SOCIALISM IN ENGLAND

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649029174

Socialism in England by Sidney Webb

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

SIDNEY WEBB

SOCIALISM IN ENGLAND

Trieste

SOCIALISM IN ENGLAND

BY

SIDNEY WEBB, LL.B.

DARRISTER AT LAW, LECTURER ON ECONOMICS AT THE CITY OF LONDON COLLEGE La. D. A. Sourt State of the second second





LONDON SWAN SONNENSCHEIN & CO. PATERNOSTER SQUARE 1890

.



.

gt-weaky tit

PREFACE.

THE following account of the development of Socialism, in this country, was originally prepared at the request of the President and Council of the American Economic Association, and published in their series of monographs.¹ As it was found of interest to English readers, it has been thoroughly revised and brought up to date for publication here. Full references are given to Socialist publications, with a view to facilitating further study of a movement, the complete significance of which is not yet adequately realised by English politicians.

SIDNEY WEBB.

4 PARK VILLAGE EAST, LONDON, N.W. December, 1889.

¹ Vol. iv., No. 2, May, 1889 (Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore).

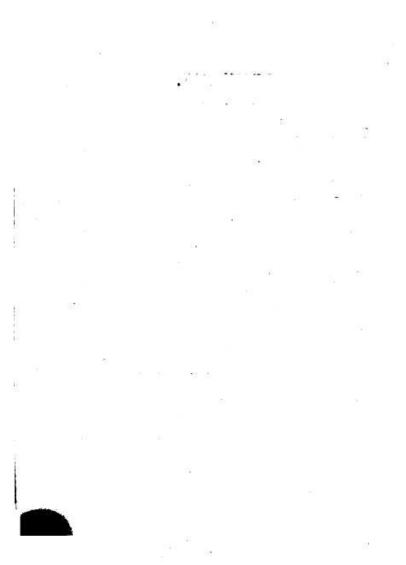


TABLE OF CONTENTS.

.

ж.

10

15

ne [™] .

a ¹⁸ -

	1. THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOCIALIST IDEAL. PA	GE
	The Utopias—The Influence of the Evolution Hypo- thesis — The Methods of Revolution — Modern Socialism—Definitions	ı.
	2. THE RISE OF THE ENGLISH SOCIALIST MOVEMENT.	
	The Forerunners—" Progress and Poverty "—The Revolt of the Radicals—The Democratic Federation — Socialist Radicalism	18
	3. THE ENGLISH SOCIALIST ORGANIZATIONS.	
a	General Character—The Social Democratic Federation —The Socialist League—The Fabian Society—The Christian Socialist Society—Socialism at Bristol and Sheffield—The Tyneside District—The "Labour Party"—The "Anarchist" Section—The Land Nationalization Movement—Scotland and Ireland	28
	4. SOCIALISM IN THE CHURCHES.	
	The Religious Side of the Movement—The Guild of St. Matthew—Socialism and the Bishops—Christ- ianity and Democracy	63
	5. SOCIALISM AT THE UNIVERSITIES.	
8	The Leaven at Oxford and Cambridge—Toynbee Hall —Socialist Publications—Character of the University Influence—Abandonment of Individualism—Mr.	
	Herbert Spencer	74

CONTENTS.

6.	SOCIALISM IN POLITICAL ECONOMY.	PAGE
	The Change of Tone—The Influence of Evolution— Convergence towards Socialism—English Socialism and Karl Marx—Recent Economic Literature—The Failure of Co-operationIts Economic Inadequace —Economic Socialism.	n e y
7.	PARLIAMENTARY AND MUNICIPAL SOCIALISM.	
	The Zenith of Individualism –Factory Acts—Sanitar Restrictions—Municipal Administration of Capital– Limitation of the Hours of Labour—Public Educa tion and Childfeeding—The Housing of the Poor– Municipalization versus Nationalization—The Social ising of England—The Work of the "Practica Man.".	- - - 4
8.	SOCIALISM IN POLITICS.	
	The Tendency to New Legislation —The Fluidity of the English Constitution—The Conservative Party— The Liberal Party—The Radical Section—Th Programme of Socialist Radicalism—The Politica Momentum—Convergence of the Tendencies	- e 1

viii

SOCIALISM IN ENGLAND.

CHAPTER I.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOCIALIST IDEAL.

"WE are all Socialists now," lately avowed Sir William Harcourt in the House of Commons, and the Prince of Wales recently made the same confession. Whatever may be the value of these vague declarations, it is certain that the progress of Socialism is just now the most marked characteristic of English thought."

At the same time, the influence of Socialism in our public life may very easily be overlooked by a casual observer, especially as it is still often ignored or misapprehended by public men themselves. English politics are, by tradition,

¹ See the pamphlet by the present writer, *The Progress of Socialism* (Third edition, London, 1890, The Modern Press).

۸