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**THE POST-WAR
UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM**



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THE POST-WAR UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM

BY

HENRY CLAY, M.A.

PROFESSOR OF SOCIAL ECONOMICS IN THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

“Sir, you must not neglect doing a thing immediately good, from fear of remote evil.”

DR. JOHNSON.

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TO
W. W. S.
WHO OUGHT TO HAVE WRITTEN THIS BOOK
HIMSELF INSTEAD OF AIDING AND ABETTING
THE AUTHOR

PREFACE

MOST of the material and much of the work embodied in the following pages had been done before unemployment became an issue in a General Election. My first impulse was to go no further with it. As the controversy developed, however, it seemed to me that the parties were at cross-purposes; that the Liberal and Labour thesis, that additional employment could be provided at once by capital expenditure on public works, was quite consistent with the Conservative thesis, that unemployment could be permanently relieved only by bringing down costs. It seemed to me also that interest in the problem might survive the election, since voting by itself would not solve it, and that there might be a use for a summary and analysis of the more important factors in it. So far as I have any aim beyond offering this, it is to discourage the hope that the problem, if left to itself, will cure itself, and to argue that the necessary reorganisation of the depressed industries will not be effected unless the initiative is taken and the impulse given by some agency outside them.

These conclusions are contained in the last chapter. I have prefaced them with a summary of the rest of the book, for the convenience of readers who are more interested in conclusions than in the processes by

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which they are reached. I am indebted to Miss Sybil Simpson for assistance in preparing the tables and diagrams in the book, and to my wife and Miss Simpson for seeing the book through the press in my absence abroad.

HENRY CLAY.

MANCHESTER

June 4th 1929.

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