

**MY RIGHT
TO WORK**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649654109

My Right to Work by R. B. Suthers

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

R. B. SUTHERS

**MY RIGHT
TO WORK**

**MY RIGHT
TO WORK**

My Right to Work

BY
R. B. SUTHERS



LONDON :
THE CLARION PRESS, 44, WORSWIP STREET, E.C.
1907

HX 246
.59

Mr. Gerald Balfour, President of the Local Government Board, speaking at a luncheon at Bradford in connection with the opening of a new workhouse hospital, corrected a misconception regarding the Unemployed Workmen's Bill. It was said that the Act was a practical admission of the principle that it was the duty of the state to provide employment for all who were able and willing to work, but who could not find employment elsewhere. He denied that absolutely.

The Act, said Balfour, was never intended to carry with it such a principle, either in the form in which it was introduced or in the form in which it was ultimately passed, and as for the principle itself, he himself repudiated it absolutely. He was perfectly convinced that any community which once admitted or adhered to such a principle would be on the road to irretrievable ruin. He himself had never believed or professed that the Act could provide a solution of what was known as the problem of unemployment.—*Daily Paper.*

CONTENTS

	PAGE
THE BASIS OF MY CLAIM	I
THE NATION RESPONSIBLE FOR UNEMPLOYMENT	6
EMPLOYMENT A MATTER OF CHANCE	10
GOOD TRADE NO REMEDY FOR UNEMPLOYMENT	14
BAD TRADE NO EXCUSE	17
CHARITY NO USE	21
RICH AND POOR	26
TORY EXTRAVAGANCE NOT GUILTY	31
FISCAL FAILURES	36
HOW GOOD TRADE CAUSES UNEMPLOYMENT	42
OTHER CAUSES OF UNEMPLOYMENT	51
THE QUACK REMEDIES—FREE TRADE AND PROTECTION	57
WHY MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S PLAN IS NO REMEDY	66
WHY FREE TRADE IS NO REMEDY	76
THE ONLY REMEDY	85
FIRST AID FOR THE INJURED—TARIFF REFORM?	93
HIGHER WAGES	102
STEPS TO SOCIALISM	109
TO BE OR NOT TO BE?	115

BY THE SAME AUTHOR.

MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS :
The Case for Municipal Management.

Cloth, 2s. 6d. net ; Paper, 6d. net.

"It is a masterly treatise."—*The Daily News*.

"'Mind Your Own Business' strikes us as almost the best piece of special pleading on the subject. Its only rival is Mr. Bernard Shaw's 'Common Sense of Municipal Trading.' Mr. Suthers, as a literary man, possesses a style and humour not unworthy of mention beside Mr. Shaw's own, and, like Mr. Shaw, he devotes them wholeheartedly to the ideal of the municipalisers."

"Every branch of the subject is here touched upon in a bright and convincing way."—*Reynolds' News*.

"Warranted either to convert the anti-municipaliser on the spot or to send him into an apoplectic fit."—*Manchester City News*.

"Any broad-minded business men who want to know the state of mind of the municipal Socialist will find it presented in this book."—*Magazine of Commerce*.

"For the working student this is a most useful handbook, and for the inquirer an introduction to the subject. Lecturers and journalists will find it an armoury of telling facts and statistics."—*Progress*.

The Citizen and The Council—The Principle of Municipal Trading—The Failure of Private Enterprise—The Success of Municipal Trading—Hidden Profits—The Depreciation Dodge—The Municipal Debt Bogey—The Awful Burden of High Rates—The Risks of Municipal Trading—The Limits of Municipal Trading—Our Brother the Small Private Trader—The Private Trader's Dilemma—Municipal Trading and High Wages—The Tyranny of Municipal Employees—The Purity of Private Enterprise—Municipal Socialism and Commercial Morality—Trifling Foolish Objections—Municipal Socialism and Character—A Practical Programme.

A MAN, A WOMAN, AND A DOG.

Price 6d. net.

"'A Man, A Woman, and A Dog' is one of the most amusing books that we have ever read. Mr. Robert B. Suthers sees the absurd side of things very keenly. His onslaught on the follies of vegetarianism will make even vegetarians laugh. The humours of matrimony have never been better illustrated than they have in this exceedingly clever book."—*Westminster Review*.

JACK'S WIFE.

A companion volume to "A Man, a Woman, and a Dog."

Cloth, 2s. 6d. net, by post, 2s. 9d.



THE BASIS OF MY CLAIM

I AM one of the unemployed.

I want work. I am willing to work. I am able to work. I cannot find work.

I want work. I *demand* work—and wages.

Yes, I demand work. I do not beg for work. I demand work. I claim it as my right.

Do not, I pray you, turn away until you have heard my case. You think it impudent of me, a penniless out-of-work, to *demand* work. You think, perhaps, it would be more becoming of one in my position to beg, respectfully beg, for work. But I do not beg. I say again, I demand work, as my right. Hear my case, and judge if I make out my claim or no.

In the first place I demand work because I am a live human being, willing and able to work.

Here I am, five foot ten of bone, and muscle, and sinew, and flesh and blood. I did not ask to come. I was brought into the world without being consulted. Just as you, my fellow countrymen, were brought into the world. *I have as much right here as you have.*

Here I am. And planted within me, as in you, is the strongest of all instincts—the instinct of self-preservation. I have that instinct, and, with it, the power to satisfy it.

I have as much right to satisfy that instinct as any other human being. Can anyone deny it?

Having that instinct, how shall I satisfy it? There is only one way. All human sustenance comes from our Mother Earth. To the earth, then, I must go for my living.

But I cannot go to the earth. Barring my path on every side there is this warning: "Trespassers will be prosecuted."

If I go to the land, if I dig up even a root to appease my hunger, I am sent to prison. The land is not mine, I am told. It belongs to somebody.

I am sent to prison. I am robbed, not only of my right to work, but of my freedom, too.

Is this *right*?

Who thus steals my freedom and my natural right to satisfy the instinct of self-preservation implanted within me?

The British nation it is who does me these wrongs. My fellow countrymen.

You, my fellow countrymen, are a nation. You have a Government, and you have laws. You, my fellow countrymen, appoint this Government. You choose the men who shall make the laws, and you agree to obey the laws.

It is you, then, who rob me of my right to work and of my freedom if I exercise my natural instinct of self-preservation by taking sustenance from Mother Nature.

It is you who made the law which allows our native land to be owned by a small number of yourselves. It is you who give this small number the power to decide who shall or shall not use the land.

You are the guilty people. You rob me of life and freedom. On what grounds?

I do not deny that you have the power so to rob me. If you answer that 42,999,999 people are stronger than one man, and by reason of their superior strength have the right to rob the one of the power to exercise his natural instincts, to exclude him from the land, and to imprison him, then I have no more to say. If might is right, if the right to work and live is to be decided by force, then I am done.

But you will not, you do not, admit that force is to decide the question. If you did—what then?

If I take sustenance from the land, if I help myself to a root growing therein, you tell me I am