social implications of a policy directed to the socialisation of vital industries.

The Russian experiment in the application of Communistic principles has passed through strange vicissitudes during the past four years, and the section devoted to this subject by Herr Strobel emphasises the salient features of Communist policy, and describes the social and economic consequences which have flowed from it.

The political and economic history of Germany during the two years which followed the Armistice comprising a protracted civil war and violent political agitations all clustering round the question of the economic transformation of society, has not received from the members of the British Labour Movement a quarter of the attention that has been bestowed upon the Russian experiment. Yet the experiences of industrial Germany are more relevant to the immediate aspirations of British Socialism than the dissimilar economic structure of Russia.

Herr Ströbel has described the scope and the consequences of the recent experiments in Socialisation undertaken in three European countries, and has related the practical details of these endeavours to the general principles of Socialism.

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