

# Workmen's Fare

*An Account of Herbert Richard  
Haynes, the Average Working Man  
and the Social and Industrial Prob-  
lems arising out of his Life.*



By  
KATHLEEN GIBBERD, M.A.

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BY

KATHLEEN GIBBERD

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**TO  
SOUTHLANDS SCHOOL**

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## INTRODUCTION

IN setting out to write this book, I think I had in mind certain of my acquaintances who tell me that working people do not need bathrooms, as they only use them for storing coal, and do not want to work since they can get the "dole." Now that the book is finished, I find that I have entirely neglected to answer the first charge, and only indirectly explained the psychological and the verbal mistake contained in the second.

However, in the course of writing I have forsaken the high ambition of convincing the indifferent, and I have written for those who are genuinely interested in social and industrial questions, but who so far have not given them any serious study. There is probably no more effective form of social service to-day than an attempt to understand the complexities of the present situation.

The intention of the book is to relate social and industrial questions to the actualities of an ordinary working man's life, and thus bridge the gulf between descriptive accounts of the lives of the poor such as have been given us by Mrs Pember Reeves, Lady Bell, Alexander Paterson, and more recently by Mrs Eyles and Evelyn Sharp, and the economic textbooks, blue books, and reports that multiply year by year. Such

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is for ever settled by some deep-rooted memory of a man who refused to do a day's gardening or a maid who ran away, those who go further in their inquiries than the following few chapters will, I hope, find the necessary evidence for themselves. They will also doubtless discover that the changing fortunes of Herbert Haynes make a rosy picture when compared with the few million lives that sustain themselves below his economic level.

LONDON,

*September 1929.*

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

THIS book originated in a girls' school, through some sixth form lessons on Social Economics, and I am indebted to the members of that class for finding a name for the Average Working Man.

In the course of confirming or correcting my own experiences and impressions I have found it necessary to consult many more people than can conveniently be listed here, but to all of whom I would like publicly to express my thanks. As well as to many private individuals, themselves working men and women, or closely associated with industrial life, I am under an obligation to nearly every society mentioned in the references at the end of each chapter; and to these I must add the National Union of Teachers, the National Council of Social Service, and the Fabian Society. Finally, I would like especially to acknowledge the very valuable assistance given me, and given so generously, by my former colleagues and others in the National Union of General Workers.

## BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

MOST of the books given as references at the end of each chapter are obtainable at Public Libraries, or, on application at one of these, from the Central Library for Students.

Prices only have been given when they are very low; and where, as quite often happens, a book occurs in more than one list of references, the publisher and any other particulars are not given after the first time.

The following books will be found to be of constant use to those prepared to do some more solid reading than the following pages require:—

*Economics of Social Problems*, H. A. SILVERMAN.  
University Tutorial Press. 1928. 5s. 6d.

*The Next Ten Years in British Social and Economic Policy*, G. D. H. COLE. Macmillan. 1929. 15s.

and as supplying personal records of working men and women written by themselves, *Working Days*, edited by Margaret A. Pollock, J. Cape, 1926, 6s., will give a more varied picture of industrial conditions than one man's career can show.

For an attempt at defining the Christian attitude to some of the problems touched on here, the reader may be referred to the C.O.P.E.C. reports published in

1924 by Longmans. The relevant volumes are: ii, *Education*; iii, *The Home*; v, *Leisure*; ix, *Industry and Property*; and x, *Citizenship*.

In the case of every book or report to which reference is made the date of publication has been given, and the reader is urged to note this, since every year brings fresh changes. It is obviously important to get the latest information wherever possible. No doubt by the time this is in print there will be a number of new books and reports that ought to be added.