

THE MODERN CASE FOR SOCIALISM

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THE MODERN CASE FOR SOCIALISM

BY

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AUTHOR OF

A HISTORY OF LABOUR REPRESENTATION," "ROBERT
APPLEGARTH: TRADE UNIONIST, EDUCATIONIST,
REFORMER," "INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM
AND THE WAR"

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Capitalism . . . has fallen into discredit because it has never kept its promise for a single day, and in any case is obviously no policy for a gentleman.
—GEORGE BERNARD SHAW, *Spectator*, October 17, 1925.

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PREFACE

My aim in this book is to present certain of the main elements of Socialism in the light of the existing economic situation, current political experience and recent Socialist discussion. It is in this sense that the book is intended to be an exposition of the modern case for Socialism. No attempt is made to develop Socialist doctrine. I have sought to expound the existing doctrine in a modern setting, and in my view there has never before been a time in which the facts of economics and politics placed that doctrine on so firm a basis.

The book does not claim to cover, even in outline, the whole of the Socialist case, important aspects of which it leaves untouched. I hope, however, in a future book, to deal with these phases of the subject, with the aim of presenting, in conjunction with the present volume, an all-round survey of Socialist philosophy.

The growth of Socialism as a political force has inevitably resulted in its literature becoming more and more concerned with special departments of the subject—the attitude of Socialism to particular problems and questions of Socialist tactics—and it appears to me, especially in face of the new conditions created by the war, that an attempt to restate the case for Socialism as a whole is not untimely. The only sure foundation for Socialism is a preponderating public opinion understanding and accepting the Socialist faith. This book is intended to be a contribution to the growth of such opinion. The work itself explains why, in the writer's view, the spread of Socialist belief is a crying need of our time.

Any literary merit of the book is in part due to my wife, for whose reading of both typescript and proofs I am grateful.

A. W. HUMPHREY.

PALMERS GREEN, N.,

April, 1928.

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