

FAMILY ALLOWANCES IN PRACTICE

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**AN EXAMINATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE
FAMILY WAGE SYSTEM AND OF THE COMPENSATION
FUND PRINCIPALLY IN BELGIUM, FRANCE, GERMANY
AND HOLLAND**

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LONDON

P. S. KING & SON LTD.

ORCHARD HOUSE, 14 GREAT SMITH STREET, WESTMINSTER

1936

X: 9585.5

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5028

TO MY MOTHER

PREFACE

THE pages which follow constitute an attempt to describe the short but remarkable history of the Family Wage System in Europe and in some measure to examine the re-actions and the problems to which its rapid development has given rise. In its original form the book was approved as a thesis for the B.Litt. degree at Oxford.

The subject is to the forefront on the Continent of Europe, but in England relatively little attention has been given to it. It may therefore be worth while to have some record of what has been achieved in other countries. It has been my intention to examine the question impartially and to endeavour to obtain a true view of the actual facts, whereon may be based an estimate of what is the possible contribution of the subject towards a solution of some of the difficulties with which industry is faced to-day.

The book is throughout based chiefly on an examination of first hand sources of information, such as the Statutes and Regulations of Compensation Funds, their accounts and proceedings, as well as a number of special memoranda. I am very greatly indebted to the large number of correspondents abroad, belonging to Employers' Federations, Trade Unions, Compensation Funds, Government Offices and Academic bodies, for their assistance in supplying this voluminous material. Where so much help has been received from so many, it would be invidious to mention any by name.

PREFACE .

I particularly desire however to pay a tribute of gratitude to the late Mr. James Munro, M.A., sometime Beit Lecturer in Colonial History at Oxford and later of the Overseas Intelligence Department of the Ministry of Labour. He not only gave me encouragement in the initial stages, but afterwards, although at the time very ill indeed, spent much labour in reading through the draft manuscript and making various suggestions. At a later stage Sir William Beveridge, K.C.B., very kindly read through the typescript and gave me the very great benefit of his advice and criticism. I should also like to record my appreciation of the great help I have received from my mother, in the compilation of the index, in proof-reading and in connection with the necessarily extensive correspondence referred to above.

H. V.

London, January, 1926.

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APPENDICES

Owing to considerations of expense, it has been found necessary to omit the greater part of the tabular matter. Arrangements have however been made for a typescript copy of the Appendices to be deposited in the Library of the London School of Economics, where, by permission of Sir William Beveridge, K.C.B., etc., they can be consulted by anyone interested. The tables omitted are marked with an asterisk.

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