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**CASUAL LABOUR AT THE DOCKS**

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THE RATAN TATA FOUNDATION  
(UNIVERSITY OF LONDON)

CASUAL LABOUR AT  
THE DOCKS

BY  
H. A. MESS, B.A.



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## THE RATAN TATA FOUNDATION

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## PREFACE

THE aim of this book is to give in short outline an account of the casual labour system, if system it may be called, as it prevails at most docks to-day; and by way of illustration to show in some detail how it affects the lives of men and of their families in the neighbourhood in which I have made my home.

In common with all students of casual labour I owe much to Mr. W. H. Beveridge, whose book on Unemployment is the classic of the subject. I have also received a great deal of assistance from Mr. Frederic Keeling.

I am indebted to a docker friend who read the book in manuscript and assured me that he could detect no glaring misdescriptions; to the editor of the *Baptist Times* for allowing me to use one or two articles which I wrote for him; to Miss M. E. Bulkley, of the London School of Economics, for reading my proofs and helping me to get the book through the press; and to Mr. John Wilson, a fellow-resident at Mansfield House, for the photograph which appears as frontispiece, and for much companionship during my inquiries.

H. A. MESS.

Mansfield House,  
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