

DISTRIBUTIVE CO-OPERATION IN INDIA

BY

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Prefatory Note

The substance of this little book was recently delivered as an Extension Lecture in the Annamalai-University, and is now presented as an introduction to the study of some of the problems of the Co-operative Movement. It is a plea for further investigation and development of Distributive Co-operation with special reference to India. The varied forms of co-operation—Producers', Consumers', Credit and Agricultural—have something in common. All are governed by the members themselves on a democratic basis. All have a social purpose in the uplifting of their members. All involve some sacrifice of individual freedom in the form of loyalty to the Co-operative Society for the common good, for all put an end to competition between the members themselves. But it is the consumers' movement that has given co-operation its universal basis. A society based on the producers, whether in industry or agriculture, can only represent a section of the community. But every human being is a consumer, and to organize industry and trade for the service of the consumer is to organize it for the benefit of the human race.

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