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A STUDY ON
THE MINIMUM WAGE

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THE MINIMUM WAGE

BY

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PREFACE

TENTATIVE experiments in minimum wage regulation have been conducted in various countries during recent years. With the return of more stable economic conditions, demands will be made for extensions of such regulation. Instead of legislation protecting workers in a limited number of trades only, claims will be pressed for the fixing of minimum wages on a national basis. The present volume, which contains constructive proposals regarding the essential features of a satisfactory minimum wage system, may serve to indicate the practical possibilities in this direction, at the same time pointing out limitations and acting as a check to demands beyond the capacity of industry to pay.

The conclusions reached are based on a comprehensive international study of existing legislation and practice. For this study I have used the Library of the International Labour Office, which contains very complete information on the minimum wage systems of various countries. I have also had opportunities of discussing the special problems of each country with competent authorities. My thanks are particularly due to Dr. Karl Pribram, Chief of the Statistical Section of the International Labour Office, and to Mr. J. R. Bellerby for valuable advice and suggestions.

J. H. R.

GENEVA,

November 1926.

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