

# THE YOUTH AND THE NATION

A GUIDE TO SERVICE

BY

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WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY

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# THE YOUTH AND THE NATION



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## A CALL TO SERVICE.

You, at this moment, have the honor to belong to a generation whose lips are touched by fire. . . . The human race now passes through one of its great crises. New ideas, new issues—a new call for men to carry on the work of righteousness, of charity, of courage, of patience, and of loyalty—all these things have come and are daily coming to you.

When you are old . . . however memory brings back this moment to your minds, let it be able to say to you: That was a great moment. It was the beginning of a new era. . . . This world in its crisis called for volunteers, for men of faith in life, of patience in service, of charity, and of insight. I responded to the call however I could. I volunteered to give myself to my master—the cause of humane and brave living. I studied, I loved, I labored, unsparingly and hopefully, to be worthy of my generation.

**JOSIAH ROYCE.**

## PREFACE

REPLIES to a series of questions collected from eight hundred young men and older boys in nine representative American cities have convinced the author of the need for the information he has attempted to set forth in this book. The questions were formulated in an effort to reveal the youth's attitude towards society and his information regarding the social problems which he must face later as a citizen. The replies show a deplorable amount of ignorance: in the minds of many, poverty does not exist; the idea of choosing a vocation for the purpose of becoming socially useful—the mere idea of so doing seems never to have occurred to many.\*

If we are to make headway against the social evils which threaten the nation, we must enlist the youth. We must do more than offer courses in

\* See *The High School Boy and Modern Social Problems*, Harry H. Moore, *The Educational Review*, October, 1917

sociology and economics in the college curriculum. Many boys go to college to continue the studies in which they become interested while in high school with no clear idea of the subject-matter of sociology and economics. What is more important, only a small proportion of high school boys go to college. Many young men enter business and professional life and become citizens without any clear conception of our most fundamental social problems.

This book is an attempt to arouse a wholesome interest among young men and older boys of college and high school age in modern social evils, to show them how men have combatted these evils and to suggest vocational opportunities in the warfare against them.

Seldom has an author been blessed with so many helpful friends as has the writer of this little volume. Especially is he indebted to Professor William F. Ogburn and Professor Norman F. Coleman, of Reed College who constantly have advised him in its development. Thanks are due also to Dr. Edward O. Sisson, Commissioner of Ed-

ucation of the State of Idaho, to Mr. C. C. Robinson of the International Committee of Young Men's Christian Associations, to Jesse B. Davis, Principal of the Central High School, Grand Rapids, Michigan, to H. H. Herdman, Principal of the Washington High School, Portland, Oregon, to Professors Harold G. Merriam, Joseph K. Hart, Ethel M. Coleman of Reed College, and to college and high school students all of whom have made valuable suggestions or have aided in other ways.

H. H. M.

REED COLLEGE, PORTLAND, OREGON,

*June, 1917.*



## INTRODUCTION

WAR makes its strongest appeal to youth because it is a challenge both to physical prowess and to the idealism of youth. Where the hazard is so great the cause must have a value greater than life itself. It becomes therefore a sort of supreme vocational motive for the time being. The surrender once made, what has been deemed worth dying for is conceived to be the supreme thing worth living for and fighting for.

The author is sincerely interested in the great army of adolescent youth, the high school boys in particular who have not yet found themselves, and who are such a puzzle to their parents, their teachers and their friends. In his "Keeping in Condition" he struck the new and modern note of physical efficiency, and put in an exceptionally sensible and attractive way just the sort of good advice which the average boy is altogether too apt to overlook or treat with indifference.

It is a happy, timely and helpful idea to bring together in the present volume on "The Youth and the Nation," a collection of the vocational

experiences of some of the leaders in the really social vocations to fire the ambition and to idealize the eternal war against disease, economic injustice and man's inhumanity to man. Mr. Moore gives us in language which the boy can understand the vocational experiences of those who have gone to the front, lived in the trenches and taken the range of the enemy bacteria in the physical universe or the germs of greed and economic selfishness which are more numerous and harmful to man and his social institutions than the torpedoes of the submarine, the bombs of the latest aircraft, or the bullets of the most modern machine guns. This is the sort of "social literature" which is needed everywhere and for all stages of the educational process from the kindergarten to the college. A little of it has penetrated the colleges and the universities in the last generation but for the most part that is too late to have the maximum molding effect in the choice of a vocation. The choices are usually made before one gets to college, and then there are so many that never go to college who stumble blindly into vocations that just turn up and never satisfy the real longing of the soul. It is high time that the effort was made, especially in these days of voca-

tional education and so-called vocational guidance in our public school systems, to bring this material to the high school and to adapt it to the atmosphere and curriculum of secondary education.

It is not the sentimental appeal or the motive of self-sacrifice which in the past has played so large a part in recruiting the professions of teaching and the Christian ministry, that the author relies upon chiefly in his call to social service. Strangely enough Mr. Moore passes over very lightly both of these professions in his emphasis upon the larger social vocations. Perhaps he thought they did not need further emphasis, or that they are hardly up to the highest standards demanded by the modern social spirit. It is rather, and very properly, the wonderful vista of conquest that he takes as the more positive note of appeal. The modern sanitarian, the economist-administrator and the business man armed with science and girt about with the social values of invention, are rather the types of the ideal. These furnish the incentive to endeavor which can only be successful in proportion as it is unselfish and breaks down whenever transmuted into mere personal gain or arbitrary and unsocial power.

In this pioneer effort Mr. Moore will receive

the thanks and co-operation of thousands of teachers and parents for whom he has merely pointed the way to a new method of attack and to new resources of information and inspiration in the vocational training and guidance of young boys. He would doubtless be the first to admit that he has merely scratched the surface of the vocational experiences of typical men in many walks of life. He will also be the more eager to welcome that growing record which others imitating his example will make of the incidents of the common everyday life about us which reflect the true social spirit of America.

SAMUEL McCUNE LINDSAY.

NEW YORK, *May 15, 1917.*

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