

Social Science Text-Books

EDITED BY RICHARD T. ELY

SOCIAL PROBLEMS

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A STUDY OF PRESENT-DAY SOCIAL CONDITIONS

BY

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SOCIAL PROBLEMS

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To

RICHARD T. ELY

TEACHER · FRIEND

PREFACE

THE aim in this work is not to make original contributions to the subjects discussed, but rather to collect the available material on these subjects and arrange it in such form that it may be used advantageously as a basis for study in the classroom. The work is intended primarily for beginners in the field of social studies—for those who may desire a better understanding of present-day social questions. It deals largely with facts and with an analysis of conditions. Pure theory is kept in the background as much as possible in the thought that the more abstruse theoretical questions should be left for more advanced courses. The effort has been made to present the matter in as clear and in as impartial a manner as is possible; also care has been taken to give the authority for practically every important statement of fact made. Through the use of the supplementary questions and the references at the end of each chapter, ample material may be found for a college or normal school course on this subject. It is also hoped that the references given and topics suggested will be of assistance to reading circles and study clubs that may wish to pursue such a course of study as is here presented. Although the book deals mainly with the evils, or at least the weaknesses, in our social system, yet it is hoped that a spirit of optimism pervades the work—an optimism based on the knowledge of past achievements in social progress and inspiring us to greater efforts in the future.

The trend of education to-day is toward a better understanding of our own times. The past century was characterized by great advance in the physical sciences—in the control of physical forces. The indications are that the present century may be characterized by great advance in the social sciences—in the control of social forces. Already great movements are under way. Much has been accomplished,

and certainly with a clearer understanding of the problems and of the principles of social control, much more may be accomplished toward making this a better world in which to live. Through this clearer understanding, will the individual be brought to a fuller realization of his responsibilities of citizenship, and be the better prepared to meet these responsibilities.

This, then, has been the aim: to bring before the students of social problems these facts regarding present-day conditions; to indicate certain weaknesses in our social order; to show what has already been done and is being done toward the elimination of these weaknesses; and to impress upon these students, through the presentation of such facts, the possibilities of wise, sane, constructive, social action.

I am under particular obligations to the several authors whose works I have quoted so freely; to the superintendents of high schools and others who, on the receipt of my "Outline" some time ago, made many helpful suggestions, and especially Superintendents Monroe, Street, and Chalgren, who kindly read several of the chapters in manuscript; and to the members of my seminar course in Social Problems — the Misses Aldrich, Atchison, Brauer, Jepson, Lindbergh, Sherwood, and Messrs. Ashton and Rossman of the Class of 1914, and particularly to Miss Jepson, who assisted in the preparation of each chapter, and the Misses Elwell, Fellows, Moore, Phelps, Robiliard, and Messrs. Dean, Putnam, and Wingate of the Class of 1915 — each of whom rendered valuable assistance in the collecting of material on the different subjects; to my colleagues, Dr. H. H. Carter and Dr. H. J. Thorstenberg, who made many valuable criticisms and suggestions; and finally to my wife, who has been my co-worker in every phase of this work from its first inception to the reading of the final proof.

E. T. TOWNE.

SUGGESTIONS TO TEACHERS

ONE of the most important purposes of this work should be to train the beginner in the study of the social sciences to find and to use the vast amount of material that is available on such subjects as are here presented. Some of the most valuable material may be had for the asking. The large number of government publications mentioned throughout the text may be secured by writing directly to the particular department or bureau, or through a request to the member of Congress from your district. Each state publishes many records, pamphlets, and reports, which may be obtained by sending to the different state bureaus and departments. Most of our state universities issue bulletins on a great number of economic and social questions.

There are also a great many voluntary associations interested in the study of different phases of the social problems, and doing constructive work toward their solution. These associations have collected some of the most valuable and most recent material in their particular fields, and are glad to furnish this material on request to those interested. *The Survey*, under the heading "Information Desk," publishes from time to time a list of such associations. A recent number gives a list of fifty-one national bodies, with their addresses, which "will gladly and freely supply information and advise reading on the subjects named by each, and on related subjects."

In connection with this work, if the following material is not already at hand, send for the latest Statistical Abstract of the United States (Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce); the Abstract of the latest United States Census, with supplement for your particular state (Bureau of the Census);

such special reports as those on the "Blind and the Deaf," "The Insane and Feeble-minded," "Prisoners and Juvenile Delinquents," "Marriage and Divorce," "Mortality Statistics," and the "Statistical Atlas of the United States" (Bureau of the Census); the latest Annual Report of the Commissioner General of Immigration; the Year Book of the Department of Agriculture; the summary of Labor Legislation for the preceding year, as published each year by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (a Review of Labor Legislation for the preceding year is also published each year by the American Association for Labor Legislation); and the "Monthly Review of the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics." Send for the list of publications of the various bureaus, and from these lists send for such bulletins as deal with the different topics taken up by the class. Secure a list of publications of your own state, and send for such reports and bulletins as would be of value in the course. The reports of the Bureau of Labor should be of particular value in connection with the several chapters on labor conditions. Send for the latest reports of the principal institutions of your state, such as those of the State Prison, Reformatories, State Asylums, and Schools for the Blind, the Deaf, and the Feeble-minded. Also ascertain what is being published by your State University, or other colleges and universities in your state, and how these publications may be secured. Let different members of the class, under supervision of the instructor, send for this material in order that they may familiarize themselves not only with the material, but with the sources from which it may be obtained.

For reference work, two almost indispensable books for this course are, "The New International Year Book" (Dodd, Mead and Co.), and the "American Year Book" (Appleton). The World Almanac, published in February of each year, contains a mass of statistical information regarding the preceding year. Constant reference should be made to these books, because the most recent information on almost every topic considered in the course may be found in these annual publications. The

"New Encyclopedia of Social Reform," edited by Bliss (Funk and Wagnalls), contains much valuable and reliable information on practically all economic and social questions.

A most useful adjunct to any course in Social Problems is *The Survey*, one of the sanest and most constructive publications on social questions. This is a weekly magazine, and contains discussions of present social conditions and problems by some of the ablest investigators and writers in the country. Special semester rates are offered for classroom use.

If only limited funds are available, some of the most valuable reference books are: for the chapters on labor conditions, Carlton, "History and Problems of Organized Labor," and Adams and Sumner, "Labor Problems"; for the chapters on conservation, Van Hise, "Conservation of Natural Resources in the United States"; on our present population and immigration, Ross, "The Old World in the New"; and for several of the chapters, Ellwood, "Sociology and Modern Social Problems." Additional material will be found in reports of state and national conferences and congresses. Other references will be found at the end of each chapter.

An effort should be made to relate the subject matter of each chapter to the present time, and to local conditions. To facilitate this phase of the work a set of supplementary, or research, questions is given to accompany each chapter. In searching for the answers to these questions the students will very frequently find a hint as to where the desired information may be found by noting the references throughout the chapter to similar topics. Particular questions may be assigned to the individual members of the class, these to be reported on in class, the other members taking notes on these reports and being held responsible for the gist of the material so presented. These questions should be assigned two or three weeks in advance of the class work so that the students will have time to send for such material as may be necessary.

It will add greatly to the interest, and to the value of the course, to have the class visit near-by institutions; and to have

persons of prominence in the different fields of social activity address the class on particular phases of the subjects studied.

Students should be encouraged to bring to the class items of information from the various monthly and weekly publications and from the daily newspaper, bearing on the different topics taken up for class discussion. By keeping pamphlets, reports of institutions and associations, clippings, etc., carefully arranged in a filing cabinet, and adding to them from year to year, an extremely valuable, up-to-date reference library on social subjects may be provided.

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